



CONVENTION ON THE MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS

“Manipulation of sport competitions means an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sport competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sport competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.” (art.3, Macolin Convention)

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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CONVENTION ON THE MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS

AN INTERNATIONAL GROUND-BREAKING LEGAL INSTRUMENT

Because of the global nature of the manipulation of sports competitions, countries all over the world are encouraged to become party to the Macolin Convention. The Convention has been open for signature since 2014; it is a ground-breaking legal instrument and the only rule of international law on the subject to currently exist. Its purpose is three-fold:

- ▶ To facilitate international co-operation as well as co-ordination between stakeholders at national level;
- ▶ To establish a set of international standards and measures to be implemented by national public authorities, sports organisations and sport betting operators;
- ▶ To set up an international framework for the monitoring of these measures.



RESPONDING TO THREATS TO SOCIETY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Both sporting-related and betting-related forms of manipulations of sports competitions violate internal rules of sports federations and can ruin athletes' careers. It more importantly severely challenges the principles of integrity: integrity of sport and integrity in sport.

The scope of the threat and its negative political, cultural and economic impacts on society, are now generally well-understood: The wide-scale manipulation of sports competitions by criminal organisations, which have an almost unlimited access to betting markets thanks to technological advances, has transformed the sport manipulation phenomenon into an universal tool for corruption.



THE MACOLIN CONVENTION'S ADDED VALUE

The Convention highlights the illegal nature of the manipulation of sports competitions and that it should constitute a criminal offence. It ensures the importance of the involvement of public authorities in order to co-ordinate judicial responses with criminal procedures, independent sports' sanctioning systems and sport betting integrity policies.

The ratification of this treaty by States and the subsequent implementation of its recommended measures on the passing of legislation, the establishment of relevant procedures to prevent, detect and sanction, or on the promotion of co-operation between stakeholders and between States is the optimal way to effectively and sustainably fight against the manipulation of sports competitions.