Fraud and Corruption in Sport in the Academic Literature

Vanwersch, Willem, Constandt, & Hardyns
1. Background of the review
2. Scope and research questions
3. Theoretical intake
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Conclusion
1. **Background of the Review**

What is fraud in sport?

- Definitions
- Study designs
2. Scope and research questions

What is known about the causes and consequences of fraud in sport in the academic literature?

Scope
1. Competition manipulation
2. Corruption/bribery
3. Financial fraud
4. Human trafficking
3. THEORETICAL INTAKE

Causes of fraud in sport

Table 1: Bearers and types of harms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of harm</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Private-sector entities</th>
<th>Government entities</th>
<th>Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functional integrity</td>
<td>X*</td>
<td>X**</td>
<td>X**</td>
<td>X***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material interest</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. METHODS

Why a scoping review?

Arksey & O'Malley's (2005) 5 steps:

1. Identify research question(s)
2. Identify relevant studies
3. Select studies
4. Chart the data
5. Collate, summarize, and report results
6. Consult experts
5. **Results**

![Bar chart showing the number of selected publications per year](chart)

- **950 studies**
- **80%** Published between 2015 and 2020
- **44%** Based solely on literature and secondary sources
- **42%** About football
- **65%** About competition manipulation

**Number of selected publications per year (n = 115)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5. Results

### Causes of fraud in sport in the literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Motivated offender</th>
<th>Suitable target</th>
<th>Lack of capable guardians</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betting-related MF</td>
<td>Financial motives Threats</td>
<td>Developments betting sector</td>
<td>Illegal betting</td>
<td>Mobile phone usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non betting-related MF</td>
<td>Reciprocity Sportive motives</td>
<td>Competition structure</td>
<td>Incomplete Code of Conduct</td>
<td>Culture Perceived norm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bribery/managerial corruption</td>
<td>Soft power of SMEs Instrumentalization of sport</td>
<td>Monopoly of FIFA and IOC Nature of bidding processes</td>
<td>Lack of accountability of ISFs</td>
<td>Corporate culture of corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial fraud</td>
<td>Financial difficulties</td>
<td>Sport as a vulnerable sector High liquidities</td>
<td>Tolerance by politicians Ownership structures</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human trafficking</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>Vulnerable young players</td>
<td>Loopholes in regulations</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Results

Consequences of fraud in sport in the literature

**TABLE 4** | Bearers and types of harm associated with fraud in sport in the literature

*n = 24*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bearer of harm</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Private sector entities</th>
<th>Government entities</th>
<th>Social environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of harm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional integrity</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material interest</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The total does not match the n= 20 studies referred to above as some studies mention more than one consequences of fraud in sport.*
6. Conclusions

- More awareness of other types of fraud in less known sports
- More empirical research needed on:
  - Individual decision-making processes
  - Governance do's and don'ts
  - Organizational climate within sport organizations
  - Link between different types of fraud in sport
  - Consequences of fraud in sport
Thank you for your attention!
Questions and feedback are highly valued.
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