

PRESS RELEASE

TI Germany calls for stronger measures against manipulation and gambling addiction at the restart of the Bundesliga

Prevention must be part of the Bundesliga's foundation of values

Berlin, 12.05.2020 - In view of the imminent re-launch of the German Football League, Transparency International Germany is calling for stronger measures against match manipulation and addiction risks through sports betting.

As early as April 2020, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) warned of high risks of manipulation in times of corona: criminals who have increasingly used sports betting for betting fraud and money laundering in recent years would have adapted their actions to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

"If betting providers and gamblers now focus on the German betting market, because only here will professional football be played again, betting cheats will also be involved" warns Sylvia Schenk, head of the Sports working group of TI Germany.

In addition, there are the dangers of gambling addiction, especially since sports betting providers act as sponsors right down to the lower leagues and sometimes carry out aggressive advertising campaigns in Germany.

"Gambling advertising in sport specifically targets male adolescents or young adults who - especially if they play football themselves - are particularly susceptible to problematic gambling behaviour, including gambling addiction," says Sylvia Schenk. "Fans at home in front of the TV instead of in the stadium could be easy prey for betting providers - gambling should not be used as a "kick" and substitute for the stadium experience. If DFL boss Christian Seifert is serious about the "foundation of values" of the Bundesliga, the DFL and DFB must now live up to their responsibility for millions of young players and fans".

The 3rd division in particular is susceptible to corruption in view of the lower player salaries: When football becomes the first team sport to return to competition in Germany, Transparency expects the DFL and DFB to come up with a comprehensive concept for the protection of players, teams, referees and fans.

Further Information

[Sports betting and manipulation of sports competitions](#), position paper by Transparency Germany, November 2018 (PDF, GERMAN)

[UEFA issues match fixing warning as fixers adapt to Covid-19 restrictions](#), April 6, 2020 (Inside World Football)

Background

According to the Statista Research Department, in 2018, 8.8 billion euros were turned over in Germany in sports betting, of which 7.3 billion euros were generated by private providers. In recent years, the manipulation of sports competitions to generate income or launder money via sports betting has become a worldwide phenomenon of organised crime. In March 2017, the German Bundestag passed the "Law on the criminalisation of sports betting fraud and the manipulation of professional sports competitions".

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