

# Suspicious Matches Uncovered



Newsletter #2 2024  
August 2024

## Introduction to Our Findings: Suspicious Matches and Growing Concerns

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter, where we bring attention to critical findings in the fight for sports integrity. Our dedicated research team, led by Declan Hill at the University of New Haven and supported by Francesco Baranca from Sportintegrityteam, has investigated suspicious activities in various sports competitions using open-source data and network analysis.

In recent months, our investigations have uncovered a significant number of matches that raise red flags, indicating potential match-fixing. This is a pressing issue that demands our immediate attention and action. In August alone, 100 events were identified as suspicious, with soccer being the sport most frequently targeted. The prevalence of open-source information in soccer makes it a prime candidate for these investigations, but it also highlights the vulnerability of this globally popular sport to corruption.

We aim to expose these activities and advocate for stronger measures to combat match-fixing and corruption. By understanding the networks that enable these illicit activities, we hope to foster meaningful change and safeguard the future of sports.



Soccer: 78



Basketball: 6



Hockey: 1



Tennis: 3



Table Tennis: 5



E-Sport: 2



Futsal: 5

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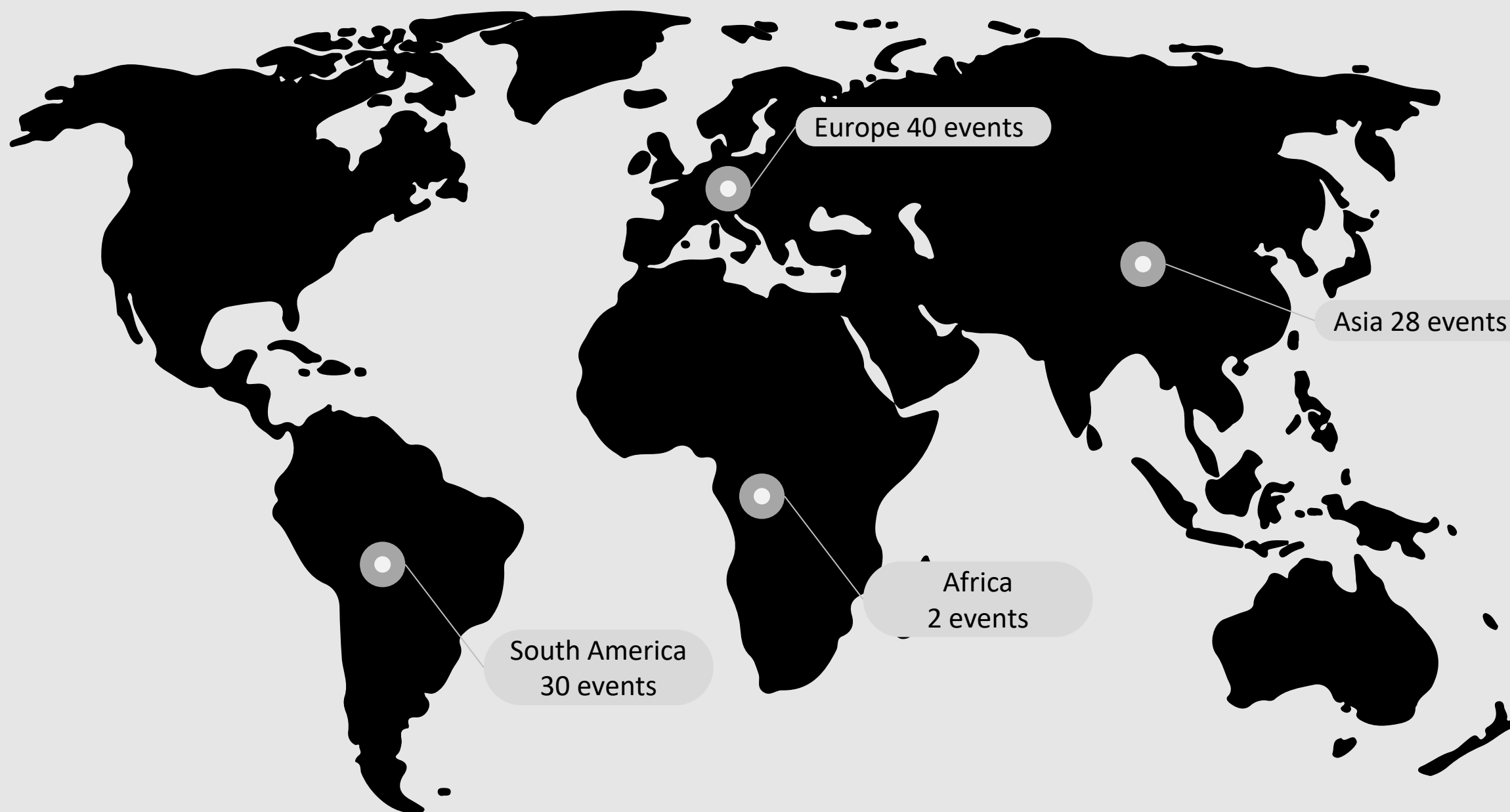
**Disclaimer**  
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to a key player. In many cases, live betting has exhibited significant shifts in abnormal odds movements, indicating patterns that merit further investigation.

While our findings suggest suspicious activities, it is important to note that these observations are based on statistical analysis and open-source information. We

strongly recommend that these cases be investigated by appropriate authorities, such as the police or other relevant regulatory bodies, to ensure a thorough and unbiased examination of the circumstances. Our goal is to highlight potential irregularities and contribute to the broader efforts to maintain integrity in sports.

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## South America

Soccer: 24 events  
Futsal: 5 events  
Basketball 1 event

## Europe

E-Sport: 2 events  
Hockey: 1 event  
Soccer: 31 events  
Table Tennis: 5 events  
Tennis: 1 events

## Asia

Basketball: 5 events  
Soccer: 22 events  
Tennis: 1 event

## Africa

Table Tennis: 1 event  
Tennis: 1 event



87



13

In summary, the events are widely varied across continents, with soccer being the most popular sport overall, especially in South America and Europe. Asia shows a strong preference for both basketball and soccer. New to the table is Futsal where we identified five events. The data is collected August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>

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## University of New Haven Represents at IAFCI 2024: Insights from Declan Hill and Chris Kronow Rasmussen

We are excited to share that Declan Hill and Chris Kronow Rasmussen from the University of New Haven recently attended the IAFCI 2024 event in Las Vegas, where they made important presentations on the critical intersection of organised crime, sports betting, and the associated financial risks.

Declan Hill, a leading expert on sports integrity and organised crime, presented an eye-opening session on the involvement of organised crime in sports betting. His presentation highlighted the growing influence of criminal networks in manipulating sports outcomes and using betting platforms to launder money. Hill's expertise shed light on the sophisticated methods criminals use to exploit the sports betting industry and underscored the urgent need for stronger safeguards to protect the integrity of sports.

In his presentation, Chris Kronow Rasmussen focused on the sports betting ecosystem and the risks associated with its growing complexity. He explored money flow within the sports betting industry, pointing out vulnerabilities that allow illicit activities, such as money laundering, to thrive. Rasmussen's insights into the financial mechanisms behind sports betting provided a comprehensive overview of the potential risks, especially regarding cross-border money flows and regulatory challenges.

Together, their presentations emphasised the critical need for global collaboration and stricter regulations to tackle the intertwined issues of sports betting and organised crime. The University of New Haven's participation at the IAFCI 2024 event demonstrates its ongoing commitment to researching and combating corruption within the sports and betting industries.

## Francesco Baranca in the Czech News

The Czech Republic ranks second globally, behind Brazil, in the number of manipulated football matches, according to Sportradar. Francesco Baranca, an expert on match-fixing from the Sport Integrity Team, highlights that betting gangs thrive in the Czech Republic due to a historically lenient response to match-fixing, especially in football and other sports like table tennis. Baranca estimates that at least 10-15 matches are manipulated annually in the Czech Republic. He believes that combating match-fixing requires real-time monitoring, transparency, quick responses, and strict regulation of betting data.

Baranca criticizes the voluntary nature of integrity training in Czech football and advocates for more stringent control measures. He emphasises the importance of real-time oversight and eliminating betting on low-level competitions. He also warns of the growing problem of match-fixing in youth and women's leagues worldwide, driven by easily manipulated betting systems.

Lastly, Baranca raises concerns about betting data providers, which he believes create conflicts of interest by monitoring and selling betting data, potentially enabling match-fixing.

[Sázkařské gangy se tu cítí příjemně. Klíčem jsou práva na data, říká expert - Seznam Zprávy \(seznamzpravy.cz\)](#)

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## Bookmakers to keep suspicious matches open for betting

Our research has revealed a disconcerting practice: bookmakers frequently keep suspicious matches open for betting, even when irregular or incorrect odds are present. Despite signs of manipulation—such as abnormal odds movements, high betting volumes, or unusual timing of bets—bookmakers often continue to offer these matches with limited bet types, such as side bets. This not only prolongs the exposure of such matches to potential exploitation but also deceives unsuspecting customers.

The issue is that regular bettors, unfamiliar with the complexities of betting odds, may need to recognise that they place bets on incorrect odds or under compromised conditions. This lack of awareness allows for ongoing manipulation, as the public can notice suspicious patterns like drastic odds shifts or concentrated bets on specific outcomes.

Bookmakers often reduce betting options on suspicious matches rather than closing the markets altogether. This limited offering keeps the betting open while minimising exposure to larger liabilities from these suspicious events. Unfortunately, this practice enables match-fixing activities to persist longer than expected, as casual bettors may only place wagers if they know the underlying irregularities.

There is a growing demand for real-time monitoring of betting markets and more stringent regulatory measures to address this pressing issue. These measures should mandate immediate action when suspicious betting patterns emerge, including the shutdown or suspension of betting on matches where irregularities are detected. This proactive approach is crucial to protecting the integrity of sports and the interests of unsuspecting bettors.



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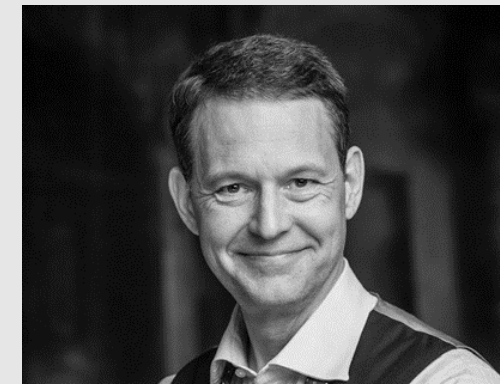
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## Declan Hill

Declan Hill is a distinguished author, investigative journalist, and academic renowned for his expertise in sports corruption and match-fixing. Over his extensive career, Hill has made significant contributions to uncovering the dark underbelly of sports, revealing the extent of corruption across various athletic disciplines. His work is characterized by meticulous research, compelling narratives, and a relentless pursuit of truth.



Hill's most notable publication, "The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime," provides an in-depth look at how organized crime influences international soccer, exposing intricate networks that manipulate match outcomes for financial gain. This groundbreaking book has garnered critical acclaim and established Hill as a leading authority on the subject. Hill's academic credentials are equally impressive. He holds a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Oxford, where his research focused on match-fixing in football. His scholarly work further cements his reputation as an expert in his field, bridging the gap between rigorous academic inquiry and practical, real-world applications.

Currently, Hill is a faculty member at the University of New Haven, where he continues his groundbreaking work. At the university, he is deeply involved in educating the next generation of investigators and scholars in the field of sports integrity. Hill's courses cover topics such as investigative journalism, sports corruption, and ethics, providing students with the tools and knowledge to combat corruption in sports.

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## Chris Kronow Rasmussen

Chris Kronow Rasmussen is an expert in the field of financial crime investigation, has extensive experience in combating match-fixing and his academic contributions to the study of financial crime and compliance. With nearly 15 years of dedicated work in the anti-match-fixing arena, Rasmussen has developed a profound understanding of the complexities and challenges associated with financial crime. Rasmussen holds an MBA from Middlesex University and is currently pursuing a MBD from Copenhagen Business School, with a minor in Financial Crime and Compliance.



In his current role as a consultant for Advisense, Rasmussen leverages his expertise to assist organizations in developing effective strategies to prevent and combat financial crimes. Rasmussen's practical approach and in-depth knowledge make him a trusted advisor to many businesses and institutions seeking to safeguard their operations from financial misconduct.

As a lecturer at the University of New Haven, Rasmussen brings his real-world experience into the classroom, providing students with insights into the field of financial crime investigation. His courses cover a range of topics, including anti-money laundering (AML), fraud detection, compliance strategies, and the intricacies of match-fixing. His teaching methodology emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical applications, preparing students to effectively address financial crime in their future careers.

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## Francesco Baranca

Francesco Baranca is a prominent figure in the realm of sports integrity, renowned for his extensive work in combating match-fixing and promoting fair play in sports. With a career dedicated to ensuring the integrity of athletic competitions, Baranca has become a leading authority on issues related to sports corruption and ethics.



Baranca currently the Founder of Sportintegrityteam, an international organization dedicated to monitoring betting activities and fighting against match-fixing. His role involves overseeing the organization's operations, coordinating with sports bodies and law enforcement agencies, and implementing measures to detect and prevent fraudulent activities in sports betting. His academic background includes a law degree, which provides him with a solid foundation for understanding the legal complexities associated with sports integrity issues. Baranca's expertise is not limited to theoretical knowledge; he has hands-on experience in investigating and addressing instances of match-fixing and betting fraud. This combination of academic and practical experience makes him a well-respected voice in the field.

In addition to his work, Baranca has collaborated with various sports organizations, including football leagues, governing bodies, and law enforcement agencies, to develop and implement comprehensive anti-corruption programs. His efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness about the risks of match-fixing and promoting a culture of transparency and accountability in sports.