



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# SOCOMUN XXXII

**NOT FRESHMAN A**

**TOPIC: CORRUPTION IN SPORTING  
EVENTS**



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## Corruption in Sporting Events

Hi delegates! My name is Sonia Gupta, and I am looking forward to being your chair for SOCOMUN this year! I am a senior at Santa Margarita, and this will be my fourth year participating in MUN here. Through MUN, over the past three years I have acquired many valuable skills to carry with me for life, including research skills, analytical skills, public speaking, and collaboration skills. MUN has also given me the opportunity to travel with my classmates to UC Berkeley, Georgetown for conferences. Outside of MUN, I play club soccer, and I love spending time with friends, going to the beach, and listening to music. I hope that all of you have a great time, learn lots at this conference, and get to love MUN as much as I do! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at [socomunnota@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnota@gmail.com).

Hello delegates! I am Sophia Angelos, and I am so excited to be your vice chair for the 2023 SOCOMUN conference! I am a junior at SMCHS and enjoy playing soccer, skiing, and hanging out with my friends. This is my third year in MUN, and I can't wait to share this experience with you all.

Hi there, I'm Kacy Knierim, a sophomore at SMCHS and your rapporteur for SOCOMUN this year! Although it's my first time managing a conference, I've attended 5 conferences as a delegate and have won research, commendation, and outstanding awards. Outside of MUN, I love baking, getting lost in a good book, and defying gravity through indoor skydiving (yes, you read that right!). I'm beyond excited to meet you all and make this year's SOCOMUN an unforgettable experience!

SOCOMUN is a teaching conference and is a great way for delegates to learn more about the structure of an MUN conference, and the flow of committee. The conference will give everybody an opportunity to participate in committee and advocate for your solutions. We acknowledge that some delegates may be new to MUN and unfamiliar with procedures, thus we encourage you to reach out if you have any questions at all. Prior to the conference, students will be provided with a country to represent regarding the topic, corruption in sporting events. You should research the topic and attend the conference knowledgeable of the topic. All conference attendees who wish to speak will be placed on a speakers list, and each will have a standard speaking time of one minute and 30 seconds, followed by two 30 second comments. Delegates may also motion for formal and informal consultations. Also, informal consultations are utilized as a chance to move around the room and debate various areas of the topic with other delegates, while formal consultations should have a specific topic and speaking time to discuss points. Later in the conference, delegates will form resolution groups with delegates with similar policies regarding the topic. In these groups you will draft resolution papers that will be presented and voted on by the committee at the end. One third of your group may present the resolution, and these delegates will answer any questions on their solutions after presenting. We encourage you to be knowledgeable on your country's policy and on the topic, keep an open mind, and do your best! I look forward to seeing you all in committee! Again, please reach out with any questions to ([socomunnota@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnota@gmail.com)).

**E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:**



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The UNODC provides informative resources on corruption for students that you can and should consult.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/corruption.html>

This site provides specifics regarding corruption and crime prevention which will be very useful in researching the topic. Information about the SDGs and relevant UN bodies are also included.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/corruption.html>

There are links to additional resources when you scroll down. The sites give information on past UN actions to prevent corruption, and the conventions that were held.

## **Background:**

Although corruption in sporting events has been carried out since the 1960s, within the past decade, it has become an increasingly widespread global issue. Though sports may seem trivial in the grand scheme of things, the sports industry has an enormous economic impact, accounting for an average of 2.5-3.5 of the GDP of countries worldwide. There are four categories of corruption in the industry: match-fixing for betting purposes, match-fixing for non-betting purposes, use of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) also called doping, and insider information being relayed for betting purposes.

The most prevalent type of corruption in sports is match-fixing, which refers to the paying of players, coaches, or other individuals who are instrumental in the event, to establish a predetermined result of an event. The appeal to match-fixing can be linked to the recent increased demand for betting. High-stakes bettors frequently pay people to guarantee the outcome of their wager. Match-fixing has a significant impact on the betting markets because it encourages people with insider information to participate in betting pools.

A common type of corruption in sporting events, in addition to match-fixing, is athletes using performance-enhancing medications, sometimes known as doping. Doping allows athletes to enhance their abilities and perform at a much higher level in an event. This destroys the integrity of these sporting events as it gives the athlete that is doping an unfair advantage. The use of drugs is a serious problem since it endangers the health of the athlete and tampers with the outcome of the competition.

Selling insider knowledge is another way to taint sporting events since those who possess it might place shady bets and unfairly win. One thing to note about this method of corruption is that it is easier to catch due to the unproportionally high monetary gain of those who are participants. Although this kind of corruption occurs at numerous sporting events, it happens most frequently in horse racing.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, has been actively combatting the corruption that takes place in sporting events. At a conference in November 2017 in Vienna, the UNODC claimed that the lack of establishing and enforcing laws can be credited to poor communication between stakeholders and government officials. At this conference, resolution 7/8 was passed and backed by 183 state parties. Resolution 7/8 raised awareness of corruption in sporting events and highlighted the need to find a solution. International organizations such as Interpol have partnered with the International Olympic Committee, IOC, to establish international workshops for public education on the topic. The workshops were very successful and effective, especially in addressing the use of PEDs among athletes, and the tampering of drug tests to avoid being caught. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, along with the International Centre for Sport Security, ICSS, have also



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partnered to combat corruption and protect integrity in the sports industry. One element in their efforts is UNESCO's Anti-Doping and Sports Programme, which "provides the Secretariat for the International Convention against Doping in Sport, ratified by over 170 Member States of UNESCO" (UNESCO and ICSS Join Forces to Protect Sports Integrity). The corruption in sports must be mitigated for numerous reasons: it increases the trend of criminalization in organized sports, destroys the integrity, decreases interest in, and taints the reputation of the sport, and it ultimately diminishes the purpose of the events.

## **Possible Solutions:**

As you form your solutions to address corruption of sporting events, remember to consider all elements of the solution. A good method to do this is to address the 5Ws (who, what, where, when, and why), as well as explain how you will implement the solution in detail. The more details that you include, the stronger your solutions will be, and the harder it will be for delegates to poke holes in them. Researching past activities and previous attempts at solving the problem, as well as having a thorough grasp of them, will be beneficial in coming up with solutions. You can incorporate or enhance those components of the solution by taking a look at the causes of these solutions' success or failure. One strategy to secure cooperation with your solution, for instance, if people refused to collaborate with a previous solution, could be to reward those that cooperated. You should utilize and incorporate international organizations like non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in your solutions for support, when applicable. Funding for your solutions will not be an issue, as all funding can come from the UN 5<sup>th</sup> Budgetary Committee. Remember that SOCOMUN is an international conference, so keep in mind that all of your solutions should be applicable to all nations. While developing international policies, be cautious to take into account the difficulties that could result from different countries' contradictory policies and practices.

## **Solution Ideas:**

One solution that could be implemented is setting up a task force to monitor and oversee betting pools, especially those with extremely high bets. To rule out match-fixing, they would flag any questionable bets for additional investigation. In order to reduce the chance of corruption within the task force, this task force would be made up of vetted UN officials.

A second solution would focus on minimizing the use of doping of athletes. The best way to prevent this would be to increase the number of checks on athletes, including boosting the frequency of drug testing, instituting random checks, and broadening the kind of tests available. These tests would make it impossible for athletes who were doping to hide their actions. By making the penalties for disobeying these laws more severe, doping can be discouraged in other ways as well.

A third solution would be to focus on increasing the communication between sports officials, government officials, and any other persons that have a significant role in preventing corruption in sporting events. These officials could gather in meetings to coordinate and decide on anti-corruption measures for sports. In order to educate the sports community, including players, coaches, and others, on what to do in the event of match-fixing, they would also develop a curriculum.



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A fourth solution would be to establish certain betting limits on specific events to ensure that there is no way to gamble at extreme stakes. Betting thresholds would be determined and would vary based on the nature of the event and its level of popularity. For instance, there is a significant difference between professional sports and collegiate or university sports, hence major league sporting events would have a greater cap than collegiate or professional sports. These betting restrictions would lessen the intensity of wagers, which would lessen the likelihood of match-fixing. Since there would not be enough profit left over after all expenses were paid, match-fixing would be discouraged.

## **Questions to Consider:**

These are questions that should be considered as you conduct your research, as they will help you gather an understanding of the topic, find your country's policy, and form solutions. They are encouraged but not required to be answered.

1. Has any corruption of sporting events occurred in your country, and if so, how was it handled?
2. Who should be involved in facilitating preventative measures against corruption of sporting events? Why them?
3. What organizations has your country worked with in regard to the topic, and how has this been beneficial?
4. How can match-fixing be discouraged on a global scale?
5. How can cyber security be improved within international sporting events to prevent match-fixing?
6. How can technology be used to decrease corruption?



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