

Sport and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan

2017 Annual Progress Report



Section 1: Sport and sports betting integrity action plan

Background and Introduction

1. The Sport and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan (SBI Action Plan)¹ was first published in September 2015. Revised versions are published annually. The Plan outlines Britain's approach to addressing risks to the integrity of sport and sports betting.
2. The SBI Action Plan sets out the expected focus of agencies, sports governing bodies (SGBs), player associations, betting operators and government in delivering timely and effective actions to identify and control risks associated with match-fixing and sports betting integrity. Implementation of the SBI Action Plan was agreed as part of the UK Anti-Corruption Plan, first published in October 2014 and updated in May 2016².
3. The Sports Betting Integrity Forum (the Forum), established in 2014, have responsibility for developing and maintaining the SBI Action Plan, along with delivery of the key priority actions. More information on the Forum can be found on their website³.
4. The Forum committed to publishing an annual report on progress against the key priority actions. Progress is summarised in the following section.

Section 2: Progress Update

1 - Continue the review of the terms of reference of the Sports Betting Intelligence Unit to ensure delivery of most effective, risk based approach to support to partners

Status: Complete

The Sports Betting Intelligence Unit is continually reviewed as part of the planning activity of the Commission's Betting Integrity Programme to ensure all alerts achieve the most effective outcome.

SBIU has tailored the bespoke support offered to major international tournaments hosted in Britain and is running a pilot to standardise data returns from operators to maximise resource and minimise administration.

SBIU will continue to ensure alignment to national platform principles outline in the Macolin Convention⁴ and use the outcomes of the Risk Assessment to further inform where improvements can be made.

2 - Support workshops to promote good practice and promote sharing of knowledge and information across all stakeholder groups. Areas to be covered to include; sharing information, standardising presentation of evidence and misuse of inside information.

Status: Complete

The SBIF hosted their annual workshop in September. Delegates heard from a range of expert speakers who shared their perspectives on a range of topics, including the General Data Protection Regulation due to be implemented in May 2018.

¹ [The Sports and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan](#)

² [The Home Office Anti-Corruption Plan](#)

³ [Sports Betting Integrity Forum Website](#)

⁴ [Macolin Convention](#)

The Minister for Gambling, Tracey Crouch addressed delegates, with key messages including the positive impact and influence sport has on society and her commitment to doing all she can to help uphold sport's integrity and promote fair play. She sees it as essential that people who enjoy sport and those who place bets, can do so with confidence that it is free from corruption.

The Minister recognised and warmly welcomed the commitment and the spirit of cooperation that the Forum has shown in establishing, delivering and sustaining Britain's betting integrity strategy.

Feedback from delegates indicated that the event was very well received.

[Read the full report on the event.](#) [Presentations](#) from the day are also available.

3 - Finalise funding of the SBIF to support effective delivery of the Sports and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan in line with responsibilities of the Home Office Anti-Corruption plan

Status: Open

Awaiting information from Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

4 - Ensure that DCMS in implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into UK legislation are aware of the need to ensure the effective delivery of Britain's betting integrity strategy and in particular the exchange of information between national platforms.

Status: Ongoing

SBIF representatives have been working closely with the Sports Betting Group (through the Sport and Recreation Alliance) and other sports to communicate to DCMS the importance of ensuring that betting integrity functions can continue to be carried out effectively within the broader framework of the GDPR. This joint effort involving all relevant stakeholders has resulted in the inclusion of specific integrity provisions in the forthcoming data protection legislation.

5 – Ensure collective clarity of the measures that will enable sharing of information between SBIF members and, as representatives of their organisations, promote understanding of the legal provisions and protocols to share information.

Status: Ongoing

SBIF has undertaken considerable effort to put in place an appropriate data sharing framework which includes all members completing a template setting out how each member handles personal data. This is to provide greater transparency as between members as to the handling of data to better ensure the seamless exchange of information in accordance with applicable laws.

SBIF has also promoted the continued use of networks of Memorandums of Understanding between sports and betting operators, and is on hand to provide guidance to smaller sports if required. Advice can be found on the [Good Practice/Useful Information](#) section of the SBIF website.

6 - Undertake assessment of the major threats to sport and sports betting to enable focussed activity on key priority areas that support Britain's National Platform.

Status: Ongoing

Work undertaken so far has included assessments of a range of sports based on methodology designed by Australia's National Integrity of Sport Unit, a review of intelligence held by the SBIU, a public perceptions survey as part of the Gambling Commission's Prevalence Survey and open source research. We are also in the progress of consulting the betting industry to look at how betting data can be best incorporated into the assessment.

Outputs in 2018 will include confidential reports for each sport taking part into the assessment, recommendations that will drive future SBIF priorities and contribute towards the ongoing review of the SBIU. We also plan to develop a tool that we can use to assist sports governing bodies assess potential betting integrity risks.

7 - Work with the Council of Europe's Convention Secretariat and Follow-Up Committee to ensure Britain's interests are represented in activities that support the implementation of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.

Britain has yet to sign the Macolin Convention however Government has pledged commitment to do so in 2018 in the Home Office Anti-Corruption Strategy.⁵ The Convention has not yet been ratified therefore the Follow-Up Committee has yet to be formed.

The SBIF have engaged with the Council of Europe Secretariat via the Gambling Commission's membership of the Keep Crime out of Sport project (KCOOS)⁶. Involvement in the next phase of the project (KCOOS+) is to be confirmed by DCMS.

The SBIU are members of the Council of Europe's (CoE) network of national platforms, known as the Group of Copenhagen⁷ which facilitates the sharing of information across jurisdictions. Britain is also represented on other CoE groups including the Network of Regulators and the Network of Prosecutors.

8 - Sports Governing Bodies to undertake a best practice review of rules and regulations on betting to ensure sports regulatory frameworks remain fit for purpose.

Status: Complete

A review was undertaken by the Sports Betting Group (SBG) during 2017 to identify good practice principles to be applied to betting integrity rules. The principles build on the Parry Report recommendations and cover a range of issues which governing bodies should consider when setting and reviewing their rules. A summary document outlining the principles has been published on the SBG website [here](#)

9 - Expand the reach and support provided by the Sports Betting Group to sports governing bodies to reflect the expectations set out in the 2016 Code for Sports Governance. This support should include assistance in developing education for the widest range of participants i.e. not solely confined to athletes/players

Status: Complete

Table Tennis England joined the SBG during 2017 following further contact and assistance provided by SBG members and others around the forthcoming Team World Cup in London in February 2018.

⁵ [Home Office Anti-Corruption Strategy published 2017](#)

⁶ [Keep Crime out of Sport](#)

⁷ [Group of Copenhagen](#)

sports betting integrity forum

SBG members have engaged with and supported a number of governing bodies throughout the year on a range of issues including the development of betting integrity rules and education. More generally, SBG continues to actively promote the importance of having robust measures in place to address integrity risks (including appropriate governance arrangements) and to provide leadership to the sector on integrity matters. SBG members have also contributed to a number of integrity-related events and projects both at a national and international level.

SBG members also contributed to the SBIF annual workshop in September, highlighting the importance of having single points of contact and robust systems for sharing information on suspicious betting as well as the advice and support available to participants who find themselves vulnerable to gambling problems.

10 - Develop a strategy for engaging with small and medium betting operators to raise awareness and share good practice in order to protect the integrity of sports betting and their interests.

Status: Ongoing

The Remote Gambling Association (RGA) have developed a basic eLearning module that once live can be accessed free of charge via an open link which will be open to non RGA members. The eLearning focusses on assisting smaller operators in familiarisation of betting integrity issues and management of the relevant regulatory procedures. The aim is to take those new to integrity (across customer services, compliance, trading room staff etc) from a zero knowledge to a basic understanding of the issues in a relatively short space of time.

The module will be made available in 2018 and builds on an information pack developed by the Forum; "Betting Operator Managing Betting Integrity; Help and support for British Licenced Operators" available on the SBIF [website](#).

The SBIU are also working with Commission Compliance Teams to help spread awareness of betting integrity to small and medium sized operators.