

Joint Statement

by stakeholders in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions

Bratislava, 22 September 2020

Sport and sports competitions are a means of social interaction, a source of great emotion, tension and unpredictability, provided that they take place honestly and in accordance with sports integrity. However, this social, integrative and healthy aspect of sport, combined with the cultivation of human existence, is increasingly threatened by unethical practices and criminal offences penetrating the sphere of sport and sporting competitions.

The manipulation of sports competitions and related bribery, influencing matches, doping, betting fraud, money laundering, influencing the organisation of sports events, or the international involvement of criminal groups are among the biggest threats that fundamentally undermine the values of integrity and the principle of fair play in sport.

We are all aware of the seriousness of this problem and the danger it poses to the development and credibility of sport at national and international level. Therefore, we express our awareness and determination to actively face the threats related to the manipulation of sports competitions, in the interest of building a culture of ethics and increasing the moral imperative and social responsibility in the field of sport. The primary purpose of this effort is to create policies and innovative programs that will protect the integrity of sporting competitions, the credibility of institutions and the unique values that sport brings to society.

The pursuit of this goal is based on a commitment to implement and put into practice the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin, 18 September 2014). We believe that the Convention is an effective instrument for regulating international law in the dynamic changing context of digitalisation and globalisation, as well as a reference framework for coordinating national interests in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions.

Progress in the implementation of the Convention and ensuring success at the level of national competence can only be ensured through the synergy of interests and the joint efforts of the relevant public authorities and organisations active in the field of sport and sports betting, which are involved in promoting the principles of integrity in sport. Such institutions include, in particular:

- **Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic** (National Crime Agency of the Police Force Presidium)
- **Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic**
- **Office for Regulation of Gambling of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic**
- **Slovak Football Association**
- **Anti-Doping Agency of the Slovak Republic**

We are aware that the manipulation of sports competitions and other negative phenomena in sport is not a problem in just one country. It is a global problem, so we appreciate the commitment and professional potential of **CSCF - Foundation for Sport Integrity** which, through the implementation of the international project IntegriSport Erasmus+, focuses on the latest knowledge and expertise in research within the field of prevention and combating the manipulation of sports competitions, and contributes to the application of the principles of the Convention in transnational relations.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the project and present our professional capabilities and efforts to combat the manipulation of sports competitions. We believe that cooperation on the project will contribute to streamlining the mutual exchange of information, mediating experience and strengthening our synergies in the national and international context.

In conclusion, we are convinced that participation in the international project IntegriSport Erasmus+, and cooperation with partners from several European countries, will contribute to more effectively implement integrity policies in sport, as well as to strengthen cooperation in preventing, detecting and punishing the manipulation of sports competitions in Europe.