

Good Practices

Rules and principles for Spanish federations,
leagues and sportspeople



LaLiga



Consejo
Superior de
Deportes





Aim / target group

Integrity and good practices in sport must be considered an essential element in defining an honest and loyal sportsperson in accordance with the basic and elementary principles of all competitive physical activity. Rigging, the predetermination of results or sporting corruption itself, whatever its origin, only distances this individual from what is commonly understood as fair play, and therefore, they are outside the rules of the game. The aim of this guide is none other than to serve as a tool for all sportspeople who, following the rules and recommendations contained in it, intend to have their sporting and personal careers built on integrity and honour. Similarly, compliance with all these rules and recommendations only reinforces the protection that LaLiga intends to give to the competition, and therefore to all those involved in it.

Protecting football players, coaches and in general all the people who work for football is one of LaLiga's priority objectives, in order to achieve a competition with integrity in all its aspects.

Entertainment and leisure betting rules

According to the current gambling regulations in Spain, you cannot place bets on your team, nor on the teams involved in your competition, even if they are not playing against you. Don't play, don't gamble! Gambling in Spain is a regulated activity. The Gambling Act (13/2011 of 27 May) establishes the criteria and conditions to access betting, as well as its characteristics and limitations. This Law contains a specific provision for sportspeople in Article 6, which establishes a ban on betting for sportspeople, coaches, managers or other direct participants in the sporting event or activity on which the bet is placed.

In other words, a sportsperson may not place a bet of any kind on their own matches, nor may they place bets on matches in their own competition.

As far as football is concerned, the sports disciplinary regulations of the Real Federación Española de Fútbol prohibit betting directly or indirectly related to the match in question, sees it as a very serious offence, and establishes sanctions that can even lead to the permanent removal of a sports licence. Remember, the game is not to be messed with.



Rules on predetermination, match-fixing or rigging elements of the match

Nowadays, there are many ways of detecting whether a match has been manipulated due to, among other elements, the irregular alteration of the quotas, which can lead to complaints to the competent bodies in sporting matters, or directly to criminal proceedings. Don't gamble. Predetermining the outcome of a match, or any element or outcome of a match, in advance goes against one of the most basic principles of sport: the uncertainty of the outcome at any stage of the game. Breaking this maxim disrupts the whole system on which fair and honest competition should be based. Fixing, predetermination or rigging of the results of a match, as well as of any element of the match, is a CRIME. Since 2015, the Criminal Code includes the offence of corruption between private individuals (Article 286 bis), and establishes prison sentences of up to four years for those who manage to or simply attempt to rig or alter the result of a match or any of its elements. The mere fact of offering, promising or granting an advantage of any kind to the opponent in a sporting competition is a criminal offence. In addition to these criminal consequences, there are sporting consequences for your career, or direct career-ending consequences. Sports disciplinary regulations provide for disqualifications of up to five years for offenders, which means the end of your sporting career. LaLiga works firmly in the control, prevention, investigation and reporting of these behaviours, which, together with technological advances in the detection of betting fraud, are very valuable tools in the fight against this scourge. LaLiga has its own match-fixing detection system called TYCHE which, together with the work of the Integrity Officers, allows us to monitor, analyse and track bets placed on our competitions from anywhere in the world.



Our analysts can detect suspicious movements in any competition, whatever the category, and report such conduct to the competent authorities as a criminal offence. Don't risk getting involved in a police investigation with criminal consequences of imprisonment and removal of sports licence for life.

Similarly, the use of inside, privileged or confidential information is strictly prohibited when it is used for purposes other than those authorised. This inside information is the information that sportspeople have by the mere fact of belonging to a club or team, and which could allow them in some cases to obtain some kind of advantage over third parties when placing a bet. If you have inside and confidential information, do not use it for gambling or give it to a third party; misuse of this information can come back to harm you.



Rules on bonuses for winning or extra-sporting incentives

Winning bonuses, also known as third party bonuses, are a disruption of the competition, undermining the integrity and fairness of the competition. Although they may seem less serious than losing bonuses, and contrary to the thesis defending their ethics and legality, third party bonuses are strictly forbidden, and therefore investigated and prosecuted by sports organisations and even by the courts. In fact, the April 2020 judgement in the so-called "Osasuna case" of the Provincial Court of Navarra is the first in Spain to convict for the crime of sports corruption. In other words, there is already a ruling that winning bonuses are a crime in our country, which means that they also fall under the type of sporting corruption typified by Art. 286 Bis. 4 of the Criminal Code, punishable by up to four years imprisonment and a fine of up to three times the gain or advantage. Cheating is therefore also accepting a bonus for winning.

Also, Article 82 of the Disciplinary Code of the Real Federación Española de Fútbol establishes both the promise, offering, giving or receiving of any compensation to a third party as an inducement to achieve a positive result that could benefit the payer as a serious offence.

Such conduct is punishable by substantial fines and even disqualification from the competition, in addition to the criminal consequences described above.

Use of social media

Be aware that your statements on social media have a great impact and reach. They are undoubtedly a basic tool for contact with your followers, but a bad use of these networks can be detrimental. Use it correctly. In a globalised world, where millions of people today have access to social media, caution and moderation on the part of sportspeople when using these networks is essential to avoid unwanted conflicts. There are numerous cases in which a sportsperson has been involved in problems due to the misuse of social media, and may even be reported for this fact. Every person is responsible for what they post on their profiles, whether it is their own message or a repost of any comment or image posted by another person. Avoid any comments that use discriminatory language or that may incite violence, as well as those that have any political or religious content or even those that judge the performance of referees or other teammates or coaches.

**Use your head,
use social media well.**





Discrimination / racism

LaLiga has been working for years on a maxim: Zero tolerance for any kind of discrimination, whether based on race, nationality, religion, language, sexuality or disability. Any behaviour that violates the values of equality that should prevail in sport is liable to be reported to the competent sporting or legal bodies, thus jeopardising your future as a sports person. In this regard, all sportspeople and other people involved in sport are invited to report any conduct that promotes discrimination, whether verbal, physical, or even through comments on social media, with the intention of putting an end to it and being able to hold the perpetrators to account. In the whistleblowing channel, integridad@laliga.es, you can send us the comments / complaints that you deem appropriate, with confidentiality being guaranteed. LaLiga promotes the social value of sport, the inclusion of everyone in sport and equality in its access, playing and enjoyment.

There is no place in sport for intolerant or discriminatory behaviour, if you suffer a case of discrimination or intolerance,

Report it.

Whistleblowing channel

LaLiga provides you with a new whistleblowing channel – the Integrity Channel – on LaLiga's website at www.laliga.com/transparencia/guias-manuales so that you can contact professionals from LaLiga's Integrity and Security Department and inform them of any relevant information in relation to the predetermination of results, match-fixing, betting or other criminal offences. LaLiga guarantees total confidentiality of the information, as well as a quick and efficient response to your comments or complaints. Don't think about it, if you have first-hand knowledge of relevant information or have heard something, tell us about it. It also avoids getting involved in investigations into criminal acts committed by your teammates.

Don't be an accomplice, don't be silent.

Report.



