



It is not just Football ! Sportsbetting among handball and basketball players in Iceland

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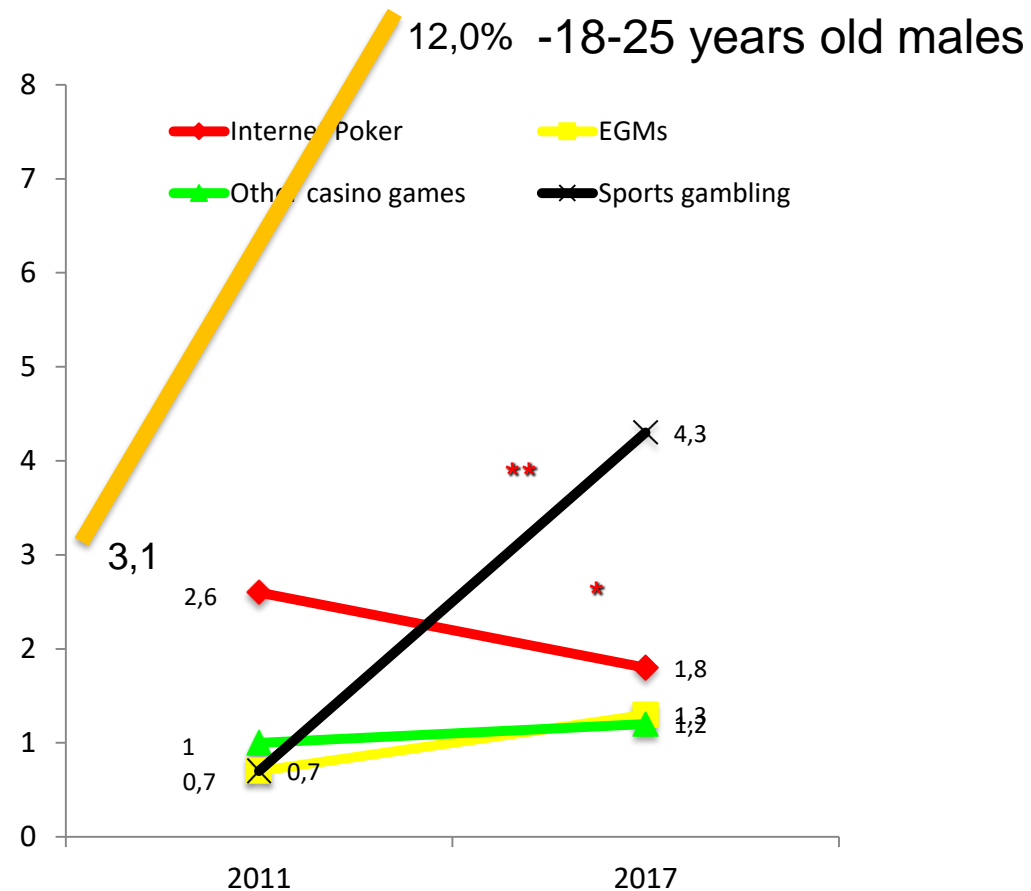


Popularity of Sports gambling

- Sports betting is increasingly popular and recent estimates suggests that it generates about **one-seventh** of the industry profits (Deutcher, Ötting, Schneemann & Scholten, 2019; Hing, 2016).
- In 2014 regulated sports betting was estimated to grow globally in annual gross profits from US\$58 billion in 2012 to US\$70 billion in 2016 (European Gaming and Betting Association, 2016). **The unregulated sports betting sector** was expected to be many times larger (Foley-Train, 2014).



Internet gambling: Icelandic data





Why is it so popular?

- **Home/away/draw (1X2)?**
- What will the half-time result be?
- Which team will score first?
- Which player will score first?
- Will the number of goals/points in a match be over or lower than x?
- Will the number of goals be an odd or even number?
- Who gets the first corner kick?
- How many corner kicks in a match?

Basketball examples:

- Which team is first to score 10 points
- **Number of blocked shots**
- **Number of rebounds (defence/offence) or stolen balls**
- Number of three point throws.

Handball examples:

- How many goals will a team score at halftime
- How many goals will a player score.
- **How many minutes will players be suspended?**
- **How many shots will a goalkeeper defend**





What is match/spot fixing?

- Match fixing is when a person of a sporting movement or a third party tries to have an illegal influence **on the result** of a match or competition.
- Spot fixing is the fixing of **specific elements** of a sporting event.
- The most direct way of match- or spot fixing is when a participating individual (e.g. **PLAYERS, REFEREES OR TEAM OFFICIALS**) tries to change the course or results of a match (Union of European Football Association, 2014).

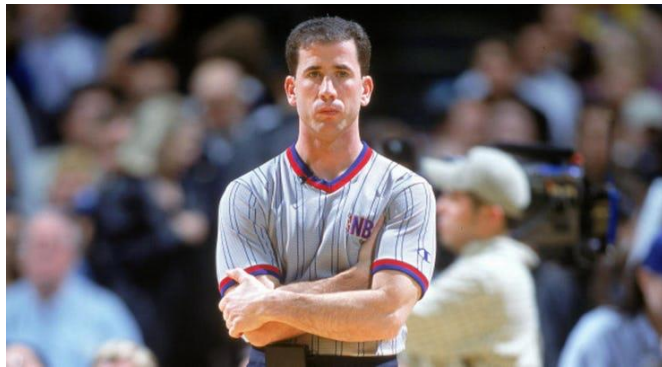


How widespread is the problem?

- Difficult to know as successful fixing is never detected!
- **Match fixing** is certainly more attractive to organized crime than spot fixing due to much higher volumes of betting on results.
- **Spot fixing** is more likely to be attractive to individual players as the perceived crime is less “sinful”, fixing an event is not losing the game!



Examples of Match fixing: Basketball



Donaghy sentenced to 15 months in prison in gambling scandal

ESPN.com news services

Jul 30, 2008



NEW YORK -- Disgraced ex-NBA official Tim Donaghy admitted that he'd brought shame on his profession Tuesday as a federal judge sentenced him to 15 months behind bars for his participation in a gambling scandal that still has the league on the defensive.

Investigative reporting revealed that games where Donaghy officiated typically resulted in higher scoring games and a trend of ten straight games with suspicious betting close to game time



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Examples of Match fixing II

CRIME | GAMBLING | LAW | SPORT | HANDBALL | FRANCE | NIKOLA KARABATIC | MONTPELLIER | BARCELONA | SPAIN | COURT CASE

French handball star Karabatic found guilty of match-fixing

For the court it was revealed that the players involved in the scandal betted - or asked friends to bet - on the mid-term match between Montpellier and Cesson in May 2012, during which they were deemed to have deliberately lost. Montpellier lost 31-28 to Cesson, having already won the French title.

The court in Montpellier asked him to pay a fine of 10,000 euros.





Soccer Betting in Iceland Worries Officials

News | Iceland Monitor | Mon 27 May 2019 |

Betting activities around soccer games is becoming increasingly common in Iceland. More and more often, groups of very attentive spectators show up at less popular soccer games, **smartphone** in hand. Their only reason for showing up at the game is betting. By showing up at the game, gamblers obtain information otherwise unavailable, which benefits them when betting.

"I know of cases where coaches quit announcing the starting lineup in the second division on the eve of the match, as they always used to do. They chose instead to do so inside the locker room, 45 minutes before the beginning of the match, **because the players were under so much pressure before the game to reveal who'd be playing.**"





Study samples

- **Handballers**
- The 2017/18 season included 46 teams with about 820 players
- *In total 309 participated or 38% of registered players, 174 males and 135 women.*
- After approval from the National Handball Association a link to the study was sent to a contact person in every team and they put it in on the team's Facebook group
- **Basketballers**
- The 2017/18 season in Iceland included about 56 teams with about 659 players
- *In total 277 participated or 42% of registered players, 164 males and 104 women.*
- After approval from the National Basketball Association a link to the study was sent to a contact person in every team and they put it in on the team's Facebook group



Risks of Match fixing

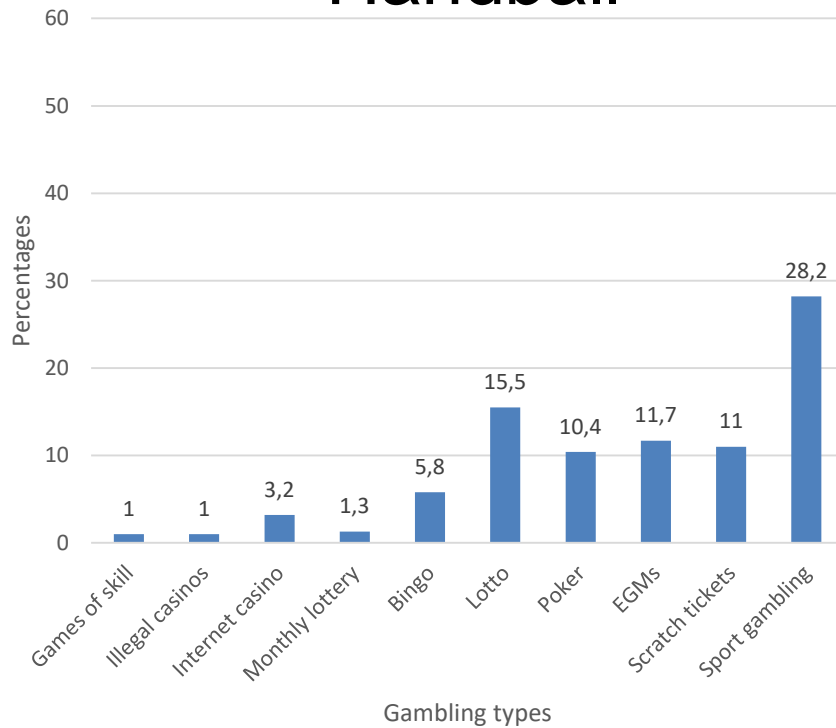
- Two methods used to collect information about gambling behaviour that potentially increases the risks of match fixing.
 - All participants were asked if they knew about teammates that gambled on results or events of games in their own division or on their games.
 - Those who gambled on Handball or Basketball games were asked similar questions.



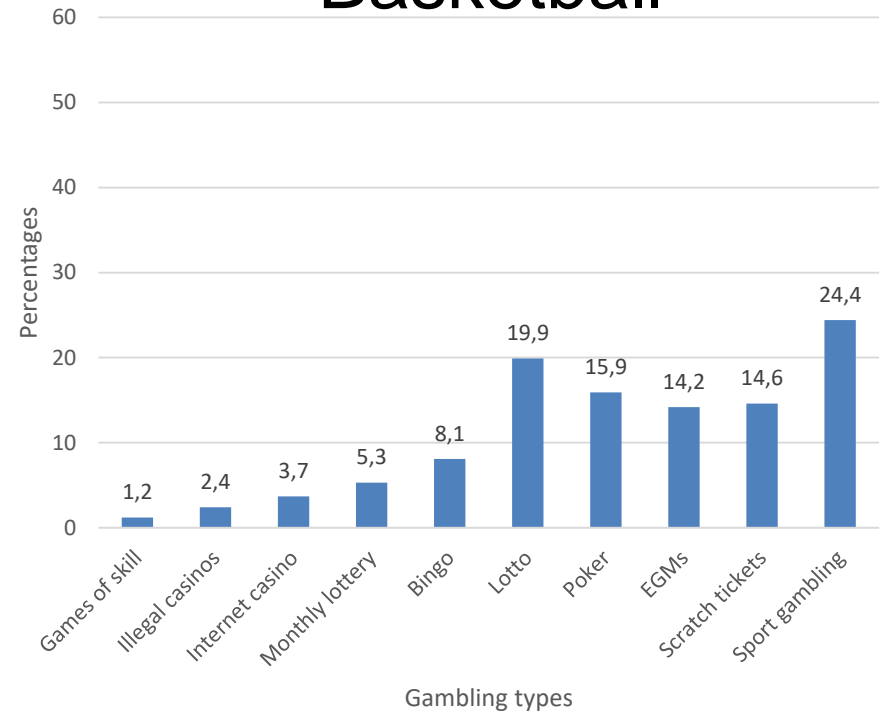


Gambling among hand- and basketballers

Handball

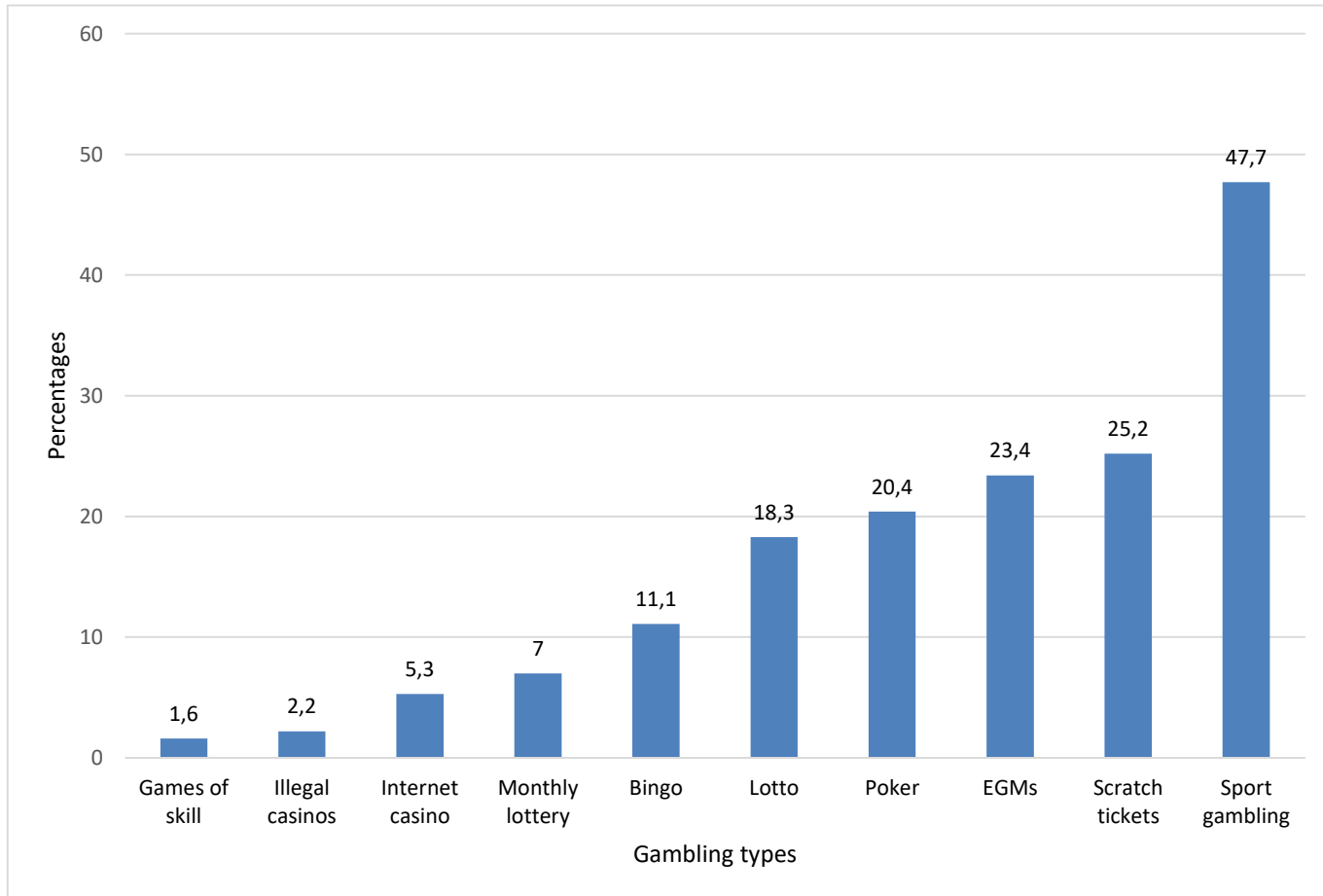


Basketball





Gambling among footballers





Knowledge (% yes)

| Knowledge about gambling on matches | Handball | Basketball |
|---|----------|------------|
| Do you know about players that bet on results of matches in their own division? | 23,3% | 28,6% |
| Do you know about players that bet on results of their own matches? | 5,8% | 10,9% |
| Knowledge about gambling on in-play events | | |
| Do you know about players that bet on in-play events in matches in their own division? | 11,9% | 19,0% |
| Do you know about players that bet on in-play events in their own matches? | 2,5% | 9,5% |





Actual betting behaviour (% yes)

| Gambling on matches | Handball | Basketball | Football |
|--|----------|------------|----------|
| Do you bet on results of matches in your own division? | 38% | 34,8% | |
| Do you bet on results of your own matches? | 10,3% | ? | |
| Gambling on in-play events | | | |
| Do you bet on in-play events in matches in your own division? | 36,5% | 32,0% | |
| Do you bet on in-play events in your own matches? | 7,1% | 8,0% | |





Information (% yes)

| Information about teams or teammates | Handball | Basketball |
|---|----------|------------|
| Do you know about players or trainers of icelandic teams that have given information about their own team | 1,6% | 3,4% |
| Have you been personally asked to give information about your own team? ¹ | 2,0% | 11,3% |
| Do you have a subscription or pay for access to information about Icelandic games or players? | 2,9% | 1,6% |

¹ We also asked if the answer was yes, if they had given such information or not.

Handballers: 0.8 gave information, 1.2% did not.

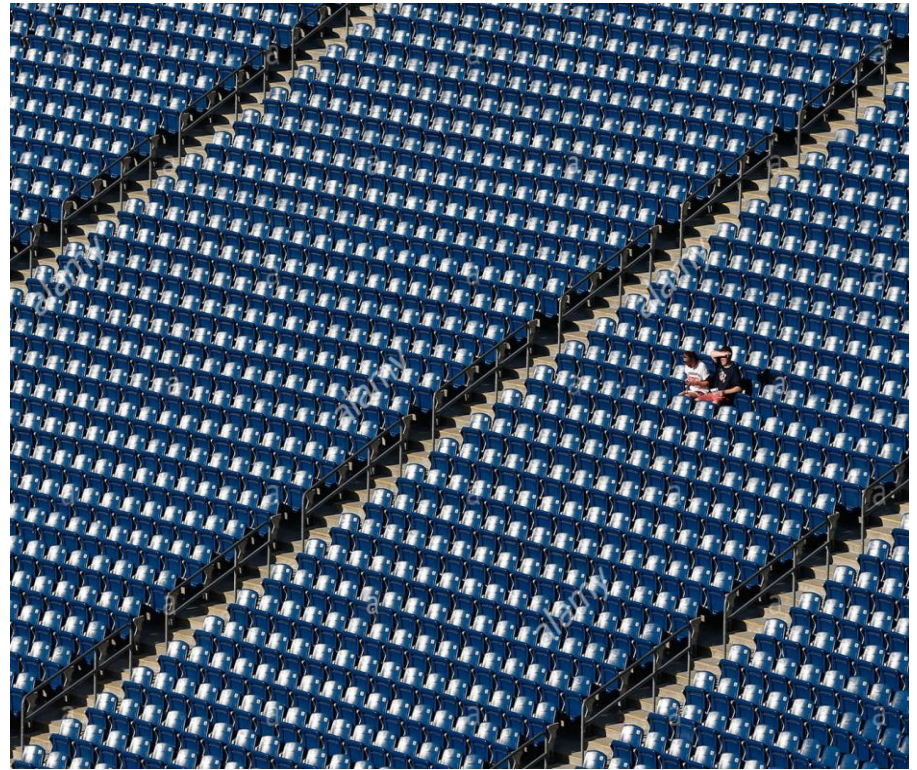
Basketballers: 2.9% gave information, 8.9% did not.





Concluding remarks

- Match/spot fixing is a financial crime and its immediate victims are of course other bettors or bookmakers.
- Match/spot fixing may lead spectators, sponsors and even broadcasters to believe that matches are commonly staged and therefore loose interest, resulting in a substantial drop in revenue.





Action

- **Governmental actions.**
 - ◆ Define and subject match and spot fixing under the category of criminal laws.
- **Monitoring:**
 - ◆ Systematic monitoring of odds offered on results and events of sporting fixtures (f.ex. Sportradar).
 - ◆ Anti-corruption investigation units monitoring sporting fixtures within federations.
- **Sporting Organization**
 - ◆ Sporting federations and clubs are responsible for educational programs and sanctioning.
 - ◆ There should be clear codes of conduct and signed moral clauses in contracts. Sanctioning should be strict and lengthy and public knowledge (NAME AND SHAME).



The National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland (ÍSí)

NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FROM 2nd OF MAY 2019 REGARDING BETTING FOR COACHES, ATHLETES, BOARD AND EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABOVE:

■ *Never participate in betting, gambling or trading in connection with sports events where you might affect the outcome. Never provide information about sports that you personally or others might profit from.*

■ *The Icelandic Handball Association set new strict regulations on betting the 6th of April 2019*

