



# COMPETITION MANIPULATION

## WHAT IS COMPETITION MANIPULATION?

Competition manipulation, sometimes referred to as match fixing, is an intentional act to improperly alter the course or outcome of any sports competition to obtain a benefit. It can be performed by individual competitors, entire teams, support staff, match officials or venue staff.

Criminals are often involved in competition manipulation to illegally profit through betting markets, however competition manipulation can also be motivated by sport-related benefits, such as securing a better draw in the finals, or qualifying for a major event.

## TYPES OF COMPETITION MANIPULATION



### Match-Fixing

Deliberately fixing the result of a competition, such as a win, loss, or tie.



### Spot Fixing

Deliberately ensuring a specific occurrence within a match, unrelated to the final result. Examples include deliberately losing the first half, deliberately getting a yellow card, or deliberately bowling a no-ball.



### Points Shaving

Deliberately manipulating the margin of a competition result. A player deliberately missing a shot to ensure their team wins by no more than 4 points is an example of points shaving. People might engage in points shaving to achieve certain betting outcomes.



### Misapplication Of The Rules

Deliberately misapplying the rules is something that match officials can do to match or spot-fix. It can include things like incorrectly calling fouls to disadvantage a certain team and ignoring fouls committed by the other team.



### Tampering With Venues Or Equipment

Deliberately tampering with an element of the venue or equipment that favours one competitor over another. This can range from things like pitch doctoring to misrepresenting the length of a track.



### Providing Inside Information

Providing information that is not otherwise publicly available that could be used for the purpose of betting. Examples include sharing starting lineups, injury information, or an omission from an event.



## WHAT ISN'T COMPETITION MANIPULATION?

There can be a fine line between competition manipulation and legitimate strategy. It's important to remember that competition manipulation involves improper altering, meaning not in accordance with the standards set by the sport. If a strategy is considered an accepted part of a sport's standards, utilising that strategy wouldn't be considered competition manipulation.

Examples include strategies like:

- Drafting in a car or open water swimming race.
- Working as a team to support one team member to win in a cycling road race, like the Tour de France.
- Resting players for a legitimate competitive objective such as management of player fatigue.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Sport Integrity Australia offers a free online course on Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling [available on the Sport Integrity Australia eLearning hub](#).

More information is also available on the [Sport Integrity Australia website | Competition Manipulation & Sports Wagering](#).

If you are concerned about gambling in yourself or others, you can get immediate assistance by calling the National Gambling Helpline on 1800 858 858 for free, professional and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Contact

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