

Sport and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan

2016 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 published in September 2015. It 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, published in October 2014².
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 website.³
4. The Forum committed to publishing an annual report on progress against the key priority actions. This progress is summarised in the following section.

Section 2: 2016 Annual Progress Report

5. This section outlines progress against each of the ten actions in Appendix 2 of the SBI Action Plan.

Action 1

Report progress on the delivery of the SBI Action Plan via a public facing website. This will ensure transparency, visibility and share Britain's achievements in our fight against match-fixing.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Integrity Forum

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

The SBIF website went live in December 2015⁴.

¹ <http://www.sbif.uk/GB-Strategy-Action-Plan/GB-Strategy-Action-Plan.aspx>

² [UK Anti-Corruption Plan](#)

³ [Sports Betting Integrity Forum Website](#)

⁴ www.sbif.uk

Progress updates on the actions within the Plan have been published on the website throughout the year. The website also provides a focal point for a range of resources and good practice models related to tackling betting related corruption across a number of areas, such as education and prevention, case studies, research and reports and news articles. SBIF members can also be contacted via the website.

Action 2

Develop and establish information exchange protocols consistent with the provisions of the UK law and Data Protection Act guidance.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Integrity Forum

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

The SBIF developed the Information Exchange Principles framework, which sets out the procedures and practical arrangements for cooperation among the members of the Forum to further its objectives and ensure compliance with the provisions of UK Law and Data Protection Act guidance.

The purpose and scope of the arrangements of the initiative agreed by members of the Forum are as follows:

- To establish a code of practise and provide a formal basis for cooperation and information sharing: requesting, exchanging, handling, use and storage
- To enhance collaboration between the members
- To express willingness to open, constructive and timely cooperation
- To seek joint solutions, in particular on common issues
- To outline the types of information that can be shared and the methods that should be used insofar as permitted by applicable law

The agreement also sets out the responsibilities of each member and the general principals of cooperation. The framework will be reviewed once the impacts of the [General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR) are understood.

Action 3

Review the adoption of the Sports Betting Group's Code of Practice to determine its effectiveness.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Group (SBG)

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

Over the past year the SBG has:

- Reviewed the Code of Practice and updated it to reflect recent good practice and to make it more accessible through the inclusion of examples illustrating how different sports have applied the Code. The revised [Code of Practice](#) was launched alongside a [new SBG website](#) at an event hosted by the SBIF at [Lord's Cricket Ground \(Lord's\)](#) in September 2017.
- Undertaken a review of compliance with the SBG Code of Practice and produced a summary report (to be published shortly) to demonstrate how SGBs have applied the Code to protect against risks from sports betting corruption.
- Delivered a sports workshop session at the SBIF event at Lord's. This highlighted the effectiveness of the Code of Practice and how it could be applied as a tool to assist governing bodies in protecting the integrity of their sports. The session had good attendance from a wide range of sports and feedback both during and after the event was very positive.
- Extended the reach of the SBG to include new governing bodies. Three new members – British Curling, British Cycling and British Rowing – joined in 2016 and all are working to become compliant with the Code of Practice.
- Engaged with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Sport England and UK Sport to ensure that the Code of Practice is embedded within the new [Code for Sports Governance](#). The inclusion of the SBG Code of Practice in this way reflects the clear links between good governance and integrity and is indicative of a broader cultural change whereby SGBs are aware of, and take responsibility for, integrity risks to their sports.

Action 4

Develop an SBIF communications portal to facilitate improved communications between partners.

Lead/supported by:

Commission / DCMS

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

A communications portal that meets government accreditation standards was identified and implemented in 2015. The portal is used by members to securely share information relating to progressing the Forum's objectives.

Administration of the portal is undertaken by the Forum Secretariat.

Action 5

Review the provision and effectiveness of education programmes in sport to deter and protect players and participants from betting corruption.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Group

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

In addition to progress reported against actions 3 and 6 the SBG has also:

- Produced the summary report as outlined in Action 3 to demonstrate how SGBs have applied the SBG Code of Practice to protect against risks from sports betting corruption. The report includes an assessment of information on the provision and effectiveness of education programmes put in place by different sports.
- Through its work with player associations and other stakeholders, made betting integrity education available to participants in accessible, relevant and understandable formats including face-to-face education, online tutorials, videos, seminars and publications.
- Delivered the sports workshop session at the SBIF event at Lord's which emphasised to those in SGBs both the importance of providing integrity education in a variety of forms and the need to tailor education to the wide range of participants within sport including but not limited to players, officials, coaches, agents, executives and others connected with sport.

Action 6

Collaborate with relevant sports to share information, best practice and assist them to tackle match-fixing issues within their sport.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Group

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

In addition to the progress reported in action 3 the SBG has:

- Reviewed and updated the [SBG Code of Practice](#) to ensure it continues to reflect industry-leading practice and contains practical examples to assist SGBs seeking to apply the Code to their particular sport.
- Launched a [new SBG website](#) which provides a central, accessible online resource for governing bodies and other stakeholders containing betting rules, reporting contacts and education resources. The site is designed to ensure governing bodies can access integrity information quickly and easily and can tailor resources to their particular sports.
- Proactively engaged with a wide range of SGBs to provide guidance and support on betting integrity. As a result of this engagement, three new governing body members have joined SBG – British Curling, British Cycling and British Rowing.
- Proactively engaged with the Gambling Commission and DCMS to seek a [consultation on the scope of Schedule 6 of the Gambling Act 2005](#) with a view to facilitating the sharing of information with a broader range of sports governing bodies.
- Through the revised Code of Practice and SBIF event, reinforced to SGBs the importance of having in place measures to facilitate information exchange, including Memorandums of Understanding where appropriate and robust systems to securely handle sensitive information.

Action 7

Review engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in betting corruption cases to improve management of sports betting corruption cases.

Lead/supported by:

Law Enforcement (Lead – Paul Kennedy – National Police Chiefs Council)

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

Engagement with CPS is now much improved, with the identification of a single point of contact (SPOC) for cases involving betting corruption cases where criminality is suspected. This approach has been tested over the past year and proven to work well. The CPS SPOC has provided timely and valuable advice across a number of areas, which would have previously been difficult to secure before this new arrangement was established.

Action 8

Review the terms of reference of the Sports Betting Intelligence Unit (SBIU) to ensure delivery of most effective support to partners.

Lead/supported by:

Gambling Commission (Lead Nick Tofiluk)

Status: Partly achieved

Evidence:

The SBIU terms of reference were revised and published in April 2015. All major supporting documentation has been refreshed in the past 2 – 3 years.

An internal meeting was held in 2016 to further review SBIU working practices to consider how the Gambling Commission can contribute to more effective risk management, both internally and working with partner organisations.

As part of this process some actions were identified and incorporated into SBIU processes. For example, a more robust method of recording the decision making process to support cases where no further action is deemed appropriate and an enhanced communications strategy.

However, some outputs from the review are dependent on a strategic steer from the DCMS. These outputs will be developed as appropriate once this steer has been secured. This action will be taken forward as a priority for the Plan in 2017.

Action 9

Undertake Risk Assessments of threats from betting integrity on sport and sports betting.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Integrity Forum

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

[The Sports Betting Profiles](#) brings together contributions from Forum members to identify and assess the current threats and highlight good practice. This was published on the SBIF website in 2015. Recommendations from the assessment have either been incorporated into the Forums plans or will be taken forward as priorities for 2017.

Action 10

Annually review and publish an SBI Action Plan progress report.

Lead/supported by:

Sports Betting Integrity Forum

Status: Achieved

Evidence:

This report fulfils this action. In addition, Forum members have regularly reviewed progress against the actions within the plan, publishing relevant updates on the SBIF website

Section 3: Conclusion

6. Good progress has been made on implementing the 10 actions in the Plan, with 9 actions having been successfully delivered. Implementation of the first Sport and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan has already seen the UK deliver on a number of commitments, strengthening how we approach and address risks to the integrity of sport and sports betting. For example: developing and establishing information exchange protocols, reviewing the provision and effectiveness of education programmes in sport and enhanced engagement with the CPS to improve management of sports betting corruption cases.
7. Work is ongoing to deliver against the remaining action, to continue the review of the SBIU, which will be carried forward as part of the key priorities for 2017.
8. Forum members are also committed to continued collaborative working that underpins the strategic approach as outlined in Part 1 of the SBI Action Plan.
9. An updated Plan will be published in 2017, outlining the key priorities, to which aim to help us to continue to identify new and emerging threats and manage the risks associated with match-fixing and sports betting integrity.