

# ESSA Q4 2015 INTEGRITY REPORT





## EDITORIAL



Over the following pages you will find the data covering our final quarterly report for 2015, which not only includes our Q4 integrity statistics but also a geographical overview of all the suspicious alerts in 2015.

The top line figure shows that in total 100 sporting events were reported to the relevant regulatory body as being suspicious in 2015. A more detailed breakdown of each quarter, the various sports on which suspicious betting was identified and the countries where the events took place is contained in the following sections of this document.

Clearly there are limits to what we can share as we do not wish to impede current or impending investigations, but we are always considering if additional data can be made public and would prove valuable. Indeed, it has always been our intention to inform the debate around betting related match-fixing by publishing useful and constructive data in this area wherever possible.

We believe that evidence-based policy making is fundamental to the delivery of proportionate and effective solutions for an issue which adversely affects a wide range of stakeholders from both an economic and social standpoint. However, in addition to our integrity statistics, only the British Gambling Commission publishes comparable reliable data in this area on a regular basis.

With that, there continues to be a void in data which is limiting the level of debate and maintaining a situation where conjecture and misinformation can adversely impact policy making. The

importance of such datasets was shown with the publication of the ASSER report on in-play betting in 2015. That report dispelled a number of myths, finding no correlation between live betting and possible match-fixing in football that would justify a prohibition of these bet types, as some had called for.

Indeed, we've seen movement on a number of important policy areas over the last five years as detailed independent studies have been conducted in this area. In particular, showing that match-fixing is not a product of the regulated betting sector - it is now widely recognised as primarily being a product of the unregulated betting sector, criminals and corrupt sportspeople/administrators.

The latter continues to be a major obstacle to the implementation of effective detection and deterrent mechanisms. Poor sports governance is increasingly being identified as a key facilitator of various forms of corruption, underlined by a number of high-level scandals during 2015, notably involving football and athletics. Effective governance practices are an important barometer of a sport's overall level of integrity.

The start of 2016 has seen a worldwide focus on alleged match-fixing in tennis. The data contained in ESSA's Q1-3 reports has been used to highlight those concerns. The data in our Q4 integrity report reflects previous quarters and, whilst tennis constituted the largest proportion of suspicious betting alerts identified by ESSA members, it should be noted that the vast majority of tennis events are fair.

ESSA has been working closely with the tennis authorities on this issue and remains committed to working with all of our partners in sport. Anything that undermines the confidence and

integrity of any sport is not only damaging for sport itself but is also potentially serious for the betting industry. It is important that we work together, continually reassessing our joint cross-sector response with proportionate and effective solutions.

Last year saw some important policy actions take place, none more so than the publication of the British Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan, a blueprint of good practice and effective detection and enforcement measures. To that, add the European Commission brokered cooperation agreement between EEA regulatory authorities and the IOC Code on Competition Manipulation, all very welcome initiatives.

During 2016, we expect further important betting integrity discussions to occur at national and international levels, at which ESSA will continue to represent the regulated betting sector. On the latter, meetings will be hosted by the United Nations, Council of Europe and European Commission. We will also continue to work closely with sports bodies, such as the IOC, and regulatory authorities.

Indeed, ESSA will be participating in a number of important cross-sector collaborations during the forthcoming year, most notably around the education of athletes and the implementation of best practices on integrity. It remains our central goal to engage in an open and constructive manner with other stakeholders and to promote partnership working underpinned by evidence-based solutions.

The publication of our members' integrity data is an important aspect of that approach. We again challenge other stakeholders to do likewise and to add to this dataset and our understanding of this issue. Only then can we truly begin to address the betting related manipulation of sporting events and its adverse impact on sport, regulated betting companies and consumers from a firm base.

Finally, I'd like to thank the valuable input from the various contributors to our previous integrity reports and some pertinent comments and observations have been reprinted below this section.

**Mike O'Kane**  
ESSA Chairman

***"The main pillars are betting operators' associations and companies (e.g. ESSA, EGBA, RGA and WLA) and gambling regulatory authorities".***

Friedrich Martens, Head of the IOC's Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS), outlining the importance of stakeholders to the success of the IBIS (Q1 integrity report).

***"The temptation to cheat will always be there. We need to make sure that we catch and punish those who break the rules and dismantle the criminal gangs that have built a business on match-fixing. This requires many different actors to work together - public policy-makers, law enforcement authorities, the sport movement and betting operators."***

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission (Q3 integrity report)

***"Our successful partnership has grown significantly over the last five years. This is in part due to Preparatory Action funding from the European Commission in 2013-14 but also to the long-term commitment of the regulated betting industry."***

Jean-François Reymond, General Secretary of EU Athletes, commenting on the success of the player education programme established with ESSA and other betting operator trade associations (Q3 integrity report)

***"....match-fixing is a big issue in football and tennis, but its impact is also spreading to other sports. Initiatives such as ESSA have had a very positive impact, but more is needed."***

Marc Tarabella, Member of the European Parliament and co-chair of the EP Intergroup on Sport (Q2 integrity report)



## ESSA'S INTEGRITY FIGURES FOR Q4 2015

During the final quarter (Q4) of 2015, ESSA's alert system identified 35 sporting events that were deemed suspicious and referred to the relevant authorities for further investigation. Tennis, with 24 (69%) cases, constituted the highest number of sporting events on which suspicious betting took place across ESSA members' regulated betting platforms, followed by football with 8 (23%).

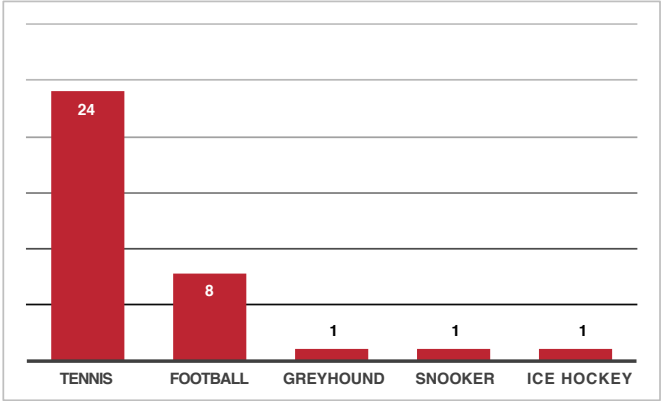
That position is a reflection of the general trend shown in the previous three quarters of the year and therefore the overall position in 2015, which included a total of 100 cases of suspicious betting on sporting events, led by tennis with 73 cases and followed by football with 19.

Readers of previous ESSA integrity reports will note an addition to the statistics in the form of geographical data (see next page) showing where the reported sporting event, on which suspicious betting was identified by ESSA, took place during 2015. Europe, with 38 cases, posted the highest number of sporting events on which suspicions betting was identified, followed by Asia with 24 cases.

From a geographical perspective, cases of suspicious betting on football predominantly occurred in European matches with 13 (68%) of all cases in that sport during 2015. Whereas tennis cases were relatively evenly spread, led by Asia (19 cases) and followed by Europe (18), North America (14), South America (11), Africa (9), with 2 cases having no specific country origin.

The figures in this report cover alerts generated by ESSA's members on their regulated betting platforms during the periods stated. All suspicious cases were referred to the relevant regulatory authorities for further investigation of potential corrupt activity. ESSA has information sharing agreements with a number of major sports and national gambling regulatory authorities to facilitate this. Each country's respective continental locations have been determined using UN classifications (except Cyprus, placed under Europe, instead of Asia, as it is part of the European Union).

## Suspicious alerts in Q4 2015



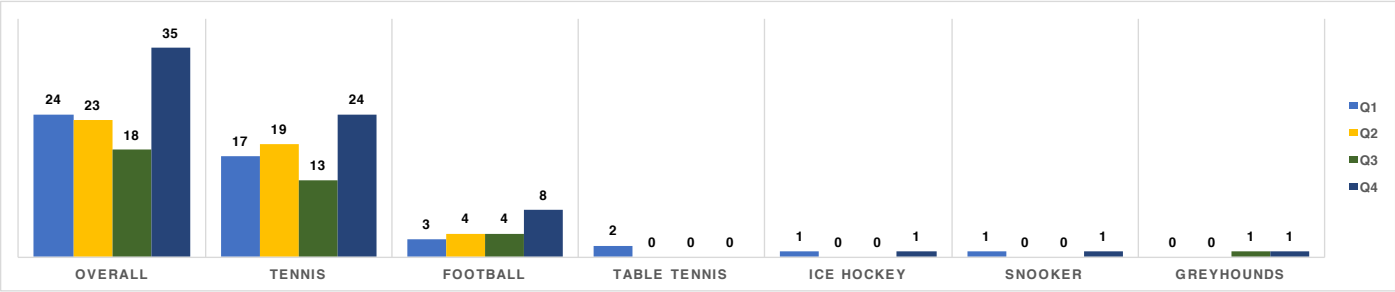
The ESSA alert system primarily works on the input provided by its members, notably alerts created by members relating to suspicious transactions detected by their own internal control systems.

If such an alert is issued, which occurs through ESSA's alert platform, members are required to respond quickly confirming whether or not similar trends have been seen elsewhere in their markets.







Where evidence emerges that there may be potentially fraudulent activity taking place, e.g. because several members have confirmed an irregular betting pattern, ESSA will:

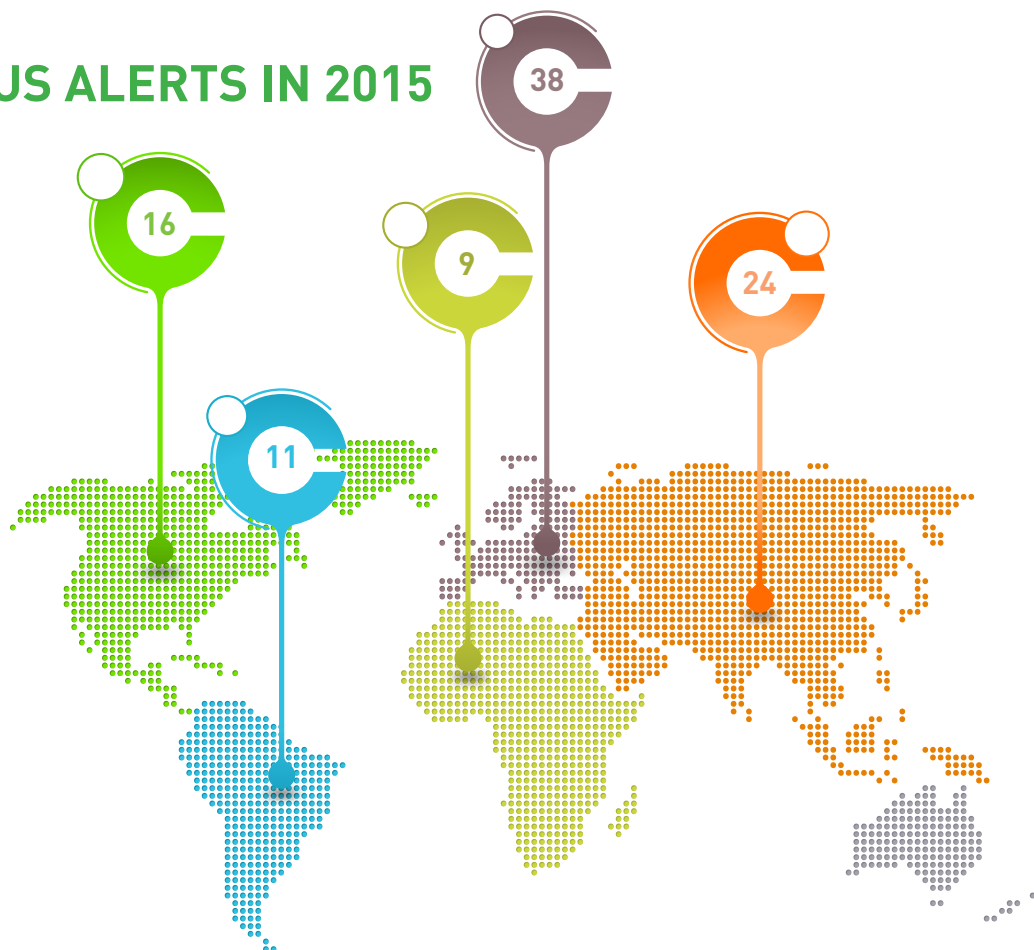
1. report that information under the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the relevant sports governing body; and
2. advise the member(s) concerned to make a report to their own national regulatory authority.

## Overall suspicious alerts in 2015



# SUSPICIOUS ALERTS IN 2015

-  Tennis
-  Snooker
-  Ice Hockey
-  Football
-  Table Tennis
-  Greyhound Race






























## AFRICA – 9 CASES

Egypt -  x 2  
Tunisia -  x 7

## ASIA – 24 CASES

Azerbaijan -  x 1  
China -  x 3;  x 1  
Hong Kong -  x 1  
India -  x 2  
Israel -  x 2  
Kazakhstan -  x 1  
Sri Lanka -  x 1  
Turkey -  x 8;  x 2  
Uzbekistan -  x 1;  x 1





## EUROPE – 38 CASES

Austria -  x 1  
Belarus -  x 1  
Belgium -  x 1  
Bulgaria -  x 1  
Cyprus -  x 1  
Czech Republic -  x 1  
France -  x 1  
Germany -  x 2;  x 2  
Greece -  x 3;  x 1  
Ireland -  x 1  
Italy -  x 2  
Moldova -  x 1  
Netherlands -  x 2  
Russia -  x 1;  x 1  
Serbia -  x 1  
Slovenia -  x 1;  x 1  
Spain -  x 4  
Sweden -  x 1  
Switzerland -  x 1  
UK -  x 2;  x 1;  x 1  
Ukraine -  x 2

## NORTH AMERICA – 16 CASES

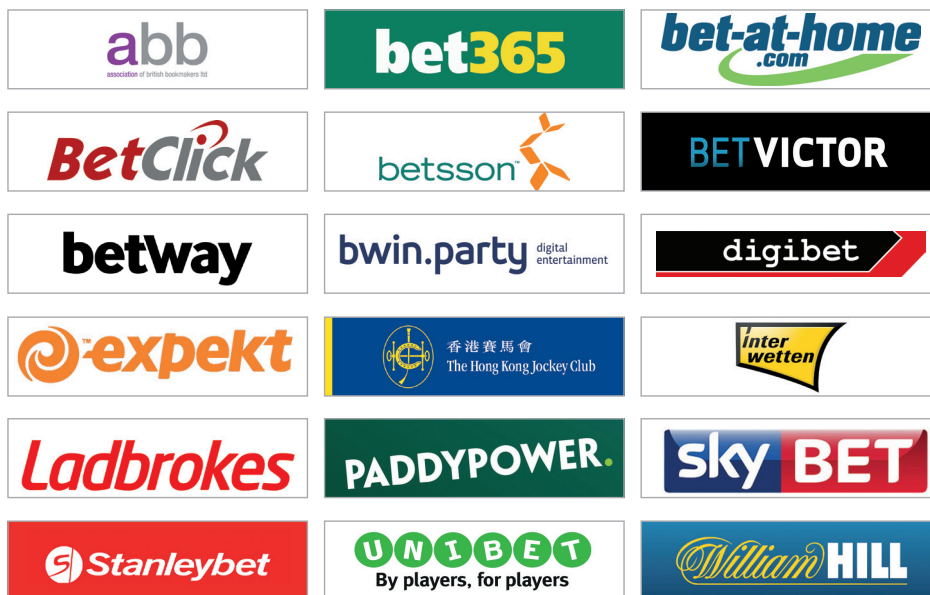
Dominican Republic -  x 4  
Honduras -  x 1  
Mexico -  x 5  
Nicaragua -  x 1  
USA -  x 5

## SOUTH AMERICA – 11 CASES

Argentina -  x 7  
Chile -  x 1  
Columbia -  x 2  
Peru -  x 1

## NO COUNTRY ORIGIN – 2 CASES

 x 2



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