



The SAM Case

5TH EDITION (2025-2026)

Mr Antonio Fortuna (Appellant)

٧.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) (Respondent)

A. DRAMATIS PERSONAE

- 1. The Republic of Mimosa ("Mimosa") is a country with a population of 6 million inhabitants. The Iridonian Football Association has been a member of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA" or the "Respondent") since 1954, but its senior national football teams have never participated in a FIFA World Cup.
- 2. Mr Antonio Fortuna (the "**Appellant**") is a 32-year-old football player of Iridonian nationality. He has been a regular starter for the Iridonian men's national football team in its 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, replacing the team's captain and regular starting goalkeeper due to injury. He is considered a "late bloomer", having only built a solid reputation in the last two seasons.
- 3. FIFA is the global governing body of football, with its headquarters in Zürich, Switzerland.

B. UNCONTESTED FACTS

- 4. Iridonia's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier campaign had been successful by its usual standards until the last fixture of the regional qualifier. Iridonia was on top of its group, which would have earned it a qualifying spot for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- 5. Iridonia's last fixture was against Cometland, a team which sat at the bottom of the group at the time, with a record of 1 goal in favor and 12 goals against. Iridonia needed one point to remain on top of the group and directly qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, or a loss with a goal difference of two or less to earn second place, leading to a play-off match against a team from a different continent, with the winner qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- 6. On 17 October 2025, the anticipated match between Iridonia and Cometland was played in the Azul Stadium, in Iridonia (the "Match"). The Appellant featured in the team's starting squad. At the final whistle, Cometland had won the Match with a score of 0-3. Following the match, local media harshly criticized the Appellant's performance.

- 7. On 18 October 2025, FIFA received a "Betting Market Analysis Report" written by Genius Sports Integrity Services (the "Report"), covering the Iridonia loss to Cometland. The Report analysed betting patterns, the performance of various players and additional information gathered primarily from social media, concluding that the Match may have been fixed (Exhibit 1).
- 8. On 20 October 2025, the Secretariat of FIFA's Disciplinary Committee decided to launch a disciplinary investigation against the Appellant in relation to the Match and to appoint a prosecutor.
- 9. On 3 November 2025, FIFA interviewed several players of the Iridonian men's national football team. One of them agreed to produce a witness statement on the condition of anonymity (the "Anonymous Witness Statement"), stating that he feared reprisals and intimidation because the Appellant's father is rumoured to have friends who are involved with criminal organizations (Exhibit 2).¹
- 10. The anonymous witness further stated that the night before the Match, the Appellant looked stressed and was shouting to his father over the phone that he should stop pressuring him and that he couldn't go along with him in everything (Exhibit 2).
- 11. On the same date, FIFA received information from an anonymous source via a disposable email account, stating that the Appellant's father, Mr Luc Fortuna ("Mr L. Fortuna"), had received 50,000 Dodgycoin² (equivalent to CHF 50,000) during the weeks leading up to the Match, and that he was involved in shady dealings with criminals (Exhibit 3).
- 12. The same email attached a screenshot of a WhatsApp conversation with "The Syndicate", in which receipt of "the last part of the coin" was acknowledged by a person nicknamed "Luc the crook" (Exhibit 4). Immediately, FIFA sent these documents to the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office.
- 13. On 4 November 2025, the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the Appellant and his father for "sports manipulation".
- 14. On 5 November 2025, the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office published an announcement, confirming notably that Mr L. Fortuna "had provided access to his Dodgycoin wallet", which was being investigated (Exhibit 5).

¹ The Anonymous Witness Statement was reproduced in the context of the current CAS proceedings.

² Dodgycoin is a cryptocurrency known to be used by criminal organisations due to the increased anonymity of its transactions.

- 15. FIFA, aware of the Iridonian criminal investigation, enquired whether the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office would be willing to share the evidence gathered against the Appellant to be used in the FIFA disciplinary investigations.
- 16. The authorities stated that the Iridonian investigation remained ongoing and that they could share no information other than what they had already disclosed to the media, but would do so once the case was ready to go to the courts and the investigation had been concluded.
- 17. On 18 November 2025, the Appellant was summoned by FIFA for an interview. He was informed that, during the interview and the entire process before FIFA, he had the right to be represented by legal counsel; however, he replied that he did not need legal counsel for the time being.
- 18. During the interview, the Appellant denied engaging in match fixing or having been approached by his father or anyone else to fix matches.
- 19. When asked about the Dodgycoin transferred to his father, the Appellant stated that he did not know the reason for nor the source of such transfers, and did not know if they had taken place at all. He remarked that his father had recently started investing in cryptocurrency with some friends, and that this was all he knew about his father's activities in the world of cryptocurrency (Exhibit 6).
- 20. In the course of the interview, FIFA's representatives requested that the Appellant submit his mobile phone for the purposes of the investigation. The Appellant immediately refused to comply with this request stating that he had the right to privacy.
- 21. FIFA warned the Appellant that he could face sanctions for lack of cooperation, but the Appellant still refused to hand over his mobile phone.
- 22. On 8 December 2025, FIFA reiterated by email its request to obtain the Appellant's mobile data. This request was once again met with the Appellant's refusal.
- 23. The Appellant stated further that he had now hired legal counsel who had advised him that any investigation into the mobile phone could prejudice his right to defend himself before the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office.
- 24. To date, the criminal investigations initiated against the Appellant remain pending and Iridonian authorities have yet to share any evidence with FIFA.
- 25. On 27 January 2026, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee eventually sanctioned the Appellant for manipulating the Match with a fine of CHF 100,000 and a ban of five

- years from all football activities worldwide, as well as an additional fine of CHF 10,000 for failure to cooperate during the investigation.
- 26. This decision was fully upheld on 31 March 2026 by the FIFA Appeal Committee (the "**Challenged Decision**"). The Challenged Decision was sent to the parties with grounds on 2 April 2026 (Exhibit 7).

C. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 27. On 23 April 2026, the Appellant paid a filing fee of CHF 1,000, filed a statement of appeal against FIFA before the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS"), and nominated Ms Valeria Iweala as party-appointed arbitrator. The statement of appeal was filed by email; specifically, it was sent by the Appellant's counsel to the official CAS email address (procedures@tas-cas.org) at 23:45 Iridonian time³ (Exhibit 8).
- 28. On 24 April 2026, the Appellant also sent the statement of appeal to the CAS by courier.
- 29. By Tuesday 28 April 2026, the CAS Court Office had yet to acknowledge receipt of the email and register the appeal. The Appellant's counsel reached out to the CAS to inquire why this had been the case, and the CAS replied that it had never received the appeal by email.
- 30. On the same day, the Appellant's legal team informed the CAS that, on Sunday 26 April, they had received information on WhatsApp from their IT provider that their email servers had "recently" been subject to a cyber-attack which "may have disrupted outgoing emails without necessarily generating delivery error messages"; however, the issue was resolved. In support, the Appellant's legal team attached a screenshot of the WhatsApp message (Exhibit 9).
- 31. Moreover, the Appellant's legal team requested that the CAS "reinstate the deadline for the filing of the statement of appeal", and attached the email sent to procedures@tas-cas.org at 23:45 Iridonian time on 23 April 2026 (Exhibit 8).
- 32. On 4 May 2026, FIFA nominated Mr Nahuel Krishnamurti as a party-appointed arbitrator.

³ Iridonia is in the same time zone as the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

- 33. On 5 May 2026, the Appellant filed an appeal brief before the CAS, by email and courier.
- 34. On 7 May 2026, the President of the Division appointed Mr Shunsuke Papadopoulos as the president of the Panel.
- 35. On 11 May 2026, FIFA filed its answer to the appeal brief before the CAS, by email and courier, in which it argued, *inter alia*, that the statement of appeal was inadmissible.
- 36. On 16 May 2026, the Panel fixed the dates of the hearing.⁴

D. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- 37. Considering the entire case file at hand, the participants are required to address the following issues as part of their submissions:
 - a. Is the Appellant's statement of appeal admissible?
 - b. Was the Appellant's refusal to hand over his mobile phone lawful? If not, what are the legal consequences of this refusal?
 - c. Do the Anonymous Email and Anonymous Witness Statement constitute admissible evidence?
 - d. Did the Appellant violate Article 20 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code?

AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

- 1. Genius Sports Integrity Services Betting Market Analysis Report dated 18 November 2025
- 2. Anonymous Witness Statement dated 3 November 2025
- 3. Email from an anonymous source dated 3 November 2025
- 4. Screenshot of WhatsApp messages involving "The Syndicate" dated 17 October 2025

⁴ The participants are to assume that the hearing dates correspond to the dates of the SAM hearings.

- 5. Press release of the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office dated 5 November 2025
- 6. Witness Statement of Mr Antonio Fortuna dated 21 April 2026
- 7. Decision of the FIFA Appeal Committee dated 31 March 2026
- 8. Email from the Appellant's counsel dated 23 April 2026
- 9. Screenshot of WhatsApp messages between the Appellant's counsel and its IT provider dated 26 April 2026

ORGANISATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. The participating teams are invited to provide their clarification questions in relation to the SAM Case by no later than 19 January 2026 pursuant to the <u>SAM Rules</u>, via email to the organizing committee of the Sports Arbitration Moot.⁵
- 2. The final deadline for submission of the Skeleton of Arguments and the List of Legal Authorities is <u>18 February 2026</u>, 23:59 in your local timezone. The instructions for the consolidation of the submissions are appended below in Appendix 1.

⁵ The SAM Organization can be contacted at *info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com*.

Genius Sports Integrity Services Betting Market Analysis Report dated 18 November 2025

See next page.

Genius Sports Integrity
Services Betting Market
Analysis Report

2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying – Iridonia v Cometland

Private & Confidential







INVESTIGATED MATCH

FIFA World Cup Qualifying

Iridonia v Cometland

Date	17 th October, 2025
Time (UTC)	19:00
Final Score	0-3
Referee (Assistants)	Alexander Adam (Liam James, Paulo Costo)
Trigger for Alert	Strong pre-match and in-play wagering which required Iridonia to lose the match by a minimum margin
RATING	• Red

Background

This was the final match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying stage, with Iridonia taking on Cometland.

Iridonia were positioned at the top of their group prior to the final round, needing only one point (a draw) against Cometland to secure a historic direct qualification to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. They could also qualify by finishing in second place and progressing through a play-off match, an outcome which could only be achieved by losing by a goal-difference of two or less to Cometland. Iridonia's campaign was considered highly successful by its usual standards, standing on the verge of qualification for the nation's very first time.

In comparison, Cometland had an extremely weak record and were positioned at the bottom of the group, with a record of only one goal scored and 12 conceded. As a result, Cometland were already mathematically eliminated from qualifying prior to this fixture. As a result, their sporting motivation for securing a positive result (a win or a draw) would have been significantly less than the motivation driving the Iridonian team.

In the lead-up to the fixture, it appeared both nations would be lining up as expected given there were no notable inclusions or omissions in the respective squad announcements two weeks prior to the match. Iridonia's regular first-choice goalkeeper was still out of action with injury, so back-up goalkeeper Antonio Fortuna was expected to maintain his place in the Iridonia starting line-up.

Meanwhile, Cometland named an unchanged squad. One-and-a-half hours prior to kick-off, line-ups were announced and both nations were unchanged from their previous matches.

According to findings that were published approximately five minutes ahead of kick-off by Genius Sports' statistician responsible for the data collection, the weather conditions were described as 'regular' while the pitch condition was classified as a 4 ('good') on a scale ranging from 1 (equalling 'Very bad') to 5 (equalling 'Very good'). Therefore, these two factors should not have influenced the betting market to any significant extent.

There were no other pre-match sporting factors which could have had a notable impact on the betting markets.



Pre-game Betting

Bookmaker coverage prior to kick-off was comprehensive. Hundreds of bookmakers (estimated to be 500+) from all regions offered a wide range of betting markets to wager on throughout the contest. This included both regulated and unregulated operators.

The following sections will provide a detailed overview and analysis of the way in which the relevant betting markets behaved for this particular fixture.

Match Result / Asian Handicap - Iridonia Opposed:

An alert was triggered in SportIM - Genius Sports' proprietary integrity monitoring system - due to moderate betting in opposition of Iridonia, specifically for their opponents to avoid defeat by a minimum margin. For the bettors targeting this outcome prior to kick-off, they required Cometland to avoid defeat by two or more goals (e.g., 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, etc., or better) in order to be profitable.

This support was reflected on both the Match Result and Asian Handicap markets.

Betting markets opened approximately one month prior to the match, with BetX among the first to open with Iridonia installed as the overwhelming favorites at odds of 1.20, indicating an 83% chance of victory. Meanwhile, the Draw was available at odds of 6.00, and the least likely outcome was a Cometland win at odds of 21.00. These odds include the bookmaker's margin of approximately 5%.

In consideration of the relevant quantitative and qualitative sporting factors, Genius Sports' view is that the betting markets publicised at this stage were entirely accurate.

Shortly after BetX created these markets, several operators from around the globe created betting markets of their own. They resembled those which were first formed by BetX.

The markets remained highly stable for the majority of the pre-match betting period, up until 12 hours before kick-off, at which point moderate activity was detected in Cometland's favor. The most significant betting support took place within the final hour before kick-off, resulting in Iridonia's Match Result odds increasing to an industry average of 1.50, while the odds for both the Draw and Cometland decreased to 3.90 and 8.00 respectively.

In laymen's terms, Cometland's implied probability of achieving victory in this match increased by just over 7.5% before kick-off, though they remained the clear outsiders.

On the Asian Handicap market, Iridonia's line was adjusted from -2.0 at market opening to the -1.25 line by kick-off, trading through all intervening lines (-1.75 and -1.5). The betting support indicated that bettors believed Iridonia would not win by the large margin which was initially anticipated, and a narrow Iridonia victory would be the most likely outcome.

Genius Sports' integrity reservations with the activity detected on the pre-match betting markets began to emerge at this stage. This was primarily due to the fact that no sporting justification was identified which would be able to account for a smaller-than-anticipated Iridonia victory.

Live Betting

The bookmaker coverage in-play was comprehensive, as it was prior to kick-off. Hundreds of bookmakers from all regions offered a wide range of betting markets to wager on throughout the contest. This included both regulated and unregulated operators.

Any changes to the coverage were nominal and insignificant; a small number of bookmakers did not offer live betting, whereas a small number of operators created markets for the first time at this point.



Match Result / Asian Handicap - Iridonia Opposed:

During the match, alerts were triggered in SportIM due to highly significant betting support in opposition of Iridonia, specifically for the initial outsiders - Cometland - to win the match outright.

The emergence of the betting support for Cometland arrived immediately after kick-off, and intensified up until Cometland's first goal of the match in the 23rd minute (score: 0-1).

Having begun the match with odds of 8.00 to win at major offshore operator PinnyBet, Cometland's Match Result odds decreased to 2.40 by the 15th minute (0-0) - overtaking Iridonia as the favorites for the first time - before decreasing further to 1.91 by the 20th minute (0-0) - suggesting a more likely than not probability of a Cometland win.

Just minutes after trading below odds of evens (2.00), it can be noted that PinnyBet cancelled its coverage of the match in the 22^{nd} minute (0-0), one minute prior to Cometland taking the lead in the 23^{rd} minute (0-1).

Figure 1, below, outlines the significant betting support for Cometland during the opening stages.

Time (Score)	PinnyBet's Match Result odds for Iridonia	PinnyBet'Match Result odds for Cometland
Kick-off (0-0)	1.50	8.00
01:00 (0-0)	1.70	4.50
05:00 (0-0)	1.91	3.40
15:00 (0-0)	2.50	2.40
20:00 (0-0)	3.40	1.91
22:00 (0-0)	MARKETS SUSPENDED	MARKETS SUSPENDED

Figure 1: This graph highlights the strong betting activity for Cometland to win the match during the opening 20 minutes with offshore betting operator Pinnacle.

Naturally, the betting support for Cometland was reflected across the Asian Handicap market. During the same time period, Cometland were adjusted from the +1.25 Asian Handicap line at kick-off to the -0.5 line by the 20^{th} minute (0-0), trading rapidly through the intervening lines (+1.0, +0.75, +0.5, +0.25, 0, -0.25).

While it would be expected to monitor the clear outsiders trade closer towards the 0 line (draw-no-bet) as a match progresses, this occurred at an unprecedented pace, and the fact that Cometland became favorites was deemed an illogical development.

From an integrity viewpoint it was naturally very concerning to monitor the clear outsiders at kick-off become the more likely team to win within just 20 minutes of play, especially considering there were no red cards or substitutions made during this timeframe.

Furthermore, these odds movements were in clear contrast to the unfolding match dynamics. Indeed, Iridonia were the statistically superior side during the opening 20 minutes, recording ball possession of 68% while registering four shots on target with just one recorded from Cometland. As these statistics aligned with the pre-match betting expectations, no sporting mitigation could be applied to explain Cometland's rapid transformation into the betting favorite.



Finally, PinnyBet's decision to cancel coverage in the 22nd minute was replicated by major bookmakers across the globe such as BetX and BetAsia. A coordinated take-down of betting coverage is typically a clear indication that bookmakers hold integrity concerns with a match, and by cancelling coverage operators are able to protect themselves from inevitable financial losses should the supported outcome (a Cometland victory) come to fruition.

Besides certain derivative markets (naturally, given the magnitude of betting for the Asian Handicap market, Genius Sports observed deviations between the model and the Half-time Asian Handicap market), the rest of the market traded relatively normally. For instance, we observed no unusual wagering for the 'Both Teams To Score' market, or for so-called 'proposition' markets where individuals can wager on aspects of the match such as the number of corners and cards.

Conclusion

This 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying match between Iridonia and Cometland triggered an alert in Genius Sports' integrity monitoring system due to anomalous betting in opposition of Iridonia.

There were several aspects to the betting activity that raised cause for concern:

- While moderate in volume, there was unjustifiable betting support for Cometland during the pre-match period.
 - Cometland were unable to qualify, while Iridonia would have been highly motivated to win in order to top their group and seal automatic qualification.
 - Both teams named unchanged line-ups; there were no 'surprise' player inclusions or omissions which would typically have an impact on pre-match markets.
- In-play, bettors became abnormally confident that Cometland would win, despite the contrasting on-pitch action which displayed Iridonia as the stronger team.
 - Cometland became the favorites by the 15th minute, and by the 20th minute Cometland were deemed more likely to win than not.
 - No sporting mitigation (such as red cards or substitutions) could be applied to explain Cometland becoming the most likely team to win.
- Suspicious activity was confirmed by the betting industry itself, as major global bookmakers, including PinnyBet, BetX, and BetAsia, took the coordinated action of cancelling coverage in the 22nd minute, moments before Cometland scored their first goal. This was a clear indication that bookmakers held integrity concerns and sought to prevent financial loss.

Genius Sports' integrity concerns heightened after receiving intelligence from partner bookmakers, detailed in the subsequent 'Intelligence' section. Genius Sports' internal data and OSINT searches provided further corroborating evidence.

Finally, match footage was scrutinized by Genius Sports' expert Performance Analysis team, with several concerning passages of play uncovered in the subsequent 'Performance Analysis' section

Considering all contributing factors, Genius Sports are unable to express full confidence in the integrity of this fixture. A 'Red' grading has been assigned with further investigation encouraged into Iridonia, the side that conceded all three goals to render the betting support as successful.

Line-ups

Iridonia: Fortuna, Santiago, Paul, Simon, Gray, Royce, Drayton, Ricer, Reyes, Long, Piton.

Cometland: Player A, Player B, Player C, Player D, Player E, Player F, Player G, Player H, Player I, Player J, Player K.



Performance Analysis

This section has been produced in order to highlight any on-field actions that may warrant further investigation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying match between Iridonia and Cometland on 17th October, 2025. It is important to note that all Performance Analysis in this document is based on our opinion only.

In our experience, certain individuals aiming to manipulate a game will sometimes try to implement personal tactics or strategies in order to benefit from successful betting and/or sporting incentives. With that being said, it is important to highlight that Genius Sports are not suggesting that any individual is definitely involved in any impropriety, but certain incidents during this game have been highlighted for further examination.

An 'error', in the context of this report, relates to any time Genius Sports have perceived that a player performed an action that might be considered to be below the level expected of them.

After reviewing the full match footage, we identified a number of passages of poor goalkeeping and/or decision making. Genius Sports are not suggesting that any individual is definitely involved in any impropriety.

Below, we have outlined all of the notable instances during the match:

Goals:

Time (Score)	Description
23:21 (0-1)	Iridonia's goalkeeper, Fortuna, opted to play out from the back by attempting a lofted pass over the oncoming Cometland forward to find the Iridonia right back. The height of the pass was misjudged as the Cometland forward was able to make a headed interception before rolling the ball into an empty net.
64:04 (0-2)	Cometland's central midfielder collected the ball from a short throw-in, skillfully feinted to lose an Iridonia marker before firing into the top right-hand corner of the net from 25 yards. No individual errors were identified in this passage.
88:13 (0-3)	Iridonia possession was turned over deep inside the Cometland half, allowing Cometland to counter at pace. A through-ball played between the Iridonia defense on the halfway line led to a foot race between the Cometland forward and the Iridonia central defender. The Iridonia defender, Santiago, pulled up with an apparent hamstring injury, allowing the forward to reach the ball first, before converting the one-on-one opportunity past the Iridonia goalkeeper. While not a performance 'error', the inability of Santiago to continue his recovering run led to the goal being scored.



Passages of Interest:

Time (Score)	Description
05:54 (0-0)	Iridonia's goalkeeper, Fortuna, ventured off his line to claim an outswinging corner kick. Despite being well-positioned, the ball was allowed to pass through Fortuna's hands, with the ball eventually falling at the feet of an Iridonia defender, who cleared the ball for a throw-in.
11:01 (0-0)	Cometland's defensive midfielder, Royce, miscontrolled a routine short pass in the middle of the pitch, allowing Iridonia to start a dangerous attack. The Iridonia attacking midfielder played a ground through-ball to set the forward one-on-one with the goalkeeper, but the forward's effort was lifted well over the crossbar.
19:29 (0-0)	Cometland's first shot of the game came from a long-distance strike from the central midfielder. The ball took a heavy deflection off the Iridonia central defender, and the ball was allowed to trickle past the line for a Cometland corner. Iridonia's goalkeeper, Fortuna, was positioned over the top of the ball and opted to shepherd the ball out of play rather than pick up the ball despite the clear deflection off the Iridonia defender.
44:25 (0-1)	Iridonia's goalkeeper, Fortuna, received a slow back pass from his central defender. With no immediate pressure from a Cometland attacker, Fortuna took an unnecessary extra touch, allowing a Cometland forward to close him down. Fortuna then attempted a hurried, short clearance that was struck directly into the charging forward's chest. The ball rebounded and rolled toward the open goal, but an Iridonia full-back managed to race back and hook the ball away just before it crossed the line.
61:54 (0-1)	Cometland executed a rare period of sustained pressure, culminating in a low cross into the Iridonia penalty area. Cometland's forward, Reyes, made a run to meet the cross at the near post. Despite having a clear path to tap the ball toward the goal, the forward awkwardly attempted to backheel the ball, misjudging the contact, and the ball ended up rolling out of play for an Iridonia goal kick.
82:43 (0-2)	Iridonia's left-sided central defender, Paul, attempted a diagonal ball back towards his own goal under minimal pressure in the defensive third. The defender was aiming for the right back but over-hit the pass, sending it directly to a Cometland winger in the attacking half. This turnover allowed Cometland to launch a four-on-three counter-attack, which ended with their attacker having a clear shot on goal, though the effort was well saved by the Iridonia goalkeeper, Fortuna.



Intelligence Overview

External Intelligence

Genius Sports were in receipt of intelligence from bookmaker partners regarding potentially suspicious activity on the match between Iridonia and Cometland.

One offshore bookmaker stated:

"We've had to take this match down during the first-half. A couple of known accounts were backing Cometland at high odds during pre-match and we had to lower the odds accordingly. We lifted limits at kick-off and the same accounts, along with a few sharps, came back for more. They were hitting maximum stakes on Match Result and Asian Handicap one after the other and we quickly racked up 500,000 USD in liabilities on a Cometland win. We eventually pulled the plug around the 20th minute."

A leading crypto bookmaker reported:

"Can you check this one? We've had more BTC on this match than all other regional World Cup Qualifying matches combined on the same day. Almost all of the bets were coming in on Cometland across Match Result and Asian Handicap markets. We even had one new account pop up in Iridonia on the day of the match to back Cometland. Very strange, as we don't get much business there."

A traditional Eastern European bookmaker claimed:

"We had the busiest retail day of the year and it was almost all on this match. We received a complaint from one of our larger city retail shops, apparently a small group were repeatedly max betting on the machines in the first half to get action on Cometland. Our books show a hefty six-digit loss."

Internal Intelligence

Genius Sports' internal trading department, who were responsible for the live odds of the match, reported:

"We're having to adjust Cometland lower and lower. Usual comparable sources are well out of line with us, I think we're going to suspend here. Have you seen anything?"

In review of historical data from our intelligence dashboard, which contains 10 years' information relating to sports betting and integrity, Genius Sports found just one piece of relevant information:

• In 2022, Iridonia featured in a 'Red' alerted match after strong, suspicious betting was identified in their International Friendly fixture against Faithland. However, the suspicious betting in question related to strong betting for a defender from Faithland, Player G, to be carded.

Therefore, Genius Sports has no pertinent historical intelligence related to Iridonia.



OSINT Intelligence

As part of the investigation, Genius Sports monitored social media activity during and shortly after the match. It was notable that two social posts spoke of abnormalities with regard to the performance from Iridonia and the behavior of the betting markets.



In an interview with local press, Iridonia's manager went public with support for goalkeeper Fortuna after the match, claiming that he was feeling unwell the day before. It was reported that Iridonia's home fans became disgruntled at goalkeeper Fortuna's performance and made their feelings known in the second half.





APPENDIX

About Us



Our trusted partners

We are the chosen integrity partner to over 150+ leagues and federations worldwide including:







































Integrity Monitoring - Methodology

Genius Sports operate a proprietary, sophisticated, monitoring system called Sport Integrity Monitor (SportIM) which collects betting data and tracks odds movements across the global betting markets.

The SportIM system raises alerts where certain thresholds are breached, such as large changes in odds or Asian Handicap/Totals lines. In addition, an alert can be raised manually if, for example, someone notices something strange in-play (i.e. through the match action) or we receive a report of unusual betting activity from a bookmaker.

If any form of alert is raised, either automatically or manually, the event is flagged for immediate investigation. In most cases, the initial investigation offers an obvious explanation for the alert, but where this is not the case a more detailed investigation is conducted. All investigated matches are then assigned a "traffic light" rating of 'Green', 'Amber' (I or II) or 'Red', and any such event is individually listed in this report, along with a description of what the investigation uncovered and the reasons for its classification.

Events which do not trigger an automatic alert are still manually checked at regular intervals, but unless any of these checks causes someone to raise an alert, there is no further investigation of the event, and it does not receive a traffic light classification.

For investigated events, the meaning of each grading is as follows:

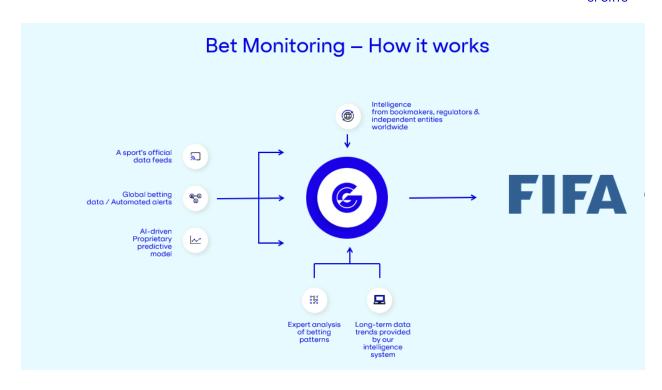
Green – There appeared to be a clear, legitimate explanation for whatever triggered the alert, and we have no discernible concerns for the integrity of the event. Therefore, the event was graded 'Green'.

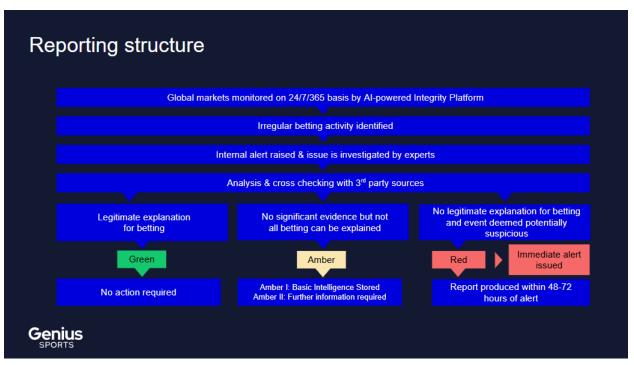
Amber I – Having completed our investigation we see no significant evidence of manipulation, but there was an element of the betting and/or match action that was either not fully explained or in some way notable. We do not believe that there is a need to conduct any additional investigation, but we feel that the event should be flagged for potential future reference. This is in case further information were to come to light later, or the same teams, players or officials were to repeatedly feature in events with a substantial volume and/or anomalous betting. Thus, an 'Amber' (I) rating applies.

Amber II – Our investigation concluded that there was something anomalous about the betting and/or match action. Whilst our concerns regarding the game were not to such an extent that the game was worthy of a 'Red' rating, there was enough to suggest that the betting and/or match action was possibly abnormal from an integrity perspective. Therefore, the game was graded on the higher end (II) of our 'Amber' rating.

Red – On the basis of all the information available to us, Genius Sports is unable to express confidence in the integrity of the event as the betting patterns displayed in SportIM are indicative of betting-related corruption. Such events will be immediately escalated to the relevant stakeholders upon being classified as 'Red'. The Genius Sports Integrity team will deliver a detailed Betting Market Analysis report on the event and can, when requested, assist with subsequent investigations.









Integrity Monitoring - Glossary of Terms

Adjustment/amendment (of an Asian Handicap or Totals line) – When a bookmaker alters a market to reflect a change in a team's chances in a game, or in the number of goals likely to be scored.

Anomalous betting patterns – Odds changes which deviate from the expected levels.

Asian-facing bookmaker – Betting operators, typically operational within Asia, that often offer less restrictive stake limits, customer anonymity and more competitive odds in comparison to their traditional-style counterparts.

Asian Handicap – A market which assigns a handicap to one side for the purposes of betting, in order to make the odds for each team more equal. For example, a team is given a -1.5 goal handicap; in which case they have to win by a margin of two goals for betting on them to be successful. If they fail to do so, betting on their opponents on a +1.5 goal handicap would be successful. This is a simplistic view of the Asian Handicap; a more in depth explanation can be provided on request.

Average odds – The central probability of an outcome being achieved, in the form of odds, from across the entire betting industry.

Bookmaker/operator – An organisation that allows a person to place wagers on an event.

Cancel/cease trading – When a bookmaker stops taking bets on specific matches or markets earlier than expected.

Closing line – The main Asian Handicap or Totals (number of goals to be scored) line just before kick-off.

Closing odds – The odds on a given market at the end of the pre-match period.

Cover – To successfully fulfil a handicap or Totals line.

Exploited – In the context of betting, this refers to individuals targeting a certain market.

Favourite - The team or selection of a bet which is deemed to be the most likely outcome to occur.

Implied probability - The likelihood of an outcome, based on the odds of the event happening.

Impropriety – The failure to act with integrity.

In-play/live betting - The timeframe in which bets are placed once the contest has begun.

Legitimate reasoning – This relates to sporting and other reasons for betting seen; such as team news, injuries to crucial players, or weather which explains the betting in question.

Match-fixing – When an event is influenced in order to unnaturally improve the likelihood of a desired outcome being achieved.

Manipulation - The act of deliberately distorting an event.



Margin – The percent difference between the actual probability of an outcome occurring and the implied probability set by bookmakers' odds. Margins are set by bookmakers in order to gain an edge over bettors – quaranteeing profits were their liabilities to be the same for every outcome.

Market alignment – A period whereby all bookmakers are in a general agreement of the probability of an outcome occurring, evidenced by odds that do not differ greatly from one operator to another.

Market suspension – A period in which betting opportunities are made temporarily unavailable.

Match action/match-indicating statistics – The statistical performance of the teams. Often used when referencing the various sporting metrics – such as shots, ball-possession, corners, etc. – in a match.

Match Result (1X2) – A market type which relates to the final result of the match in question.

Mathematically modelled odds – The odds generated by Genius Sports' internal models, which calculate what the expected odds are, in relation to the odds at kick-off, as well as the game state.

Odds - Illustration (in decimal format) of the perceived probability of the success of a given outcome.

Opposed – Any betting support observed for a particular team's opposition.

Pre-match betting - Any wagers seen before the start of a contest.

SportIM – Sport Integrity Monitor; Genius Sports' sophisticated system that is used to monitor the global betting markets. It is used to detect anomalous betting behaviour and significant wagering.

Stake – Amount of money placed on a bet.

Stake limits - Maximum amount of money a bettor can wager on an outcome, per bet.

Static/stable odds – When the odds with a bookmaker or across the industry as a whole do not change in any kind of notable way.

Supported/backed - When bettors are wagering in favour of a particular team or outcome.

Totals – This relates to the total number of goals in any given match. Bettors can wager on either a higher or lower (Overs/Unders) number of goals scored than is predicted by the market.

Traditional-style bookmakers – Betting operators who trade in regulated markets for the most part, such as Bet365 and Betfair. Such organisations typically cater for more recreational bettors.

True probability – The likelihood that an outcome will occur, ignoring the marketed expectations.

Unattractive/unappealing odds – When the odds for a typically competitive market – such as the Asian Handicap or Totals – decrease to unusually low levels.

Wager – To bet on the occurrence of an outcome.



Performance Analysis - Methodology

GeniusIQ

Genius Sports (Genius) produces Performance Analysis Reports upon request from authorized stakeholders. When available, **GeniuslQ's** Dragon software and Performance Studio platform are used to significantly enhance these reports—offering a deeper level of insight, precision, and visual clarity.



The core principles of Genius Performance Analysis are listed below.

• Dual Analyst Review

 Each match is assigned both a primary and secondary analyst, reducing confirmation bias and increasing analytical reliability through a dual-coding process.

Standardized Language

- The use of specialist, standardized language ensures that the Performance Analysis reports are consistent.
- Specialist terminology and structured reporting formats ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment across all reports.

• Performance Analysis Panel

- A dedicated panel-comprising the two analysts, subject-matter experts (including former professional footballers and members of the Genius Sports Officiating team)—reviews and adjudicates any contentious incidents.
- A collaborative calibration session with the panel ensures the highest possible accuracy in the final analysis.

When **GeniuslQ's** Performance Studio is used, reports gain a new level of analytical depth, supported by cutting-edge technology:

Multi-Angle, High Frame Rate Video Capture



 10+ synchronized camera angles provide full situational context for every significant action, independent of traditional broadcast angles.

• Individual Player Isolation and Action Indexing

 Every action of a selected player can be isolated, analyzed and archived. This enables comprehensive individual performance reviews, creates an indexed video archive for historical comparison and facilitates intuitive customized video packages for shareholders

3D Rendered Visualisation

 Performance Studio empowers analysts to create three-dimensional rendered images, delivering enhanced visual context to support evidence-based conclusions.

Introduction

Genius are extremely confident that this is industry-leading technology – as evidenced by the Premier League's decision to utilise it for **Semi-Automated Offside Technology (SAOT).**

Genius will produce Performance Analysis reports upon request from authorized stakeholders. This will include a complete review of the performance and on-field actions of players and/or officials, as well as (where possible) a historical analysis of the two teams and relevant match statistics.

Where applicable (if GeniuslQ's Dragon software is in use during the requested match), these reports will be enhanced using GeniuslQ's Performance Studio platform to deliver a greater level of analytical depth and precision.

The evaluation of specific passages of play—and any conclusions regarding potentially unusual actions—are based solely on the expert judgment of Genius Performance Analysts, however, the use of Dragon technology and the data stored on GeniusIQ Performance Studio ensures an industry leading level of evidence is provided.

It is important to note that Genius does not assert definitive involvement in any form of impropriety by individual players or officials. However, certain incidents may be flagged for further scrutiny. When corroborated by additional evidence, this Performance Analysis may be used as evidence of wrongdoing in disciplinary or other proceedings.

Where applicable, Genius includes performance-indicating data analysis to support the findings. This data is sourced from Genius Sports' Live Viewer and/or MatchStateViewer (MSV), having been captured by a Genius Sports data scout present at the fixture (or utilizes the data already indexed on GeniusIQ Performance Studio).

The MSV is a dynamic interface that provides access to detailed match state information, available both live and retrospectively. It displays a wide range of contextual and statistical data from each match, including:

- Weather conditions and stadium attendance
- Key statistics such as Dangerous Attacks, corners, cards, goals, and more

The data points stored on GeniusIQ's Performance Studios outlined later in this document as well as on the attached appendix labelled 'Genius Sports Integrity – Performance Studio – Glossary'.

This data further enhances the analytical depth of the report, offering an objective foundation for interpreting performance and match events.



The Software

GeniuslQ's Dragon software is now active in 200+ venues across 33 countries. Genius, therefore, has unparalleled access to a wealth of quantitative performance data. This robust dataset empowers Genius to deliver evidence-driven conclusions unmatched in quality and depth.

Billions of data points are captured by Dragon's cutting-edge optical tracking system allowing Genius to analyze multiple angles of a specific action to inform the analysis.

- To deliver best-in-class Performance Analysis, Genius employs several key features:
 - High Frame Rate Video captured from multiple angles, enabling comprehensive analysis of
 every significant action by players within its full situational context. This ensures thorough
 examination, leaving as little room for ambiguity as possible in on-field behaviors. This approach
 offers a distinct advantage by providing a holistic view of actions, unlike traditional analysis reliant
 on limited broadcast images with potentially suboptimal angles.
 - Player Analysis involves the evaluation of body orientation, turning, and scanning to gauge a
 player's level of attention and efficiency. By comparing this data across matches or with
 teammates, Genius can identify instances of underperformance throughout a game, beyond
 isolated mistakes.
 - Referee Analysis is conducted from the exact perspective of match officials allowing Genius to see exactly what sort of view the referee has of an action. This enables comprehensive reassessment if necessary.
 - Additionally, Genius harnesses the capability to create three-dimensional rendered images, offering enhanced visualization for analytical, evidence-based conclusions in any given situation.
 - Leveraging the unparalleled data available via Dragon, we can compare nuanced key performance indicators across the season to assess player performance relative to other matches. Detailed data points codified within Dragon are provided in the Glossary below.

Methodology

Based on our experience, individuals seeking to influence a football match for personal gain may attempt to implement tactics or strategies (often underperforming or making unforced errors) intended to produce favorable outcomes for betting or other sporting incentives.

For the purposes of Genius Sports' Performance Analysis reports, an 'error' is defined as any instance in which a player's action is deemed, by Genius Sports' analysts, to fall below the standard of performance typically expected of them.

Our Performance Analysis team brings over 50 years of combined industry experience, including roles within professional football clubs, sports intelligence firms, and betting organizations – underpinned by extensive expertise in integrity-focused investigations.

Once a deadline has been established between Genius and the relevant body, both a primary and secondary analyst are assigned to the designated match. This dual-coding approach mitigates confirmation bias and enhances the objectivity and reliability of the analysis.

A contextual analysis is subsequently conducted to identify any external factors—such as weather conditions, pitch quality, or geographical variables — that may have influenced an individual's (or indeed team's) performance.



The match is then located on GeniuslQ's Performance Studio using the 'Integrity Configuration' that has previously been calibrated to allow for ease and accuracy of coding incidents that occur during the match. Both of the assigned analysts will then complete the performance analysis using the software.

On GeniuslQ Performance Studio there is a pre-calibrated 'Integrity Configuration', which was designed using the 'Data Points' outlined in the 'Performance Studio – Glossary' attached. The 'Integrity Configuration' is used to facilitate the efficient and accurate coding of incidents throughout the fixture. Both assigned analysts then conduct the performance review within this software.

The content of the Performance Analysis strictly adheres to the wording in the glossary. This use of specialist, standardized language ensures that there is a consistency across our reports and creates a structure for the analysis. This will include the documentation of timestamps and video evidence.

Both analysts will identify the key individuals deemed to have committed 'errors' in the context of the match, tallying their involvement and noting any trends, before conducting a thorough Player/Official statistical analysis, to see how an individual's performance during the relevant fixture differed from their general performance across a larger sample size.

Where possible, Genius leverages the rich, granular match data collected by its professional Data Scout network to provide objective comparative analysis. This enables analysts to identify patterns and anomalies by contrasting the investigated match against historical data from past matches—adding valuable context and evidential strength to the findings.

A dedicated Performance Analysis Panel—comprising the two analysts, alongside subject—matter experts (former professional footballers, Genius Sports' Officiating team amongst others)—convenes to evaluate and deliberate on any contentious incidents identified during the review. This calibration session is used to help alignment and ensure the outcome is as accurate as possible.

Where possible, a more in-depth analysis is conducted on individuals identified within the Performance Analysis. Leveraging the extensive historical data and video archive available within GeniuslQ's Performance Studio, we are able to:

- **Track the frequency** of specific player actions across the season and compare them to those observed in the match under review, particularly where integrity concerns have been raised. This data comparison removes a level of subjectivity.
- Access a curated video library that compiles all instances of a player attempting similar actions, providing valuable context for assessing whether the behavior observed is typical or anomalous.
- **Utilize the Fitness Dashboard** to evaluate player effort levels, benchmarked against their performances in other matches or specific phases within the same match, enabling objective assessment of physical output.

This analysis will allow Genius to determine to what extent they believe an individual has been purposefully performing below their generally expected levels. A comprehensive video and data package will be provided should it be determined that this is the case.

Once the primary analyst deems the report complete, it is submitted to a designated editor who reviews the content for accuracy, consistency, and adherence to formatting standards.



Performance Analysis - Glossary of Terms

Aerials - An attempt by two players on opposing teams to win a header. The winner of the aerial is the player who contacts the ball first, regardless of the ensuing possession.

Attacking Entries - A state of controlled possession in the final third.

Ball watching – When a player is following the play/ball and not looking at the player they are supposed to be marking, meaning that their opponent is free.

Carries – A Carry refers to a touch event where the ball-carrier travels 10 meters or more while in possession of the ball. The attacker does not need to beat, or otherwise take on a defender, for a carry to be recognized.

Casual / careless - When a player does not appear to take the required amount of care when completing an action.

Cautioned - Disciplinary sanction which results in a report to a disciplinary authority; indicated by showing a yellow card; two cautions in a match result in a player or team official being sent off.

Clear view - When a player has an unobstructed pathway between themselves and the play and/or opposition.

Counter-attack – A fast and direct attack that occurs from a moment of transition.

Cynical foul – A deliberate and tactical foul committed by a player to stop an opponent's attack or gain a strategic advantage, rather than trying to play the ball fairly.

Dangerous attacks – When the attacking team progresses their possession of the ball into the final third of the pitch in the opposition's half.

Dangerous area / position – Inside or in the vicinity of the opposition's penalty area.

Deep Defensive Line – When the last line of the defence is unnaturally close to their own goal. The antonym to a "High Defensive Line".

Defensive Organization - The defensive team has recovered its defensive shape, is stable, and has players between the ball-carrier and goal.

Defensive Transition - The defensive team has recently lost the ball and has not had time to reorganize its defensive shape. The defensive team is out of position and either pressing or actively moving to get back into a stable defensive position.

Disorganized – Defensive or midfield unit that is out of shape, poorly positioned or lacking coordination, making it easier for the opposing team to exploit space and create chances.

Dissent – Verbal or non-verbal disagreement with a referee's decision in a way that is disrespectful, excessive or confrontational.

Effective Playing Time - The time during a game where a ball is considered live. Excludes when the ball is out of play or dead.

Engage with play – When a player attempts to tackle, intercept or put pressure on an opponent who is in control of the ball.

Goal scoring opportunity - When an attacking player is in a good position to score a goal.



Goal side - Used to describe the positioning of a player - referring to the side nearest to their own goal.

High Defensive Line – When the last line of the defence is unnaturally far from their own goal. The antonym to "Deep Defensive line".

Hold Ups - A player on the team in possession uses their body to shield a defender from the ball in an attempt to retain possession. Typically, this action is performed by a forward or striker who just received a pass under pressure (although, any player or position is capable of performing a hold up).

Interception Attempts - A defensive player attempts to disrupt a pass and prevent the targeted or potential receiver from receiving the ball. The defensive player (interceptor) does not need to successfully disrupt the pass for an interception attempt to be recorded.

Loose ball - When neither team has clear control and the ball is available to be contested.

Mark/Marking - This is an organized defensive tactic which aims to prevent a member of the opposing team (usually a striker) from taking control of the ball.

Mis-control – An unsuccessful attempt to control the ball.

Offside – A defensive action where, just before the attacking opponent is about to pass the ball forward, the defence/defenders move up-field, catching the potential recipient(s) in an offside position.

One-on-one - A situation wherein a player is through on goal and only has the opposition goalkeeper to beat.

Passage - A period of the match/piece of footage highlighted by Genius.

Passes - A player directs the ball towards a teammate with intent/purpose.

*passes do not include clearances

Phases - A segment of a team's possession that has a distinct playing style or intention.

*only refers to a state of possession created by the offensive team.

Possessions - A sequence of time during which control of the ball does not change. A single team's possession can continue through the defending team's clearance or deflection.

*Possessions are always split on dead balls (dead balls always interrupt possessions, regardless of who retains or gains possession as a result of the dead ball)

Press – A tactical approach where players apply immediate pressure on an opponent in possession of the ball, with the goal of forcing errors and/or regaining possession.

Questionable decision – Player: On-field choice or action that is doubtful, risky or poor in judgment. This often leads to negative consequences for their team. Official: A judgment call that is debatable, unclear or potentially incorrect.

Reckless – A type of foul where a player acts with disregard for the danger or consequences for an opponent. It is more serious than casual/careless, but not as dangerous as serious foul play or violent conduct.

Runs - A sustained off-ball movement with intensity by an offensive player.

Sent off - Disciplinary action when a player is required to leave the field for the remainder of the match having committed a sending-off offence (indicated by a red card); if the match has started the player cannot be replaced. A team official may also be sent off.



Serious foul play / violent conduct – A dangerous and violent infringement committed whilst challenging for the ball. It involves excessive force and puts an opponent at significant risk of injury.

Shots - An offensive player directs the ball towards the opponent's goal with the intention to score with a part of their body, usually via kick or header.

Skill - Technical ability to control, manipulate and use the ball effectively, often in challenging situations.

Step up / out – An action whereby a player advances away from their expected position, whether that was to engage with play or attempt an offside trap.

Tackles - An attempt by a defensive player to dispossess an offensive player through contact with the ball.

Through-ball/pass - A pass into an open space behind at least one line of the opposition's defence.

Tracking – When a player runs back towards their own goal/into position, whilst the opposition have control of the ball. Often occurs during transitions and counter-attacks.

Turnover – When either a player or team loses possession of the ball, and the opposing team gains possession. Can happen in live play, or surrounding a dead ball.

Unchallenged – Allowing the opponent to progress/attempt to win the ball, without making an effort to impede them.

Unmarked - When an attacking player has been left in an isolated and potentially dangerous position by the defence.

Video assistant referee (VAR) - A current or former referee appointed to assist the referee by communicating information from replay footage only in relation to a 'clear and obvious error' or 'serious missed incident' in one of the reviewable categories.

Genius Sports Integrity Services

IntegrityManagement@geniussports.com www.geniussports.com/sportstech/integrity



Anonymous Witness Statement dated 3 November 2025

- 1. I, a player of the national Iridonia men's football team, provide the following witness statement in the context of Mr Antonio Fortuna's pending arbitration before the CAS against the Fédération Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA").
- 2. I have agreed to produce a witness statement in this case. However, I have requested that my anonymity be respected for the whole duration of these proceedings and further.
- 3. The facts and matters I describe below are within my personal knowledge and are true to the best of my recollection. I have reviewed the final text and confirm that this witness statement accurately sets forth my recollection and understanding of the facts involved.

(i) My reasons for requesting anonymity

- 4. Following my interview by FIFA on the match-fixing allegations raised against Mr Antonio Fortuna, I agreed to testify. The integrity of football is an issue I hold close to my heart, and I will always do my best to protect it.
- 5. However, I had no other choice but to request anonymity. My identity cannot be revealed, ever.
- 6. I am afraid to face intimidation and threats for producing a witness statement in both the FIFA and the CAS proceedings. There are rumors that Mr Luc Fortuna has friends involved with criminal organizations. I hear these organizations follow the "snitches get stitches" rule.

(ii) Mr Antonio Fortuna's behavior before the match against Cometland

- 7. On 16 October 2025, the night before the Iridonia national team was supposed to play against Cometland, you could feel how important this match was for the whole team. The players knew that they could make history.
- 8. During that evening, I saw Mr Antonio Fortuna having a conversation on the phone. He looked stressed and agitated, pacing back and forth. I figured he was on the phone with Mr Luc Fortuna, his father, as I heard him say "Dad" repeatedly.

- 9. The phone call was quite short, but very tense. I recall hearing Mr Antonio Fortuna telling his father to stop pressuring him, shouting that he simply could not go along with him in everything. However, I could not hear what his father was telling him.
- 10. After a couple of minutes, Mr Antonio Fortuna hung up the phone and stormed out.

Email from an anonymous source dated 3 November 2025



Anonymous tip - Match fixing suspicions involving a football player's relative

Date Mon 3/11/2025 11:36 **To** FIFA <legal@fifa.org>

1 attachment (117 KB)Whatsapp conversation.pdf;

To whom it may concern,

I would like to bring to your attention information I believe may be relevant to the integrity of Iridonia's national team.

I have reason to believe that Luc Fortuna, Antonio Fortuna's father, received a total of 50,000 Dodgycoin.

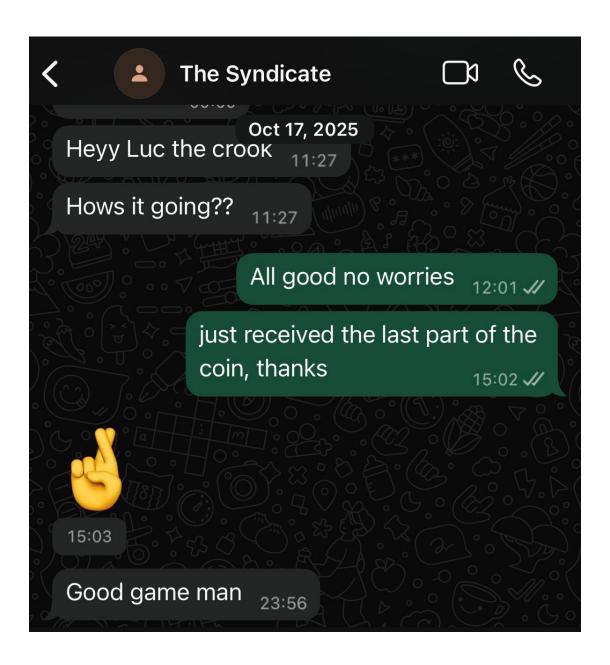
From what I know, the transfer was made in multiple transactions, with transfers happening from end of September up to the 17 October 2025. I believe these transfers could be related to Iridonia's terrible performance against Cometland. I have also sent you a conversation showing Luc Fortuna admitting to receiving coins.

These transfers are even more suspicious considering that Luc Fortuna has a reputation of being involved in shady deals with criminals...

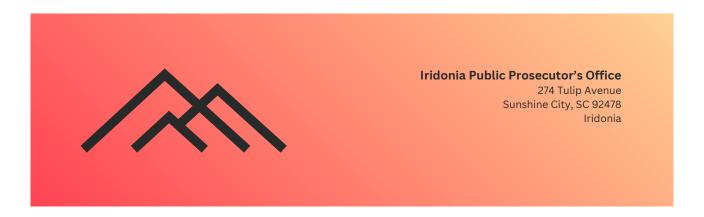
I could not keep this information to myself, I hope someone will look further into this. However, I will not reveal my identity or anything else. I've told you everything I know.

Regards

Screenshot of WhatsApp messages involving "The Syndicate" dated 17 October 2025



Press release of the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office dated 5 November 2025



Press Release

5 November 2025

On 4 November 2025, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Iridonia opened an investigation into allegations of sports manipulation concerning the match that was held between Iridonia and Cometland on 17 October 2025 in the Azul stadium.

The inquiry concerns conduct allegedly involving Mr. Antonio Fortuna, goalkeeper of Iridonia's football team as well Mr. Luc Fortuna, the player's father. The investigation is being pursued by the Office's specialist unit responsible for integrity in sport. The investigation is ongoing and aims to establish the facts surrounding the events of 17 October 2025.

The Public Prosecutor's Office is unable to disclose all details at this stage, the matter being the subject of an active investigation. Without prejudicing the investigation, investigators can confirm that Mr. Luc Fortuna has provided access to his Dodgycoing wallet, which is being investigated.

No determination of guilt has been made; the investigation will continue in accordance with applicable law and procedural safeguards.

Issued by the Iridonian Public Prosecutor's Office

Witness Statement of Mr Antonio Fortuna dated 21 April 2026

- I, Antonio Fortuna, with official address at 1539 Star Avenue, Mimosaland, MI 91340, Iridonia, provide the following witness statement in the context of my pending arbitration before the CAS against the Fédération Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA").
- 2. I am a 32-year-old Iridonian national. I have lived my whole life in Iridonia, and it is my greatest pride to play alongside my teammates to represent my country.
- 3. The facts and matters I describe below are within my personal knowledge and are true to the best of my recollection. My counsel has assisted me in preparing this witness statement. I have reviewed the final text and confirm that this witness statement accurately sets forth my recollection and understanding of the facts involved.

(i) My career and my dedication to the game

- 4. I fell in love with football before I could even walk. I cannot remember a time when I wanted to do something else with my life. However, this career did not come easily to me. I have dedicated my entire life to the game. Practice became my whole life, but giving up was never an option.
- 5. I am well aware that part of the fanbase and commentators describe me as a late bloomer. Actually, I am very proud of this, as it is a testament to my work and discipline when I am facing obstacles.
- 6. I can honestly say that being called up to be a part of the Iridonian team was the happiest day of my existence. I have never felt such pride and sense of honor. This only motivated me to work harder. Improving my game was not only for me anymore, it was to make my country proud.
- 7. Over the past two seasons, I have trained relentlessly to improve my performance and maintain my fitness and focus. My record speaks for itself. I have performed consistently well and I am proud of what I have accomplished.
- 8. Football has been my lifelong, and arguably only, passion. I would never do anything that would taint the beauty of the game or my ability to play.

(ii) My performance in the match against Cometland

- 9. On 17 October 2025, I was selected as the goalkeeper of Iridonia's starting squad in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Cometland. During this season, I had been given the opportunity to join my team on the field as our captain and regular starting goalkeeper had been injured. This day came with a lot of pressure as Iridonia were favored for the win and only needed one point to remain at the top of the group to secure a historic direct qualification to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- 10. Even though I had been feeling a bit under the weather for a couple of days, I told myself I needed to push through and give my best on the field. I discussed this with the team's doctor, and I told Iridonia's manager that I would play.
- 11. As an athlete, we are trained to always give our best and find the strength within us. There was no way I was going to abandon my team in a match that could make history.
- 12. Unfortunately, my best was not enough. My performance has been the focal point of many debates. I know that my performance deeply disappointed some of our supporters. However, the supporters must understand that players are not infallible.
- 13. I was devastated after our loss against Cometland. I gave everything I had that day, every ounce of energy. Despite my best efforts, Iridonia lost. It broke my heart to see the team fall short and to feel as though I had let my teammates and supporters down. The defeat still weighs heavily on me, not because I lacked commitment or desire, but because sometimes even your very best is not enough.
- 14. I want to state clearly and unequivocally that I would never betray my team or my country for money or any other gain. The very idea of engaging in match fixing or any illegal activity goes against everything I stand for as an athlete and as a person.

(iii) My relationship with my father

- 15. When I was young, my father, Luc Fortuna, was supportive of my decision to pursue a career in football. However, I have always tried to keep my family life and my career as separate as possible.
- 16. This is even more true with my father, considering our relationship. As close as we are, we tend to let conflict simmer between us on basically any topic. We may end up arguing on my diet or the way I decided to decorate my living room. My father

can be a bit overbearing, which is why I draw the line at discussing my career choices.

- 17. I wish to clarify that my on-field performance and conduct have absolutely nothing to do with my father's personal interests. The only interest I have in mind anytime I set foot on the field is Iridonia's interest.
- 18. As I have been asked during the investigation conducted by FIFA, I would like to reiterate that I have no knowledge of any transfer received by my father on Dodgycoin. I am aware that my father has been experimenting with cryptocurrency alongside some of his friends, but I have never been involved in those activities nor have they influenced me or my career in any way.

Decision of the FIFA Appeal Committee dated 31 March 2026

See next page.



Decision of the FIFA Appeal Committee

passed on 31 March 2026

DECISION BY:

Joséphine CORLAT (France), Chairperson

ON THE CASE OF:

Mr Antonio Fortuna (Iridonia)

(Ref. FDD-19529)

AGAINST:

Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee passed on 27 January 2026 (Ref. FDD-18437)



I. FACTS OF THE CASE

The following summary of the facts does not purport to include every single contention
put forth by the parties during these proceedings. However, the Chairperson of the FIFA
Appeal Committee (the "Committee") has thoroughly considered all evidence and
arguments submitted, even where no specific or detailed reference is made in the
present decision.

A. Proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

- 2. On 17 October 2025, Mr Antonio Fortuna (the "**Player**" or the "**Appellant**") was featured as goalkeeper in the Iridonia team's starting squad. The Match was won by Cometland with a score of 0-3.
- 3. Iridonia needed one point to remain on top of the group and directly qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Iridonia could also qualify if they lost by two goals or fewer, which would secure second place and lead to a play-off match against a team from a different continent, with the winner qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- 4. On 18 October 2025, FIFA received a Betting Market Analysis Report (the "**Report**") prepared by Genius Sports Integrity Services ("**Genius Sports**") covering the match between Iridonia and Cometland (the "**Match**") played on 17 October 2025.
- 5. The Report analysed the betting patterns triggered by the Match. While match conditions remained unchanged, the betting showed an abnormal increase in support for a Cometland victory.
- 6. On 20 October 2025, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee decided to launch a disciplinary investigation against the Player in relation to the Match. In the course of its investigation, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee interviewed several players of the Iridonian men's national football team. As a result, one of the players agreed to produce a witness statement anonymously (the "Anonymous Witness Statement"). FIFA also received an anonymous email addressing alleged crypto dealings operated by the Player's father, Mr Luc Fortuna (the "Anonymous Email").

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- 7. As part of the ongoing investigation, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee interviewed the Player. He attended the interview and answered questions. However, the Appellant refused to submit his phone data, both at the time of the interview and after receiving a reiterated request by email.
- 8. On 27 January 2026, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee sanctioned the Player for match manipulation with a fine of CHF 100,000 and a five-year ban from all football activities worldwide in accordance with art. 20(1) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code ("**FDC**"), as well as an additional fine of CHF 10,000 for failure to cooperate during the investigation pursuant to art. 12 FDC (the "**Appealed Decision**").
- 9. On 28 January 2026, the grounds of the Appealed Decision were notified to the Appellant.

B. Proceedings before the FIFA Appeal Committee

10. On 30 January 2026, the Appellant notified the Secretariat of the FIFA Appeal Committee (the "**Secretariat**") of his intention to appeal the above decision, together with his appeal brief and provided proof of payment of the appeal fee.

II. APPELLANT'S POSITION

11. The position of the Appellant can be summarised as follows:

A. Legal Basis

a) Failure to demonstrate that the Player committed a match-manipulation

- 12. The Appealed Decision failed to demonstrate that the Appellant had manipulated the Match.
- 13. The evidence gathered during the investigation was insufficient to conclude that the Player deliberately underperformed during the Match, or that the Player had colluded with his father.
- 14. As a result, the Appealed Decision wrongly concluded that the Player had violated art. 20(1) FDC.

b) Violation of the Player's fundamental rights



- 15. During the investigations, FIFA repeatedly requested the Player to submit his mobile phone. FIFA first made the request during the Player's interview on 18 November 2025. The request was reiterated by email on 8 December 2025.
- 16. The Player refused this request both times.
- 17. The Appellant was informed by FIFA that he would face sanctions for failure to cooperate if he denied submitting his mobile phone data for the purposes of the investigation.
- 18. FIFA sanctioned the Player for failure to cooperate, and ordered him to pay an additional fine of CHF 10,000.
- 19. This sanction violates the Player's fundamental rights under arts. 6 and 8 of the ECHR.

B. Conclusion

- 20. FIFA failed to demonstrate that the Player's behaviour constituted match-manipulation of the Match.
- 21. The Player's fundamental rights were violated by FIFA.

C. Prayers and requests

- 22. The Appellant requested the FIFA Appeal Committee to:
 - a) Uphold the present appeal;
 - b) Set aside the Appealed Decision;
 - c) Assign the costs and expenses of these proceedings, amounting to CHF 1,000, to FIFA; and
 - d) Condemn FIFA to pay the legal expenses incurred by the Appellant in the present proceedings.

III. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

23. In view of the circumstances of the present matter, the Committee first decided to address some key procedural aspects, including its competence to hear the present appeal and the admissibility of said appeal, before entering into the substance of the case at stake.

A. Competence of the FIFA Appeal Committee



- 24. First, the Committee recalled that the procedural aspects of the matter at stake were governed by the 2025 edition of the FDC, in particular considering that the Appellant lodged the present appeal on 30 January 2026, i.e., while the 2025 FDC was applicable.
- 25. In light of the above, the Committee considered that, in accordance with art. 60 read in conjunction with art. 61 FDC, it was competent to hear the appeal presented by the Appellant against the Appealed Decision.
- 26. The Committee held that the requirements of art. 60 (3), (4) and (6) FDC were met, and therefore declared the present appeal admissible.

B. Applicable law

- 27. The Committee went on to determine that the substantive aspects of the present matter should be analysed in light of the 2025 edition of the FDC, which was the edition in force at the time of the events.
- 28. Specifically, the Committee paid special attention to arts. 12 and 20 FDC, as being of relevance in assessing the current matter, without prejudice to other rules that may also be applicable.
- 29. Bearing the above in mind, art. 20 FDC constitutes the relevant provision to assess the present issue as it provides the applicable framework for "[m]anipulation of football matches and competitions". This provision reads as follows:
 - "1. Anyone who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match and/or competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least CHF 100,000. In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.
 - 2. If a player or official engages in behaviour described in paragraph 1, the club or association to which the player or official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different competition, provided the integrity of the competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.



- 3. Persons bound by this Code must cooperate fully with FIFA at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall therefore immediately and voluntarily report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition as described above. Any breach of this provision shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football related activity and a fine of at least CHF 15,000.
- 4. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to investigate and adjudicate all conduct on and off the field of play in connection with the manipulation of football matches and competitions."

30. According to Article 12 FDC:

- "1. The parties shall act in good faith throughout the proceedings.
- 2. The parties or the persons subject to this Code shall collaborate to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary or instance, as well as from the FIFA administration.
- 3. In particular, persons subject to this Code shall help to establish and/or clarify the facts of a case or any possible breaches of this Code and, in particular, shall provide any evidence requested.
- 4. Any breach of this article by any person subject to this Code may lead to the appropriate sanctions being imposed by the relevant judicial body.
- 5. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial body may nonetheless reach a decision on the case using the file in its possession."

C. Merits of the case

31. Upon reading the Appealed Decision as well as the Appellant's appeal brief, the Committee considered that it had to answer the questions below in deciding this appeal:



- a) Did FIFA rely on sufficient evidence to find that a match-manipulation had occurred?
- b) Did FIFA violate the Player's fundamental rights?
 - (i) Did FIFA rely on sufficient evidence to find that a match-manipulation had occurred?
- 32. The Committee analysed the evidence on which FIFA relied to find that a match-manipulation had been committed by the Player during the Match, namely the Report, the Anonymous Email and the Anonymous Witness Statement.
- 33. The Report comprehensively analysed the Match and concluded that it might have been fixed to obtain betting profits. To reach this conclusion, Genius Sports relied on the following elements:
 - Betting reports: analysed the suspicious odds detected before and during the Match on the Live Asian Handicap Market and the Live Totals market. In these reports, it was explicitly mentioned that the betting patterns detected contrasted with logical expectations, and there was no legitimate and justifiable explanation for them.
 - **Removal of betting market**: some bookmakers removed all their markets or some of their markets during the Match.
 - Performance analysis: play-by-play analysis report corroborated the other evidence on file to demonstrate that player behaviour was illegitimate and aimed at fixing the match results.
 - **Social media monitoring:** identifying social posts addressing abnormalities with regard to the performance of the players and the betting markets.
- 34. Additionally, FIFA examined the Witness Statement and the Anonymous Email collected during the investigation. From the evidence, FIFA inferred that the Player's father, Mr Luc Fortuna, had been an intermediary for the manipulation of the Match.



- 35. Indeed, Mr Luc Fortuna had received 50,000 Dodgycoin in the weeks leading up to the Match. FIFA was also informed by the Anonymous Email that the Player's father was involved with criminal organizations.
- 36. The Iridonia Public Prosecutor's Office publicly released information about its ongoing investigation, admitting that Mr Luc Fortuna had provided access to his Dodgycoin wallet.
- 37. The Anonymous Witness corroborated this information and added that the Player had been heard arguing with his father. According to the Anonymous Witness, the Player's behaviour raised suspicions, as he appeared highly anxious.
- 38. Having reviewed the evidence, the Committee concluded that FIFA relied on sufficient evidence to find that the Player's behaviour amounted to match-fixing.

(ii) Did FIFA violate the Player's fundamental rights?

- 39. Match-manipulation is considered a serious offence, as it taints the integrity of the sport.
- 40. FIFA's role is to protect the integrity of football.
- 41. The obligation to cooperate, imposed on all football stakeholders subject to FIFA Rules, is a means towards the protection of the integrity of football.
- 42. FIFA's request that the Player submit his mobile phone for the purposes of the investigation was not disproportionate. FIFA warned the Appellant that, pursuant to FIFA Rules, he would face sanctions for failure to cooperate if he refused to submit his mobile phone data.
- 43. Aware of his obligation to cooperate and of the consequences in the event of a refusal to cooperate, the Player knowingly decided to deny FIFA's request.
- 44. Thus, the Committee concluded that FIFA did not violate the Player's fundamental rights by imposing a sanction for failure to cooperate.

D. Conclusion



45. As a result, the Committee concluded that the present appeal should be rejected, and the Appealed Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee should be confirmed in its entirety

E. Costs

- 46. The Committee decided, based on art. 49(1) FDC, that the costs and expenses of these proceedings amounting to CHF 1,000 shall be borne by the Appellant.
- 47. Considering that the Appellant has already paid the appeal fee of CHF 1,000, the costs and expenses of the proceedings are set off against this amount.



Decision

- 1. The appeal lodged by Mr Antonio Fortuna against the decision notified by the Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee on 27 January 2026 is dismissed. Consequently, said decision is confirmed in its entirety.
- 2. The costs and expenses of these proceedings in the amount of CHF 1,000 are to be borne by Mr Antonio Fortuna. The amount is set off against the appeal fee of CHF 1,000 already paid.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Joséphine CORLAT (France)

Chairperson of the FIFA Appeal Committee

Email from the Appellant's counsel dated 23 April 2026



Slookout

Appeal to the decision of the FIFA Appeal Committee - Case No. FDD-19529 - Antonio Fortuna - Iridonian men's national football team

From Dorian Geller < Dorianlinton@athletislaw.com>

Date Thu 23/04/2026 23:45

① 2 attachments (274 KB)

Statement of Appeal.pdf; Decision - FIFA Appeal Committee.pdf;

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I write to you in my capacity as legal counsel representing Mr. Antonio Fortuna, player in Iridonia's national football team. Mr Antonio Fortuna decided to appeal the decision FDD-19529 rendered by issued by the FIFA Appeal Committee on 31 March 2026, which wrongfully upheld the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's decision to sanction Mr. Fortuna for allegedly manipulating a match and failure to cooperate during the investigation.

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary/Appeals Regulations, we hereby formally appeal the aforementioned decision and respectfully request that this appeal be admitted and duly considered in accordance with FIFA procedures.

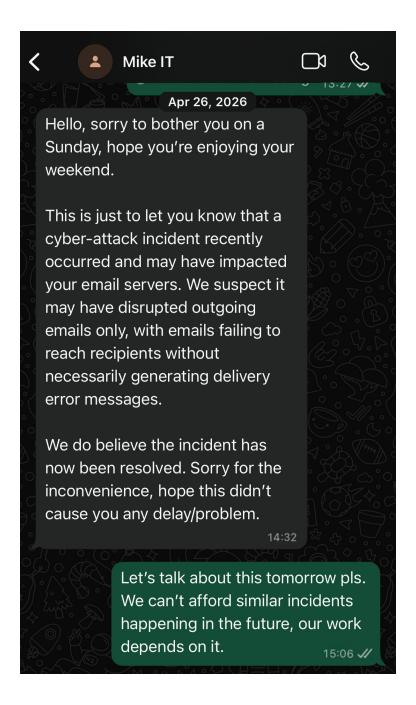
We remain available to provide any additional information or clarifications required.

Yours faithfully,

Dorian Geller

Partner at Athletis Law
Dorianlinton@athletislaw.com
14 Justice Promenade
High Court Quarter, Valoris City
Republic of Iridonia 48210

Screenshot of WhatsApp messages between the Appellant's counsel and its IT provider dated 26 April 2026



APPENDIX 1

Model Skeleton of Arguments and List of Legal Authorities



MODEL SKELETON ARGUMENTS

The Skeleton Arguments must be sent in PDF format. Each of the PDFs must be named as follows:

- Team Name_Skeleton_Appellant
- Team Name_Skeleton_Respondent

Teams will find below a model for Skeleton Arguments, in a totally unrelated case to the present one. Teams are free to adapt this model as they deem fit, bearing in mind that Skeleton Arguments should not be more than <u>one page</u> per Party:

A. <u>Issue 1: Lack of jurisdiction</u>

- a. First argument: The arbitration agreement is not valid
 - []
- []
- b. Second argument: Even if the arbitration agreement were valid, the Tribunal was not properly constituted
- []
- []
- B. Issue 2: Claimant is liable for breach of contract
 - a. First argument: Claimant's failure to perform
 - b. Second argument: Claimant's delay in payment
- C. Issue 3: [...]



MODEL LIST OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES

All lists of Legal Authorities must contain:

- The Legal Authority's number, ordered sequentially starting from 1 up to a maximum of 20, with "AL" for Appellant and "RL" for Respondent's list;
- The reference to the Legal Authority in sufficient detail; and
- A hyperlink to access the Legal Authority. If the Legal Authority cannot be accessed via a hyperlink (because it is not available online), it must be scanned and attached to the PDF; the "Access" column must indicate "attached".

The list of Legal Authorities must be sent in PDF format, making sure that all hyperlinks are working. Each of these PDFs must be named as follows:

- Team Name_List of LA_Appellant
- Team Name_List of LA_Respondent

See the Models below.



Model for Appellant's list of Legal Authorities

Legal authority number	Reference	Access
AL-1	CAS 2019/A/6298 Manchester City FC v. UEFA, paras. 83-85	https://www.tas-cas.org/ fileadmin/user_upload/ Award_CAS_6298_internet.p df
AL-2	A. Duval, A. Rigozzi, Yearbook of International Sports Arbitration 2017, Asser Press, pp. 97-99	Attached
AL-3		
AL-4		
AL-5		
AL-6		
AL-7		
AL-8		
AL-9		
AL-10		
AL-11		
AL-12		
AL-13		
AL-14		
AL-15		



Model for Respondent's list of Legal Authorities

Legal authority number	Reference	Access
RL-1	A. Rigozzi, E. Hasler, "Double Hatting, Sports Arbitration and Article 6(1) ECHR: A Recent Decision by the Paris Court of Appeal", Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 21 August 2021	http:// arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitrat ion.com/2021/08/21/doublehattingsports- arbitrationand-article-61echr-a- recentdecision-by-the-pariscourtof- appeal/
RL-2	Mutu and Pechstein v. Switzerland - ECHR Cases 40575/10 and 67474/10, Judgment 2 October 2018	https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/ eng#{%22appno%22: [%2240575/10%22], %22itemid%22: [%22001-186828%22]}
RL-3		
RL-4		
RL-5		
RL-6		
RL-7		
RL-8		
RL-9		
RL-10		
RL-11		
RL-12		
RL-13		
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RL-16		
RL-17		
RL-18		
RL-19		
RL-20		