



P-ISSN: 2394-1685  
E-ISSN: 2394-1693  
Impact Factor (ISRA): 5.38  
IJPESH 2019; 6(3): 90-97  
© 2019 IJPESH  
www.kheljournal.com  
Received: 10-03-2019  
Accepted: 12-04-2019

**Beatriz Couto Guedes**  
MSc. Student in Sports  
Management at Instituto  
Universitário da Maia, Maia,  
Portugal

**Eduardo Manuel Martins Catalão  
Cardoso**  
MSc Student in Sports  
Management at Instituto  
Universitário da Maia, Maia,  
Portugal

**José Rodrigo Allen Ferreira de  
Castro Tavares**  
José Rodrigo Tavares, Msc  
Student in Sports Management  
at Instituto Universitário da  
Maia, Maia, Portugal

**Maria José da Silva Faria**  
Researcher at COMEGI,  
CEPESE and UNICES, PhD in  
Business Sciences, Professor at  
Universidade Lusíada Norte and  
Instituto Universitário da Maia,  
Portugal

**Correspondence**  
**Beatriz Couto Guedes**  
MSc. Student in Sports  
Management at Instituto  
Universitário da Maia, Maia,  
Portugal

## The deviative leaks of a financial footprint in the sports world

**Beatriz Couto Guedes, Eduardo Manuel Martins Catalão Cardoso, José Rodrigo Allen Ferreira de Castro Tavares and Maria José da Silva Faria**

### Abstract

Both fraud and corruption are a stir that lives in normal communion with the daily life of society. Because they manage to go unnoticed or because they are ignored by individuals, they feed themselves and therefore persist and gain unbearable dimensions. There are different forms of tax evasion, such as tax evasion; money laundering, such as the fraud created to ensure that illicit money enters the economic circuit cleanly; and the corruption of e-sports, which is gaining a high dimension, not only because of the problem of addiction, but also of illegal gambling and doping of sportsmen.

The purpose of this article is to identify examples of sports fraud, particularly those recently publicized and more media related to the issue of tax evasion, money laundering and corruption in sports.

The methodology used was the bibliographic review of articles published in scientific journals, having, in certain cases, chosen national journals of daily circulation, due to the specificity of the fraud, its actors and the way of disclosure and access of the information.

It has been concluded that both fraud and sports corruption are manifested in tax evasion by those who earn the most and can use the tax havens to deceive the authorities. Money laundering is a subject whose problem is difficult for the supervisory and controlling authorities because it is difficult to detect this type of scheme. Denunciation is the most widely used and easy way to reach defrauders, but other forms of disclosure are equally important in detecting how to live beyond your means, refusing to go on vacation, etc. The case of e-sports is a more present problem than with the technological innovation and the advance of the new sports modalities also begins to be object of fraud. Not only with the doping of the players but also with the sums involved in betting this modality is having very illicit contours and that, given its maturity, it must already be fought.

The lack of regulation by world sports authorities and entities creates the necessary conditions for the proliferation of the phenomenon. There is a need for worldwide re-education, higher penalties and tougher penalties for the fight against these types of fraud and corruption to take effect.

**Keywords:** Fraud, corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, e-sports

### Introduction

The presence and influence of football are undeniable these days in our society. However, its beauty and the glorification of the athletes almost nothing represent, as football has gone from a popular sport to a global industry with a giant economic and social impact. This is due to its constant commercialization (television rights, sponsorships, publicity, etc.) and the unprecedented internationalization of the sports work market.

According to the Deloitte Annual Report on Football Finance in June 2018 for the 2016/2017 season, the size of the European football market is 25.5 billion euros, with growth of 4% in relation to the previous season.

The large amount of money flows, the intervention of several agents and the lack of adequate legislation in this business are the main reasons that lead organized crime to find a way in football, passing this modality to be "a vehicle for the recycling of assets of criminal activities" (Salvo, 2012) [29], and cumulatively opening up an appetite for fraud and tax evasion, money laundering, bribery, influence trading, and other forms of corruption recently targeted by e-sports.

## Theoretical reference

### 1. Fraud and tax evasion

There are several international definitions for the concept of fraud. For example, in the United States of America, and according to Fletcher and Herrmann (2012) <sup>[12]</sup>, fraud is defined as the false representation of a fact, whether by words or conduct, or by false or misleading allegations or by dissimulations of what it should have been disclosed. In England, according to Ormerod (2007) <sup>[24]</sup>, fraud is an offense involving false representation, failure to disclose information and abuse of power.

In Portugal, for Gonçalves and Pimenta (2014) <sup>[15]</sup> fraud is an intentional act carried out by natural or legal persons, carried out with astuteness, and which effectively or potentially causes harm to citizens, institutions, countries and the environment, for violation of good practices or even of the law itself, soon is a phenomenon that involves the whole of society.

Miranda (2013) <sup>[22]</sup> states that all practices that aim for non-compliance with the law, aiming at non-payment of taxes due are considered fraud and tax evasion, popularly referred to as "tax evasion". Pinto (2013) defines fraud as deviant behavior on the part of individuals who are part of a society and tax fraud as a fraudulent or bad faith act that has been practiced or developed with the intention of harming or injuring a third party, with the objective of obtaining gains and non-assumption of tax obligations. This type of crime is currently a serious problem in several countries and is considered a universal phenomenon (Giachi, 2014) <sup>[14]</sup>.

Tax evasion is defined as an unlawful conduct that aims to reduce or delay the payment of taxes, omitting or falsifying information in income statements (Well, 2013). Lannes and Machado (2010) <sup>[21]</sup> agree by emphasizing that tax evasion is the taxpayer's action or omission, with a view to suppressing, reducing or delaying compliance with a tax obligation. This tax obligation is composed of taxes, defined by Ribeiro as pecuniary, co-operative and unilateral benefits that are required by the State, which requires them for public purposes (Sousa, 2018) <sup>[36]</sup>. According to Sousa (2018) <sup>[36]</sup>, taxes constitute the main source of revenue of the tax system that finances the tax system, and the taxpayer is responsible for paying the taxes imposed by the law, according to Gutierrez (2006) Activity Tax has the social function of State financing, through a fair and equal distribution of these taxes, depending on the ability of each one to contribute (Sousa, 2018) <sup>[36]</sup>.

Despite socially responsible thinking, individuals have different reasons that justify tax evasion. Reasons such as the high tax burden on taxpayers, the lack of means to pay tax obligations and, in addition, the fact that the Tax Authority is often unable to oversee dubious operations (Amorim, 2007) <sup>[2]</sup>. It is important to point out that tax evasion is illegitimate and contrary to the law that benefits the offender (Sousa, 2018) <sup>[36]</sup>. This phenomenon obliges States to review their tax systems due to the mobility of capital and there are certain countries that allow measures of unfair tax competition, which will attract financial flows with the guarantee of not being taxed (Amorim, 2007) <sup>[2]</sup>. In Brazil, for example, the high tax burden, the complexity of legislation, excessive bureaucracy and political corruption as a response to fiscal default are so high (Correia and Pires, 2017) <sup>[6]</sup>. In Portugal for example because we have an offshore in the Free Zone of Madeira, but many other reasons there are that by their singularity are not able to fit in so few pages to justify the tax evasion in force in our country.

However, fraud and tax evasion go hand in hand with tax morality, which concerns situations of equal opportunity, in which one party always complies while the other always evades. That is, fiscal morality is defined as the intrinsic motivation of tax compliance, stemming from a belief and moral obligation in which to pay taxes constitutes an important contribution to society (Frey and Torgler, 2007).

According to Amorim (2007) <sup>[2]</sup>, the reason for fraud and tax evasion is due to the community because it feels that there is some impunity regarding the practice of these tax offenses, alleging, as proof of this, the public knowledge of very few cases of conviction judicial. We have varied cases of professionals who systematically declare incomes well below what would be expected for their activity or even of commercial companies that declare that their results of exercise are very low, null or even negative. McGee (1999) understands that there is a double reason that explains tax evasion, one of them is the lack of a mechanism to collect taxes to another are the opinions that the government does not deserve any amount of the income of the worker.

For Nabais (2006) and Arsenic (2017) the fight against tax evasion is a problem for many countries, especially in developed countries. Giachi (2014) <sup>[14]</sup> points out that tax evasion, although it diffuses through all contemporary democracies in European countries, has a greater impact on the Mediterranean countries. In Spain, tax fraud is estimated at 23% of GDP (Ministry of Finance, 2010 as referred to in Giachi, 2014) <sup>[14]</sup>. In Portugal it is about 20% of GDP (Pimenta, 2014) <sup>[26]</sup> Portugal and is in 64th place in the ranking, through the offshore of Madeira, and according to the site <https://www.e-konomista.pt/article/countries-with-major-tax-evasion> / the list of countries with the highest tax evasion shown can be ordered as described, since 2015 with update in 2018:

1. Switzerland
2. United States
3. Cayman Islands
4. Hong Kong
5. Singapore
6. Luxembourg
7. Germany
8. Taiwan
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Guernsey

### The case: José Mourinho

José Mourinho as coach is on the level of a Maradona or Pelé as athletes (Scaglia, 2015) <sup>[33]</sup>. Cardoso (2014) <sup>[5]</sup> agrees saying that Jose Mourinho is considered one of the best and most successful coaches in the history of world football. Known as "Special One", alluding to his arrival at Chelsea in 2004, he utters the famous phrase "I'm not one who comes out of a bottle, I'm a special one" (Cardoso, 2014) <sup>[5]</sup>.

According to [transfermarkt.pt](https://www.transfermarkt.pt), José Mário dos Santos Félix Mourinho is a Portuguese professional football coach, born on 26 January 1963 in Setúbal. Now 56, he is managed by the famous agency organization, Gestifute, led by Jorge Mendes, one of the best agents who works with personalities such as Cristiano Ronaldo, James Rodríguez, Ángel Di María, Nicolás Otamendi, Rui Patrício, Pizzi, Pepe, among many other players and simultaneously coaches: Paulo Fonseca, Nuno Espírito Santo, Bruno Lage, Rui Faria, Etc.

José Mourinho has been with Vitória Futebol Clube, Sub 17 and Sub 19, as main coach; Estrela da Amadora (season 90/91), Ovarense (season 91/92 and 92/93), Sporting Clube de

Portugal (season 93/94), Futebol Clube do Porto (season 94/95 and 95/96) and Barcelona (season 96/97, 97/98 and 99/00) as assistant coach. After these experiences in Portugal and abroad, Mourinho makes his debut as a professional football coach at Sport Lisboa e Benfica at the time of 00/01, from where he leaves, at the same time, to União Desportiva de Leiria, and from where he transfers at the time of 01/02 to be main coach of Futebol Clube do Porto - FCP, thus replacing Octávio Machado in January 2002. And it is in the FCP that Mourinho begins to make his story. In the season of 02/03, the Portuguese coach wins, in the service of FC Porto, the Portuguese championship, the Cup of Portugal and the UEFA Cup. In his last season at FC Porto, Mourinho won the Portuguese Super Cup, the Portuguese championship and the UEFA Champions League. The titles won are worth a transfer to Chelsea in 2004 and, in the service of the English club, won the Premier League of 04/05 and 05/06, the FA Cup of 06/07, the League Cup of 04/05 and 06/07 and the Super Cup of England of 2005. He remains with the English club until the season of 07/08, at the end of which he is transferred to Inter Milan, where he wins two Serie A (08/09 and 09/10), a Coppa Italia in the season of 09/10, the Super Cup of Italy in 2009 and the UEFA Champions League in the season 09/10. At the Italian club, Mourinho stays for 3 years before leaving for Real Madrid at the end of the 09/10 season. For the Spanish club, Mourinho stays until the end of the 12/13 season, winning the Copa del Rey in the 10/11 season, a La Liga on 11/12 and the Spanish Super Cup in 2012. From Real Madrid, he moves back to Chelsea in the 13/14 season, staying there until December 2015. During this time interval, Mourinho won another Premier League in 14/15 and another English League Cup in the 14/15 season. On 1 July 2016, Mourinho makes his debut for Manchester United, a club that played 144 games until December 2018 and won an English Super Cup in 2016, an English League Cup in the 16/17 season and a European League (formerly the UEFA Cup) on 16/17. He left Manchester United's coaching staff in December 2018 and hasn't worked for any other club since. In addition to these collective titles and according to the Sapo Sports website, Mourinho won 4 times the prize for best football coach of the year in 2003 (FC Porto), 2004 (Chelsea FC), 2009 (FC Internazionale) and 2011 (Real Madrid CF). The relationship between the José Mourinho case and tax evasion is related to the amount of tax to be paid, which depends on each person's ability to pay and, therefore, the higher the income, the higher the amount to be paid as tax (Sousa, 2018) [36]. While Mourinho trained Real Madrid, the fraud system occurred that was only judged after his departure from the technical command of the Spanish club. According to the newspaper Correio da Manhã (2012) [7], Mourinho was the highest paid coach in the world in 2012, earning about

15.3 million euros gross annually. That is, proportionally, what would have to discount for taxes would be an equally large amount because his ability to pay was high. In addition to the income earned, according to the Sapo 24 site (2017) [31] Mourinho also ceded the rights to his image and, thus, obtained income from this activity. It was precisely there that the case of tax evasion and fraud began. According to the newspaper JOGO (2018) [23], the Portuguese trainer was accused of tax evasion amounting to a total of 3.3 million euros during the period of 2011 and 2012 in which he led the Real Madrid CF. The Diário de Notícias (2019) [10] states that José Mourinho created Koper Services SA to make the benefits of its image rights fiscally opaque. The same newspaper states that before 2004, Mourinho signed a contract that simulated the termination of his image rights, and these would be transferred to a company Koper Services SA whose headquarters were in the Virgin Islands. In the years in question, 2011 and 2012, the trainer did not declare any amount from the image rights, causing damage to the Spanish tax authorities, more precisely 1.6 million euros, in 2011 and 1.7 million in 2012, making a total loss of 3.3 million euros. The Eco newspaper (2019) also states that Mourinho will pay 2 million euros for tax fraud in Spain and a fine of 180,000 euros to avoid a year's suspended sentence for evading taxes, specifically for failing to declare his image rights by passing these rights on to a company called Koper Services S.A. with headquarters in the Virgin Islands. This tax evasion is similar to the cases of Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Messi, Mascherano, Sanchez, Marcelo and Xabi Alonso, all of whom were accused of not paying the taxes they owed when they played in the Spanish league. The most curious thing is that many of these cases of tax evasion and fraud in football relate to certain players who have played in the Spanish league at some point. And most of the players who are associated with these crimes are being prosecuted and charged by the Spanish authorities, concerning players and coaches who have played in the main Spanish league.

**2. Money laundering**

Money laundering is the conversion of criminal proceeds into assets that cannot be traced to the underlying crime" (Reuter, 2005) [28]. Typically, the process is divided into three stages:

1. Placement of funds resulting from illegal activity;
2. Stratification of funds by passing them through various institutions and jurisdictions to disguise their origin;
3. Integration of funds into an economy, where they appear to be legitimate.

According to the FATF study (2009) [13], four main types of money laundering in football stand out, followed by an example for each of them shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Types of money laundering

Type	Example	Form of action
Club properties	Drug trafficking and investment in a football club	Mr. Heep, a person of humble origin living in a small town in the interior of the country, emigrated, returning 5 years later with a lot of money and property from various companies in the border area. Later, Mr. Heep acquired a football club that was playing in the third division at the time. The club was not an attractive investment. One advantage was its location in a large city in the country; however, Heep moved the team to a small town of only 30,000 inhabitants, where he could expect lower profitability because of the smaller number of followers. This activity showed all the indicators of a not-for-profit business; however, the salaries and infrastructure paid under that new administration were well above the average of other teams in the same category, and the sponsoring companies were known for their low financial solvency. It is assumed that the payment of high salaries, infrastructure and the supposed sponsorship were aimed at increasing the value of the franchise in order to legitimise its investors as recognised entrepreneurs and important people in the sports sector. The team rose from the third to the second division in one year. Later, the investor

		was identified as the leader of a drug trafficking network.
Transfer market and player settlement	Player acquisition	<p>A football club with high debts in the Latin American country X has signed a management contract with a collective investment fund, established in a tax haven, under which the investment fund undertakes to allocate funds to cancel the company's debts and share the results. The club acquired the player "Ito" from another local football club (Argentina) for 20,000,000 dollars. The football club based in country X transferred the funds to an account that the selling club has in a third country. The funds never entered Argentina. Thus, little was known about the origin of the funds or the account in which they were deposited in the third country.</p> <p>This typology was characterized by the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unknown (anonymous) investors willing to allocate resources.</li> <li>— Collective Investment Funds set up in tax havens.</li> <li>— Acquisition by collective investment funds of the management of soccer clubs with debts or in an irregular situation, with the need to attract investors.</li> <li>— Allocation of funds for the acquisition of football players.</li> <li>— Transfers of money to the football club that acquires the football player, to accounts located abroad.</li> </ul>
Bookmakers	Irregular bets	<p>Several individuals regularly went to casinos in European country X to buy chips for a substantial total value. The analysis revealed that one of the individuals involved was a foreigner with no connection to country X. The other individuals involved are either directly (players or coaches) or indirectly (relatives of players or coaches) linked to the world of football. There was no economic justification for the large amount of money used to buy the chips. Police sources showed that individuals were known in an investigation of manipulated results. The foreigner was suspected of bribing the players before certain matches with money from betting activities linked to fixed results. An online gambling company established in a foreign country recorded exceptionally high bets for these games. The aim was to invest in different clubs to control them and corrupt them to play matches that were a fraud. It mainly focused on clubs with financial problems that were looking for sponsors to solve their situation. The extraordinary scale of the betting or the unusual outcome of some games (8-0) indicated the fraud. The money used to bribe players and buy chips could have originated from criminal activities that individuals were suspected of.</p>
Provisions on image rights, sponsorship and advertising		<p>Players with an excellent reputation, and sometimes also others, have the opportunity to conclude so-called "image contracts" with companies that generally have their headquarters abroad. These contracts take advantage of the player's "image rights" and are a tool to exploit personal appearances of the player, as part of broad advertising campaigns, but can represent vulnerabilities in relation to money laundering. The money due, as stipulated in the contract, is transferred to the company's account, often in a tax haven. This entails the risk of money laundering for players with an image that is not so powerful, as they are used to launder money that is not related to their image.</p>

Source: adapted from FARF (2009)<sup>[13]</sup>.

According to Salvo (2012)<sup>[29]</sup>, the process of money laundering consists of the need for agents who have obtained resources illegally, to ensure that at least part of these resources are incorporated into the formal market in order to make it difficult to trace their criminal origin and so that they can be freely used by their holders. According to the author, money launderers look for sectors with failures in regulation, monitoring, inspection and punishment and, in this sense, football offers the optimal conditions that they seek for the recycling of their illicit assets.

The vulnerabilities of the football sector are enormous and the main ones found make this business one of the most attractive for criminal acts, especially money laundering. They were found through a study by an independent intergovernmental body The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering and terrorist financing, and are divided according to the structure, finances and culture of the sport (FATF, 2009)<sup>[13]</sup>.

Regarding the vulnerability in the structure we can say that the international body governing football is the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and its objective is to promote and develop football around the world. FIFA is made up of six confederations (AFC, CAF, Concacaf, Conmebol, OFC and UEFA), which are the umbrella organizations of national football associations. Professional and amateur football clubs are members of their national football associations. The vulnerabilities found by the study are as follows:

1. Market of easy penetration: due to the low, or even non-existent, entry barriers in the sector;
2. Complex stakeholder networks: there are several money launderers that we can identify in the football industry such as clubs, players, agents, sponsors, media, private investors, real estate owners, and this is a growing number given the strong commercialization of this sport. The large number and variety of stakeholders and the money flows they involve facilitate the concealment of fraudulent activity, especially when many of these operations take place abroad;
3. Lack of professionalism in management: apart from the main professional championships, today we still see the management composed of volunteers or inexperienced people;
4. Diversity of legal structures: the lack of regulation and control over the legal structure and ownership and control of football clubs means that they are easy to acquire.

As for the vulnerability of finances, the Annual Report on Football Finance, 2016/2017 states that the size of the European football market is 25.5 billion euros. Regarding finance, the following vulnerabilities are presented:

1. Large amounts traded: The sector deals with considerable money flows and large financial interests. Many of the transactions within the sector involve large amounts of money, for example in the transfer market. Financial circuits are multiple and global, and the international money flows involved risk falling outside the control of

national and football organizations. Often, these money flows enter and exit tax havens or involve many countries;

2. Irrationality of the amounts involved and unpredictability of results: prices for players may seem irrational and difficult to control. Transfers are made all over the world, offering ample opportunities for money laundering. Moreover, sport is essentially characterized by the level of unpredictability in relation to future outcomes. Such a culture of unpredictability can lead to greater tolerance and seemingly irrational payments;
3. Financial problems of clubs: despite the high level of commercialization of football, many clubs have financial problems, which can lead them to accept funds of dubious origin. These vulnerabilities of clubs make them easy targets for dirty money.

Regarding the vulnerability of the culture of the modality, the following are presented:

1. Social vulnerability of some players: This is especially the case of younger players. If they are misguided, players can easily be subject to obscure deals;
2. The social role of football: people are reluctant to break the illusion of innocence of sport. Therefore, illegal activities may not be frequently reported. In addition, the image of sport is very important, especially for sponsors. Sponsors try to buy a good image by supporting a particular club. A scandal about money laundering will result in the exit of the sponsor and their funds. This makes it less likely that crimes will be reported by the management of football clubs;
3. Non-material prizes: criminals seek status outside the criminal world and football may offer the opportunity to acquire them. Investments in a football club give the offender a favorable status. In addition, by investing in the sport, criminal organizations can gain control over associated activities such as betting or contracts with the local government.

As strong as fraud and tax evasion or money laundering, new types of corruption are beginning to emerge, associated with technological innovation, the modernity of the new times, but also with new ways of creating markets in the sports world that are becoming increasingly more and more popular, one of the most debated is e-sports.

### 3. Corruption in e-sports

Since the beginning of 2000, the growth of e-sports has been rapid and some competitions now originate more than 30 million unique online views (J. T. Holden, Kaburakis, & Wall Tweedie, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. At the same time, methods of corruption in e-sports are increasingly diverse, and companies running e-sports events have committed more time and resources to ensuring the integrity of competitions (Abarbanel & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>.

Online platforms grew so much with the growth of e-sports that in 2015, Twitch boasted 55 million users and more than 100 million unique viewers per month, making the platform more prominent (Abarbanel & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>. That is why corruption in this medium has become attractive to different actors.

Corruption has always been an important theme in e-sport and sports are no exception. The fight against this problem is daily and there are more and more laws and ways to try to fight it. In this literature review, we identified three types of

corruption most frequently found in e-sports: Betting, Match-fixing and doping. Betting and match-fixing are directly related because, with online betting sites, players combine the outcome of the game to bet and win their bets. Match-fixing is also used without being related to betting, when players lose because they are enticed with prizes if they do so.

Let's approach these topics to better understand what each one consists of and what ways there are to deal with these problems: betting and match-fixing and doping.

With the expansion of e-sports, many global brands wanted to enter this market as sponsors: Coca Cola, McDonald's, Nissan, Red Bull (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>. With all the mediatism around e-sports, a lucrative gambling market was created, where virtual items were bet (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>. Holden *et al.* (2019) <sup>[16]</sup> divides the types of online betting, where virtual items are bet, into three categories:

1. Sports betting;
2. Fantasy sports;
3. Betting with game items (skins).

These virtual items could be in the form of virtual currency or skins. Skins are "decorative skins for weapons" that could be bought, sold, traded and bet (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>. These virtual weapons were developed by Valve, creator of the game Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, where players purchased closed boxes and bought, from the same company, keys to open the boxes where they acquired skins. Virtual currency are defined in Holden's article as "a medium of exchange that operates as a currency in some environments, but does not have all the attributes of real currency", such as the bitcoins.

According to Abarbanel and Johnson, bets on e-sports reached an estimated 5.5 billion dollars in 2016. With these very high values, and with a tendency to increase, players deliberately play a game to profit from a bet - either the bet of the competitor or the opponent, the person who bribed the competitor to play the game (Abarbanel & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>. These figures were so high that there was a three-fold increase in the prize money in professional tournaments, a doubling of the number of tournaments and an increase of 1,000 dollars on average per professional player (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>. The same author states that there began to be scrutiny regarding bookmakers and professional players when Moe Assad, a professional CS:GO player who had a contract with the online bookmaker CSGO Diamonds, revealed that he had received secret information that gave him an advantage in the data games on the site.

Another case arose when, through an investigation of the CS:GO Shuffle betting site, the e-sports personality James "PhantomLord" Varga had asked the site's programmer to increase his percentage of craps wins (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>.

Skins betting is the largest segment of online gambling sites, with an estimated turnover of \$2.5 billion in 2015.

In a study conducted by Abarbanel and Johnson, where they studied supporters' perceptions of corruption in sports, many respondents pointed out that the deliberate loss of a team is common to all sports. Teams, when they are already qualified for the playoffs of a competition, usually "rotate" the players, i.e., they play the substitute players. This allows people to bet on these games and becomes very difficult to prove if there was match fixing as bettors defend themselves with the excuse of tactical losses (Abarbanel & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>.

Bets have reached such mediatism and controversy that some competitive leagues have already banned online bookmaker

sponsorships, such as the League of Legends Championship Series (Abarbanel & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>. The Australian government announced its decision to ban sports betting, citing concerns about the risk of children becoming dependent on this activity (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>.

The biggest sports scandal occurred in October 2015, when South Korean researchers arrested twelve people for fixing results in five StarCraft 2 matches. The scandal allegedly allowed orchestrators to earn \$37,000 by exploiting the illegal betting market (J. Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>.

Another statement Abarbanel & Johnson made through his work was that age should be a mitigating factor for punishment, as well as the reason why players bet or match-fix. Interviewees affirm that the corruption practiced by children, or adolescents, and by professional players is different. The importance of competitions is also seen by respondents as a factor to take into account when one wants to penalize someone who has committed one of these types of corruption. Events of greater importance, which are usually on LAN (Local Architecture Network) should have greater penalties, such as a lifetime ban on playing that game, than smaller scale events.

In Portugal there were also two recent cases of match-fixing. The Portuguese website Fraglider.pt reported that Inygon, organizer of the Portuguese Counter Strike League (LPCS), permanently banned Fabio "Twixy" Pedro, a Grow Up player, after a match fixing investigation in a league match. Another Portuguese player accused of match-fixing was Renato "Stadodo" Gonçalves, Offset player. This player was accused after someone gave Inygon some conversations in a group of CS:GO players where it was talked about match-fixing in the Offset game against Team HD. The Offset were the great candidates to win the LPCS but lose the first game against Team HD. After an investigation, the organization came to the conclusion that the player in question played in a legitimate way and didn't try to harm his team. Although he was cleared of the match-fixing case, he was found guilty of betting on LPCS second division matches. The regulation does not allow players competing in a league to bet in the same league or in another league of the same organizer. Therefore, Renato "Stadodo" Gonçalves was suspended for one match.

Another controversy apart from fraud and corruption in sports is the doping they can trigger. Sports are seen by the majority of the population as a sedentary lifestyle. The streamer Joe Marino documented the risks of trying to succeed at Twitch, stating that, in 2014-2015, his daily activities revolved entirely around streaming and there was no physical exercise involved in his daily life (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>.

As in most sports, we can also find drugs in sports to improve performance during a competitive match, such as Adderall (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. A professional CS: GO player, Kory "Semphis" Friesen, admitted that he, and his team, used Adderall during an ESL event in Katowice (Pereira, 2015) <sup>[25]</sup>. This drug, which is used to treat attention deficit with hyperactivity and narcolepsy, has amphetamines in its constitution. According to Pereira (2015) <sup>[25]</sup>, amphetamines have a direct effect on the central nervous system, producing excitement, improving reflexes, and inhibiting the ability to perceive fatigue. As of August 2015, ESL started to do anti-doping control in its events, based on cycling and Olympic Games policies (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. However, the official ESL rules do not specify Adderall. According to the website wired.co.uk, the official ESL rules state that playing a match, whether online or offline, under the influence of any

drug, alcohol or other performance-enhancing drug, is strictly prohibited and can be punished with exclusion.

The Esport Integrity Coalition (ESIC) has recommended that drug testing be implemented, but kept separate from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of illicit substances. The ESIC list contains Adderall, Ritalin, Focalin, and others (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. According to Holden, one of the strategies to stop doping in sports is to include contractual moral clauses that would allow the termination of sponsorships and collusion with the team (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>.

There is an increased use of amphetamines throughout society and this represents a predominant challenge to drug regulation within the sports community. One problem is that there are several national and international organizations that are competing for recognition, but yet no comprehensive organization has emerged in the form of government bodies as it exists in traditional sports (Holden *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[17]</sup>. Another problem described by the same author is that the preference for a game changes very regularly, one day the League of Legends (LOL) is the game with more views and tournament and after a few months is already the CS:GO. It is likely that, once several countries show a sustained capacity to produce high-level talent, the viability of international governance of activities will become more stable, but the industry is still at an early stage.

In the context of more broadly competitive sports and video games, the discussion of stimulant drugs is important because of the unique relationship between stimulants and children's favorite pastime in contemporaneity, games and sports (J. T. Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>.

According to Holden, a former elite player observed that his training schedule excluded any activity other than eating, sleeping and practicing. His career as a sports professional can be fleeting, some even up to the age of 20 (J. T. Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. With a career starting so early and which may be short-lived, athletes rely on stimulants, even if they don't use them at a competitive level, they use them to stay focused during all the hours they are training.

The World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) is updated annually and restricts athletes from ingesting substances, or using prohibited methods, to improve their performance and the action of two of the three criteria listed: 1) a potential to improve performance; 2) a threat to health; and 3) a violation of sporting spirit (Holden *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[16]</sup>.

## Conclusion

Tax evasion and fraud are two very serious and recurring problems today. And these problems are more recurrent precisely in developed countries and, within developed countries, in Mediterranean countries. We may be facing a cultural issue that translates into a greater propensity for tax fraud. We can also understand that people and workers in developed countries will create higher incomes and will therefore be more conditioned by the tax burden to which they are subject and, therefore, seek ways to get around their situation. Or we may even think that economic and commercial development will naturally result in a greater propensity for this type of tax offence.

We may think that there are many cases of tax evasion and fraud in the world of football, but as these are two of the three best football clubs in the world, the media, the attention and the interest they provoke make it possible to monitor these cases more closely (Real Madrid and Barcelona).

The case analyzed, José Mourinho, or other similar cases that affect professionals with some mediaticism, the prison sentences to which they are sentenced are usually replaced by a payment of a fine like the 180 thousand euros paid by the Portuguese coach to avoid the year of suspended sentence. This contributes to the population's discrediting the judicial conviction of this type of cases, and may contribute to an increase in the number of tax evasion practices.

The population also complains about the lack of means to pay tax obligations and claims that it contributes to an increase in tax fraud and evasion. This reason was easily avoided by the tax system if it created a universal (global) method of payment of tax obligations and if this method was simple and clear to avoid any doubt. Another reason that can be annulled is popular discontent and the opinion that the Government does not deserve any income from the worker. This reason is more difficult to solve, but here the Government has to follow the principles of good governance to improve the image, both intrinsic and extrinsic, in order to create a climate of trust and transparency that improves popular opinion on how the Government applies the taxes collected.

The crime of tax evasion and fraud can be reduced through a tighter tax system and heavier judicial measures, but it can never be fully resolved. This is because of a number of factors, including the existence of tax havens that, while not devaluing the advantages and benefits other than the tax benefits they have, will always attract people with high incomes, who will consequently have an equally high tax burden, to try to escape some tax issues by omitting or not partially or totally declaring some of their income, as happened with the image rights of Mourinho.

Football is one of the most celebrated sports in the world and involves the intervention of various agents spread everywhere, and with the unprecedented commercialization and internationalization, there are more and more transfers of resources. The large volume of resources to be traded internationally and the lack of transparency in these transactions require more control by the authorities. The truth is that, given the conditions presented in the football business during the course of work, it appears that crime, especially money laundering, has found its way into this sport and the lack of adequate legislation allows them some mobility. The emotional aspect of sport also means that people do not take into account the seriousness of its management and funding and, as a result, the authorities do not prioritize the investigation of financial crimes that occur in this sector.

It is extremely important that the inertia and inefficiency of the authorities operating in football be immediately corrected with regulation to prevent these criminal acts from continuing to occur in a sport that has much to offer society but ends up being corrupted without there being any attempts to stop it.

It is clear that e-sports follow the path of traditional sports in terms of types of fraud. As in traditional sports, we find examples of illegal betting, match-fixing and doping in electronic sports. With the appearance of skins, a market for illegal betting and match-fixing has opened up in the world of Counter Strike: Global Offensive. These items have a monetary value and are used as virtual currencies for people to bet in online bookmakers. Being a virtual currency, they are also used in the case of match-fixing, where the players of a team are bribed to lose a certain game and will be rewarded by skins or real money.

The case of doping is less common, at least there are less examples of professionals who have been doped to improve their performance, but that is not why it is no longer as

important in e-sports. Given that e-sports, which are mostly viewed by young people, giving them the idea that it is common practice if they are doped in order to obtain results, is very dangerous. For this reason, there are more and more entities trying to enter the anti-doping market at an international level.

There are still few studies on corruption in e-sports, but with the mediaticism that they are having, and daily growth it is interesting to increase their study to understand the contours of this fraud that influences this particular sports universe.

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