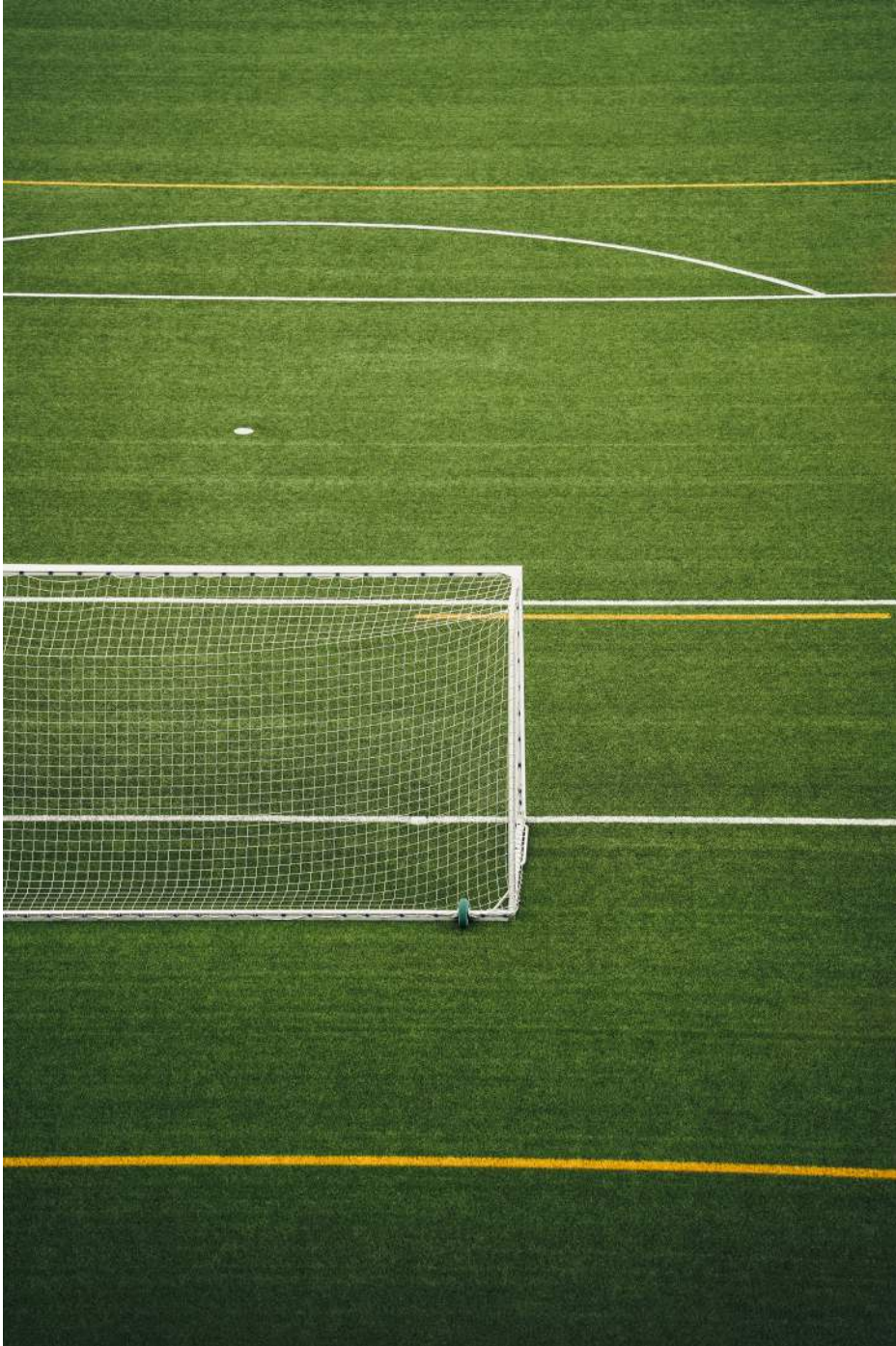


# Football Integrity Report 2024

A Comprehensive Analysis  
of Suspected Match-Fixing





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# Foreword

**T**he Football Integrity Report 2024 is the second such report produced exclusively by Starlizard Integrity Services. It follows on from last year's inaugural publication and continues our series of studies since 2018 - previously co-authored - into global trends in relation to suspicious football matches and suspected match-fixing within the sport.

Our report aims to provide greater context and detail to the data presented online in the Starlizard Integrity Football Knowledge Hub, examining key developments in suspected match manipulation during calendar year 2024 and drawing year-on-year comparisons to inform stakeholders and the wider public about the extent to which corruption on the pitch is penetrating football.

At Starlizard Integrity Services (SIS), the dedicated division of Starlizard, we maintain rigorous standards for identifying suspected match-fixing. We thoroughly investigate betting market and performance anomalies, seeking rational explanations and assessing their likelihood and impact before

marking a match as suspicious. Our analysts must be confident in their assessments before assigning a Suspicion Rating.

Even the mere suspicion of matches being manipulated threatens the very foundation of football. Match-fixing undermines the sport's core values of skill, chance, and fair play. This insidious practice not only tarnishes the game's reputation but also erodes the trust and enjoyment of fans and stakeholders alike. Football has the power to positively impact lives in remarkable ways, making it crucial to safeguard the sport from any form of manipulation.

Whilst match-fixing is not a new issue, the methods employed by perpetrators have become increasingly sophisticated and widespread. These criminals exploit betting markets, particularly targeting lower tier matches, corrupting clubs, players and officials to manipulate outcomes for financial gain.

At the higher end of the match-fixing spectrum, organised crime groups orchestrate complex schemes, compromising players

and officials while engaging in other serious criminal activities. At the lower end, match-fixing can be less sophisticated, sometimes driven by players themselves, who pass information to friends and family to place bets on predetermined outcomes.

Addressing corruption at all levels requires a concerted effort from everyone involved in and around the game to uphold the integrity of football and protect the sport we cherish.

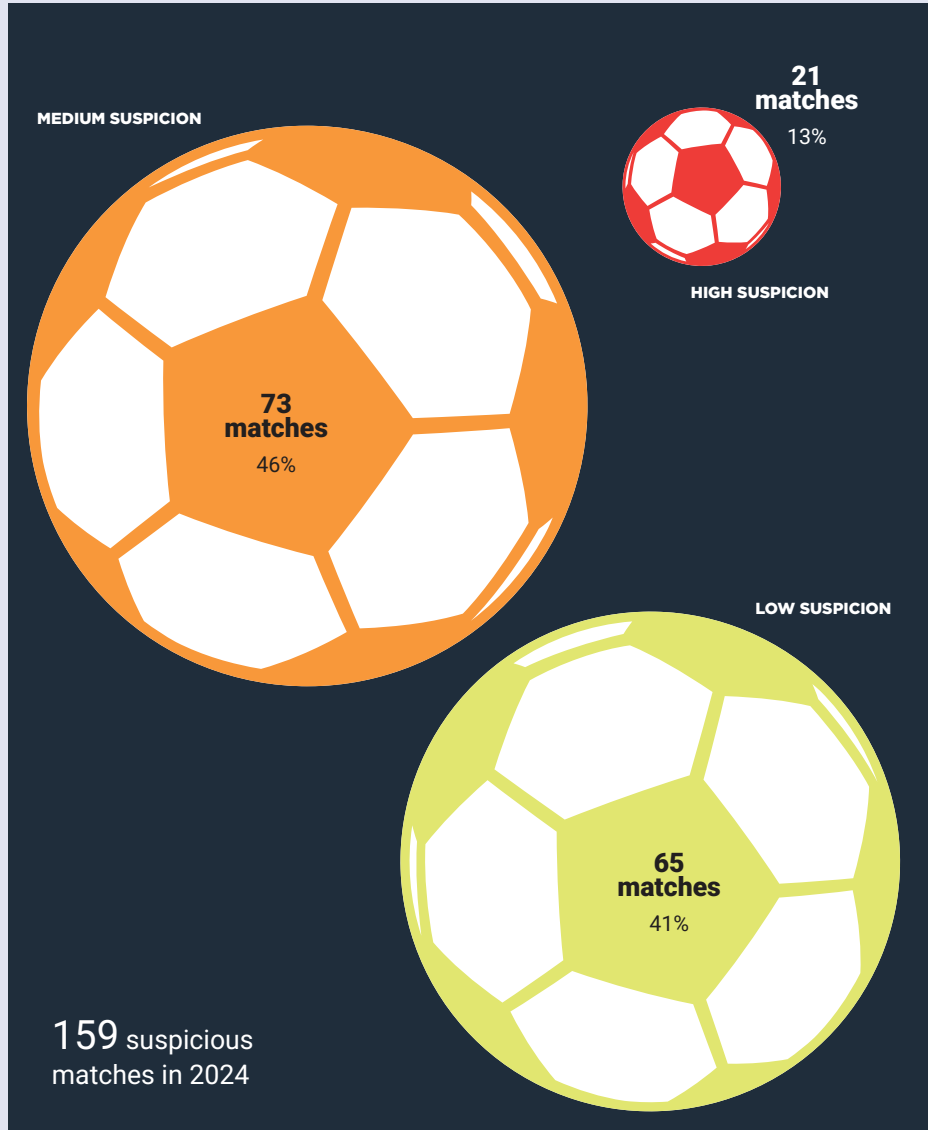
## **Affy Sheikh**

Head of Starlizard Integrity Services

March 2025

For our part, over the past year we have successfully onboarded more football governing bodies onto our free Komodo anti-match fixing platform. Komodo enables us to alert and report suspected match-fixing incidents to the relevant authorities. If you are a football match-fixing investigator and wish to receive free information and evidential reports on suspected match-fixing within your jurisdiction, please contact our team.

# Headlines



Of **over 74,000** football matches monitored and analysed by Starlizard Integrity Services, a total of **159** matches were assessed as suspicious, showing indicators of potential manipulation. This represents **0.21%** of the matches analysed



The percentage of matches identified as suspicious in 2024 (**0.21%**) was slightly lower than the percentage identified in 2023 (**0.23%**). We monitored a similar number of matches in 2024 to 2023. Despite this, the total number of matches identified in 2024 (**159**) was lower than the number identified in 2023 (**171**)

**0.42%** of all friendly matches (including club, international, women's and youth matches) played in 2024 were identified as suspicious, compared to **0.20%** of all competitive matches



**67** of the matches assessed as suspicious were played in the South American region and represent **0.61%** of the total matches analysed in the region. This is the highest regional percentage of suspicious matches and above the global average percentage of **0.21%**. Note that **11.3%** more matches were monitored and analysed in the South American region in 2024 compared to 2023



**139** suspicious matches identified in 2024 were played in domestic league and cup competitions (**87.4%**), with **92** matches (**57.9%**) in domestic leagues below the top league. It should also be noted that **87%** of the total matches monitored and analysed in 2024 took place in domestic league and cup competitions



Club friendly matches continue to present concerns, with **14** such matches assessed as suspicious in 2024. This represents **0.51%** of the club friendly matches analysed in 2024, whereas, in 2023, **0.78%** of club friendly matches analysed 2023 were identified as suspicious. **Three** youth matches were identified as suspicious in 2024, compared to ten in 2023

No suspicious women's matches were identified in 2023, and only **one** such match was identified in 2024. This match had a **HIGH** Suspicion Rating



The prominence of suspicious betting on First-Half Only markets continued in 2024. Of the **159** matches identified as suspicious during the year, **61 (38.4%)** involved betting exclusively on First-Half Only markets. A further **11** matches in 2024 also showed suspicious betting on First-Half Only Markets as well as the Full-Time Markets, meaning that, in total, **72** matches (**45.3%**) saw suspicious betting involving First-Half Only Markets

**38.4%**





# Main Findings

**S**tarlizard Integrity Services monitored and analysed a total of 74,386 football matches played in calendar year 2024 across 844 competitions in 129 different countries. This is marginally less than the number of matches monitored and analysed in 2023 (75,266).

A total of 159 matches played in 2024 have been assessed as suspicious, after showing indicators of potential manipulation. This represents 0.21 % of the total number of matches analysed.

21 of these matches fall into the HIGH suspicion category, with 73 matches categorised as MEDIUM-level suspicion.

The percentage of matches identified as suspicious in 2024 (0.21%) is slightly lower than the percentage of matches identified as suspicious in 2023 (0.23%). The overall number of suspicious matches identified in 2024 (159) is also lower than identified in 2023 (171).

South America saw the highest number of suspicious matches as a percentage of the total number of matches monitored in any region (0.61%). 67 of the 159 suspicious games identified in 2024 were played in the South America region.

92 matches (57.9%) of all suspicious matches identified in 2024 were played in domestic leagues below the top leagues. All in all, 139 suspicious matches (87.4%) took place in domestic league and cup competitions. It should also be noted that 87% of the total matches monitored and analysed in 2024 took place in domestic league and cup competitions.

First-Half Only suspicious betting market activity continues to be significant. 72 matches saw suspicious activity in First Half Only betting markets in 2024, with 61 of these featuring suspicious betting activity exclusively in First-Half Only betting markets.

The risks to club friendly matches are still disproportionately high, with 14 such matches assessed as suspicious in 2024. This represents 0.51% of the club friendly matches

analysed in 2024, whereas, in 2023, 0.78% of club friendly matches analysed were identified as suspicious.

Overall, 0.42% of all friendly matches (including club, international, women's and youth friendly matches) played in 2024 were identified as suspicious, compared to 0.20% of all competitive matches.

The number of suspicious youth matches identified in 2024 fell to three, compared to ten in 2023.

Only one suspicious women's match was identified in 2024, which had a HIGH Suspicion Rating. No suspicious women's matches were identified in 2023.

# Breakdowns

## Suspicious Matches by Region\* 2024 (2023 in brackets)

Region	Suspicious Matches	% of Total Matches Analysed Within That Region	Total Number of Matches Analysed 2024
South America	67 (29)	0.61% (0.29%)	10,991
Europe	50 (69)	0.12% (0.16%)	40,109
International	18 (28)	0.25% (0.42%)	7,325
Asia	14 (32)	0.17% (0.41%)	8,053
North & Central America	7 (4)	0.14% (0.10%)	4,915
Africa	3 (9)	0.10% (0.29%)	2,985
Oceania	0 (0)	0.00% (0.00%)	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>159 (171)</b>		

By way of an indication how suspected match-fixing moves around the globe, adapting to vulnerabilities and opportunities, we have seen suspicious matches in the South American region increase from 29 matches in 2023 to 67 in this current reporting period. Three of the 67 suspicious matches identified in South America were assessed as HIGH suspicion, with 28 assessed as MEDIUM.

The relatively high percentage of suspicious matches in the South American region is also worthy of note, with 0.61% of all matches monitored and analysed in that region assessed as suspicious – far higher than any other geographical region and the global average percentage of 0.21%. In 2023, 0.29% of South America region matches were assessed as suspicious.

Note that we monitored and analysed 11.3% more matches in the South American region in 2024 compared to 2023. However, 63 of this year's suspicious matches in South America took place in the competitions that were monitored there in 2023. If we then adjust the 2024 percentage to take into account only the competitions monitored in 2023, it remains high at 0.60%.

At the same time, there has also been a reduction in the percentage of suspicious matches identified in the European and Asian regions. In 2024, suspicious matches represented 0.17% of all matches analysed in Asia and 0.12% of all matches analysed in Europe. This compares to 0.41% in Asia and 0.16% in Europe in 2023. It should also be pointed out that Europe is where SIS monitors the highest concentration of matches, with over half of all matches monitored and analysed in 2024 played in this region.

## Suspicious Matches by Betting Tier\*\* 2024

Betting Tier	Suspicious Matches
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	1
5	14
6	22
7	29
8	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

The majority of suspicious football matches identified in 2024 continue to be found in the lowest betting tiers, with 122 suspicious matches (76.7%) falling under Betting Tiers 7 and 8. This reaffirms the suggestion in last year's report that elite and higher-level competitions, which tend to have greater volumes of betting liquidity, are at a lower risk of being manipulated. In 2023, a very similar proportion (77.8%) of all suspicious football matches identified were in the two lowest betting tiers

Congested fixture programmes – such as Saturday afternoons in Europe – can have a significant effect on how competitions are tiered. So competitions can be tiered based on their prominence and the timings of the matches played. For example, competitions in Asia may have a higher-than-expected tier status due to fewer competitions in the betting market space at the times these matches are played.

## Suspicious Matches by Level of Suspicion 2024

Level of Suspicion	Suspicious Matches
High	21
Medium	73
Low	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

\* All regions – except 'International' – relate to the confederation in which club teams play their domestic football and only to domestic fixtures within the individual countries in the confederation (i.e. South America relates to the CONMEBOL region, Europe relates to the UEFA region, and so on). The term 'international' relates to international fixtures, as well as cross-border club competitions (examples of this would be the UEFA Champions League or the Copa Libertadores) and cross-border club team friendlies (regardless of country or club).

\*\* 'Betting tiers' relate to betting market levels, which sometimes, but not always, correlate to football tiers. Tier 1 represents high maximum stakes per bet, which would include elite-level competitions such as the World Cup and the UEFA Champions League. Tier 8 matches are at the bottom end of this scale.

# Key Trends and Patterns

## The continued trend in First-Half Only suspicious betting

The prominence of First-Half Only betting in suspicious football matches, as revealed in last year's report, has continued into 2024.

Only six matches displayed characteristics of an exclusive First-Half Only market manipulation in 2022, increasing to 48 matches in 2023 – which represented 28.1% of all suspicious matches that year.

In 2024, we assessed that 61 matches involved suspicious betting purely on First-Half Only markets, accounting for 38.4% of all suspicious matches identified in 2024.

A further 11 matches played in 2024 show suspicious betting traits in both the First-Half Only and Full-Time

betting markets.

Whilst Full-Time betting markets continue to see the highest number of suspicious betting events, the past two years' data suggests First-Half Only market betting is highly vulnerable to manipulation. This is despite the available liquidity in First-Half Only markets likely being less than that in the Full-Time markets.

## Domestic competitions dominate, youth matches see a decline

92 suspicious matches identified in 2024 were played in domestic leagues below the top leagues. This reaffirms the statement in last year's report highlighting the susceptibility of lower domestic league competitions.

Top-level domestic league competitions continue to provide

\*\*\* Competition Levels are defined as follows:  
 - Domestic Top: Top domestic leagues  
 - Domestic 2 and below: Domestic leagues other than the top league  
 - Domestic Cup: Domestic club cup competitions  
 - Regional Cup: Inter-country club competitions (e.g. UEFA Europa League, AFC Champions League)  
 - Youth: All Under 23 age group matches and lower  
 - Women: Women's matches  
 - Club Friendlies: Friendly matches between clubs from different countries  
 - International Friendlies: Friendly matches between international teams  
 - World Cup / Euros / COPA: Any matches from the World Cup, European Championships and Copa America (including qualifying matches)  
 - International 2: Any other international match

## Suspicious Matches by Competition Level\*\*\* 2024

Competition Level	Suspicious Matches 2024	% of Suspicious Matches 2024	% of Total Matches 2024	Total Number of Matches analysed
Domestic 2 and below	92	57.9%	0.27%	34,442
Domestic Top	37	23.3%	0.15%	24,561
Club Friendlies	14	8.8%	0.51%	2,732
Domestic Cup	10	6.3%	0.17%	5,741
Youth	3	1.9%	0.11%	2,754
Regional Cup	1	0.6%	0.07%	1,467
International 2	1	0.6%	0.34%	293
Women	1	0.6%	0.07%	1,384
World Cup / Euros / COPA	0	0.0%	0.00%	704
International Friendlies	0	0.0%	0.00%	308
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>			<b>74,386</b>

concerns in 2024, with 37 matches in this category, representing 23.3% of all suspicious matches identified.

Combined, domestic league and cup competitions account for 87.4% (139) of all the suspicious matches identified in 2024. This is consistent with 87% of all matches analysed in 2024 taking place in domestic league and cup competitions

There has been a decrease in the number of suspicious youth matches during this reporting period, with three matches identified as such. This compares to ten youth matches assessed as suspicious in 2023.

The risks to club friendly matches are still disproportionately high, with 14 such matches assessed as suspicious in 2024. This represents 0.51% of club friendly matches analysed in 2024, compared to 0.78% of friendly matches analysed in 2023. Club friendly matches account for 8.8% of all suspicious matches played in 2024, despite

making up just 3.7% of all the games analysed in 2024.

Looking at all friendly matches, including club, international, women's and youth friendly matches, 0.42% were identified as suspicious. This compares to 0.20% of all competitive matches.

## Only one women's match flagged as suspicious

We conducted an analysis of 1,384 women's football matches played in 2024, with just one match being identified as suspicious. In 2023, no suspicious women's matches were identified. Despite the low incidences of suspicious matches, as women's football becomes increasingly popular and betting markets see increased liquidity, the integrity risk to women's football should continue to be monitored. The single match identified in 2024 was allocated a HIGH Suspicion Rating.

## Suspicious Matches by Betting Market Types

2024				2023			
First-Half Only	Full-Time	First-Half Only & Full-Time	Other Markets	First-Half Only	Full-Time	First-Half Only & Full-Time	Other Markets
61	85	11	2	48	96	15	12

# Methodology



**S**tarlizard Integrity Services (SIS) initially detects suspicious football matches through a variety of routes. These include internal notifications from our bespoke automated monitoring technology platforms and expert football and betting analysts, external notifications from football governing bodies and integrity partners, and open-source information.

In all cases, regardless of how the notification is received, each match is analysed by dedicated

integrity analysts to see whether the grounds for flagging as suspicious are sufficient and meet our required threshold based on the evidence available to us.

The first stage in this process is to examine the betting markets for any irregular behaviour indicative of betting-fraud-related match-fixing. The primary source here is data from the Asian betting markets, in particular the Asian Handicap and Total Goals markets, as these are the most significant and liquid markets that dominate global betting

patterns. Analysts will also look at other non-Asian markets where these are available, including betting activity and volumes on the Betfair exchange.

Each match assessment is quality assured by a group of cross-departmental integrity analysts to ensure all relevant factors have been given due consideration, prior to a final Suspicion Rating being allocated to a match. Suspicion Ratings fall into four categories: HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW and NONE.

SIS harnesses Starlizard's core ability to analyse events both on and off the football pitch and convert these into true probabilities. Once a true probability has been defined, this allows us to accurately identify matches that are anomalous and atypical, where bettors are behaving contrary to all rational logic and the betting markets prices subsequently display characteristics that go against normal market principles and deviate from our expectations of a regular football match.

In addition to analysing the betting markets both before and during a match, a separate dedicated team investigate and assess the performance of the participants on the field of play using objective qualitative analytical techniques and in-house data collected from available video footage of the match in question. This is undertaken in isolation from the betting analysis, so as to negate the risk of influence and unintended bias.

The performance analysis team examine a number of set categories

and, wherever possible, compare the findings to other relevant performances of a team, player, or within a competition, so as to contextualise and fully understand how irregular the data for that match might be.

As well as the collection and measurement of performance related data, technical expert insights are used to add context to the performance analysis, such as whether an action is good or bad, or crucial or non-crucial, excluding any potential alternative explanations, or whether it can be said to be reasonable under the specific circumstances that existed at that moment in time on the field of play.

Where a match shows characteristics of an underperformance by participants on the pitch that has confidently been predicted by bettors in the market – particularly when that underperformance can objectively be shown to be statistically anomalous – the final Suspicion Rating will likely be towards the higher end of the Suspicion Rating scale.

It is important to note that the number of matches analysed each year may fluctuate. This should be borne in mind when making direct year-on-year comparisons.

Furthermore, annual figures are likely to change after the publication of a report, as a result of SIS analysing matches retrospectively – for example, in response to new intelligence or in support of subsequent investigations.





## What is the Suspicion Rating scale?

Football matches are assessed for irregularities and categorised into four levels of suspicion as follows:



### High

These are games with the most comprehensive and suspicious indicators of a match manipulation having taken place.



### Medium

These matches display strong indicators of potential match manipulation, although the presence of specific information or mitigating factors may alleviate the overall suspicion.



### Low

These matches exhibit anomalies that cannot be solely accounted for by mitigating factors, making it impossible for us to dismiss the possibility of manipulation having occurred.



### None

These matches show no tangible irregularities or indicators that any manipulation has occurred.

# About Starlizard Integrity Services

**S**tarlizard Integrity Services was formed in 2017 as a dedicated integrity division of Starlizard, a sports betting consultancy in London, United Kingdom. Founded in 2006, Starlizard specialises in making the world's most accurate sporting predictions. It is committed to understanding the intricacies of football matches and their associated betting markets, providing expert opinions on a huge range of leagues and tournaments across the globe. This is done by analysing millions of data points to distil what is happening on the pitch and in the betting markets, converting this data into accurate betting probabilities.

Starlizard Integrity Services works with sports governing bodies and law enforcement agencies across the world, striving to achieve our vision of Fairness In Sport and helping to combat match-fixing. By harnessing Starlizard's unrivalled knowledge of sports and betting

market movements, we are perfectly placed to identify suspicious games and betting patterns. With over 100 analysts and a vast intelligence network with eyes on football competitions across the globe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, our ability to provide meaningful analyses from inside the betting markets is unequalled.

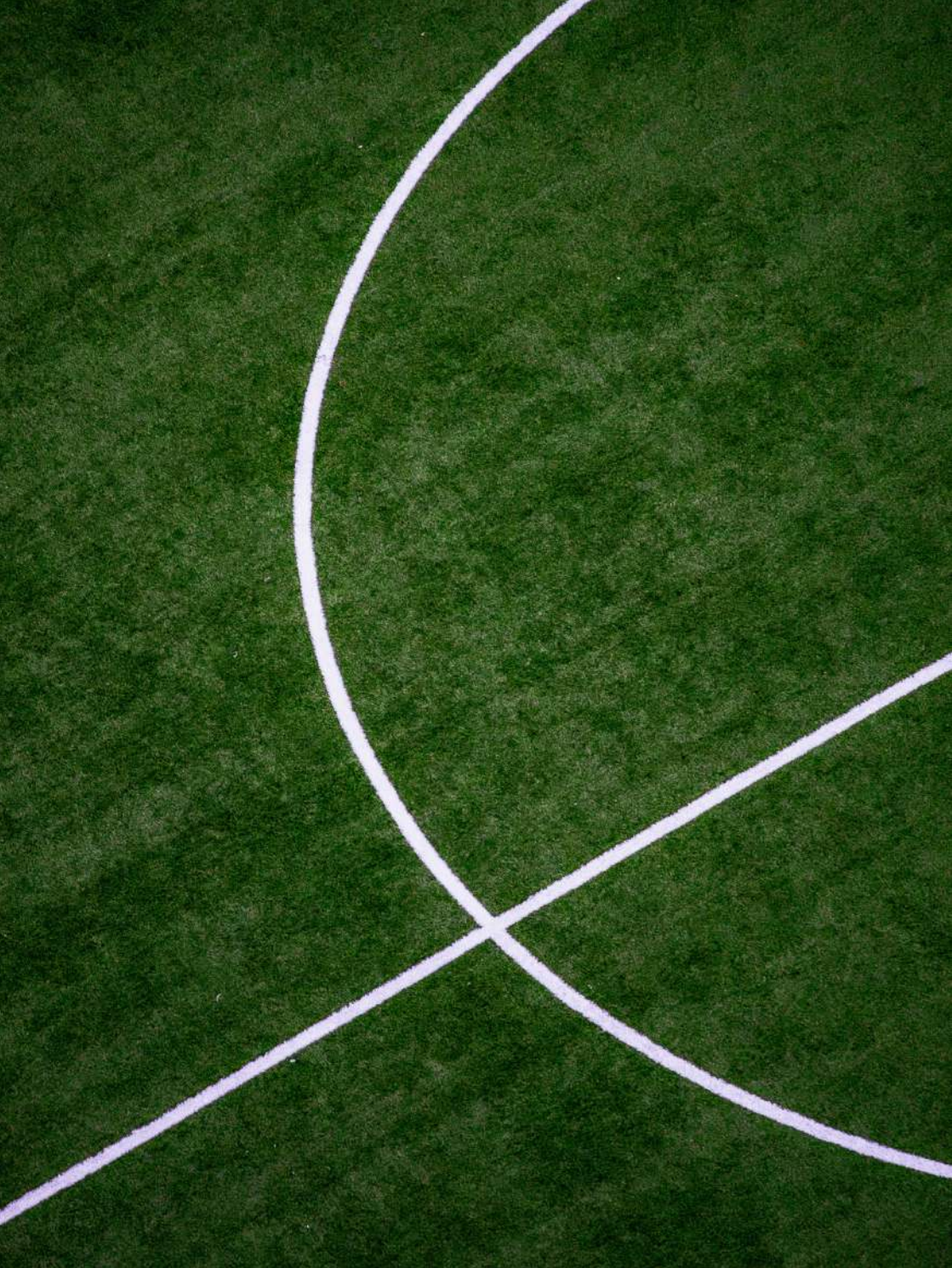
Starlizard's active involvement in betting markets affords deeper insights than other providers. We know what betting markets should look like better than anyone else in the world. This means we also know better than anyone else when betting markets look wrong.

Starlizard as an organisation has been producing independent anti-match-fixing analyses for integrity partners since 2010, using our unique insight to identify betting market discrepancies and suspicious patterns, coupled with on-pitch performance data analyses and detailed research.

Today, Starlizard Integrity Services is proud to be continuing that work through partnerships with a number of sports governing bodies, offering them an invaluable inside-the-market perspective to assist in identifying anomalies before and during games, both on and off the field of play. Our evidence has been used and accepted by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in several match-fixing cases.

SIS has also held ISO 9001 Quality Management certification since 2019.





# Komodo

In March 2023, Starlizard Integrity Services launched Komodo, an award winning and free-to-use online anti-match-fixing alerting and reporting platform for use by sports governing bodies and enforcement agencies globally to help them better combat manipulation in sport.

Komodo is used by governing bodies and law enforcement agencies around the world, kickstarting and supporting investigations, and providing evidence for use in courts and tribunals.

Starlizard Integrity Services offer Komodo to sports organisations and enforcement agencies free-

of charge, with no dependency on any data agreements or other commercial considerations, ensuring the platform is equally accessible to all stakeholders regardless of budgets or constraints.

Komodo won the International Sports Award for 2023 in the Sport Integrity category.



# Our Core Services

## Unique Betting Market Analysis

Our experienced match analysts carefully observe, monitor and report irregularities in betting activity to shine a light on the difference between 'smart-betting' and sports manipulation.

Betting market analysis is complicated. However, our reports are easy to understand and accessible, allowing relevant authorities to confidently use them evidentially in disciplinary and criminal legal proceedings. They are free to governing bodies and law enforcement agencies.

Our real-time prediction modelling systems are tried, tested and world-renowned. We intricately compare the betting market alongside our own predictions and identify all discrepancies – big or small. Simply, we know how the market works, from the inside.

Our football analysis focuses primarily on the Asian betting markets, the largest and most liquid in the world, as well as the Betfair betting exchange. Our reports present an analysis in terms of implied Supremacy and Total/Expected Goals (xG) – it's in-depth, direct and created to offer as evidence if needed. With no cost attached.

## Microscopic Performance Integrity Analysis

Our experts identify statistical anomalies in performance levels, independently from betting market analysis – with results that steer clear of potential bias.

Our performance analysts study video footage of players and match officials, analysing match performances in great detail. We look for statistical anomalies, suspicious errors, attacking events, game changing actions and shot distribution.

Our bespoke systems support our analysts to create an objective review and presentation of statistical findings. We're able to accurately draw comparisons with past performances – and other games – using a vast database of global matches spanning many years.

## Capacity Building, Education & Training

We work with governing bodies, integrity officers, anti-corruption units, law enforcement agencies and academic institutions. The goal is to accelerate awareness of investigative capabilities in anti-match-fixing.

We want to empower investigators and prosecutors to build a successful anti-match-fixing case. We use our combined law enforcement, betting market and sporting performance expertise to show how evidence is collected in a match itself and can be used for further action.

Our experts can deliver training in person or online, with specific requirements in mind.





If you would like further information, please contact us at [\*\*integrity@starlizard.com\*\*](mailto:integrity@starlizard.com)

For all Komodo enquiries, including requests to obtain access, please contact [\*\*komodo@starlizard.com\*\*](mailto:komodo@starlizard.com)



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