

Abstract

Manipulation of Sports Competitions in the Context of International Law

The main goal of this thesis is to examine the manipulation of sports competitions in the context of international law. Albeit the manipulation of sports has a long history, it has seen dramatic growth and globalization over the last twenty years. It is so for several reasons connected mainly with the ever-growing commercialization of sports and the boom in sports betting. In recent years, sports betting has changed the perception of the manipulation of sports competitions as being an internal matter in sports. The massive entry of global betting syndicates and fixers into the field has clearly demonstrated that sports manipulation cannot be effectively tackled on the level of individual countries without international coordination. Such coordination is now made possible thanks to a unique international-law instrument tailored to tackle manipulation of sports competitions – the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.

After introducing the complexity of sports manipulation and its international-law dimension, the thesis examines individual parts of the convention, and its contribution to strengthening sports integrity and international cooperation. At the end, the thesis focuses on describing the extent to which the convention was utilized by the international community. After a promising start, the findings show that the process of international coordination to fight the manipulation of sports competitions has slowed down, despite the rising number of cases of sports manipulation with international character.

By using analytical and descriptive methods, the thesis offers an overview of the international law framework against the manipulation of sports competitions. It is based on the study of legal texts as well as on the research of several supplementary sources, which bring unique perspectives on the issues of sports manipulation, sports betting environment, and international politics, which limit the potential of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.