

Who might be approached to fix a competition, and what form might this approach take?

Risk factors

Some biathletes are at higher risk of getting involved in match-fixing. The following risk factors are commonly identified:

- Competition manipulation is more likely in countries with high levels of corruption than in those with lower levels.
- Individual sports and individual athletes are easier to manipulate than entire teams.
- Young athletes, and those experiencing financial problems or other personal difficulties, are especially vulnerable.
- Lower-level athletes are more likely to become involved in match-fixing.
- Referees, coaches and athlete support personnel can be a target for competition manipulation, as well as athletes.

How might a fixer approach a targeted person?

Typical scenarios of how a person might contact you to fix a competition include:

- Directly, with an offer of money, gifts or favours.
- Indirectly through family, friends or team members.

Various tactics can be used to persuade you to accept the offer, often through the course of a period of 'grooming'.

A fixer typically takes the following steps in this process:

1. Approach a target (athlete or related person)

A fixer approaches a targeted person and tries to become closer to him/her.

2. Identify weaknesses

A fixer identifies the vulnerabilities of a person to increase their influence over him/her.

3. Offer gift(s)

Offering a gift creates a feeling of obligation. In the case of refusal to accept the gift, a fixer could become violent or try to blackmail a person.

4. First offer to manipulate

Usually but not necessarily, the first offer to manipulate will be small, for example, fixing a minor aspect of a Biathlon competition that does not directly affect the final result.

5. Further offers to manipulate

If a targeted person agrees to become involved in match-fixing, a fixer can further manipulate him/her because the targeted person is now trapped. It is more difficult to escape from the relationship at this stage. That's why it is important to reject the match-fixing offer from the very beginning.