

A
Bill

to provide for the prevention of match fixing, corruption, illegal manipulation and illegal betting in sports and for the appointment of a Special Investigations Investigating agency for investigation of offences and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.-

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called as the Prevention of Offences in Sports Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

(3) Any person or any person connected to a sport who, directly or indirectly, alone or in conjunction with another or others gets involved in any arrangement on an irregular alteration of the course or the result of any sport or sporting event for money or any other reward or benefit, including any arrangement where:-

(a) any person or any person connected to a sport.-

- (i) engages in betting, gambling or any other activity involving financial or any other advantage to himself or another person, or causes a financial disadvantage or loss to another person knowing that it would corrupt any sport or sporting event;
- (ii) acts in a manner that ensures the occurrence of any improper performance, act, omission or an outcome, which is the subject of an illegal bet relating to a sport or any sporting event;
- (iii) provides for financial or any other advantage, reward or benefit, any inside information relating to a sport, any sporting event or any person, to any person including a betting operator, other than in connection with bona fide media interviews and commitments;
- (iv) provides or receives any gift, payment, reward or benefit, financial or otherwise, that might reasonably be expected to bring' such person or any sport or sporting event into disrepute; or
- (v) engages in any act or omission that is directly or indirectly related to any of the conduct specified in the preceding

(c) solicits, entices, persuades, induces or instructs any person direct or indirectly to perform or refrain from performing an act, to influence the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any sport or sporting event commits the offence of corruption in sports.

4. Any person or any person connected to a sport who influences improperly, unfairly or dishonestly the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any sport or sporting event commits the offence of illegal manipulation in sports.

5. Any person or any person connected to a sport who possesses information in connection with any sport or sporting event knowing such information to be inside information. or information on illegal, corrupt conduct and.-

- (a) bets on that sport or sporting event;
- (b) encourages another person to bet on that sport or sporting event in a particular way; or
- (c) communicates such information to another person who the first person knows, or ought reasonably to

know, would or would be likely to bet on that sport or sporting event, commits the offence of illegal betting in sports.

6. Any person who.-

- (a) aids, abets, attempts or conspires in the commission of any offence specified in aforesaid sections; or
- (b) approaches, induces, influences, encourages, enables or facilitates any person connected to a sport to commit any offence specified in aforesaid sections, commits an offence.

7. Any person who commits an offence specified in aforesaid sections shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees one hundred million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

8. Any person or any person connected to a sport commits an offence under this Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees two hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

9. Any person who.-

- (a) willfully obstructs, hinders or fails to cooperate with the authorities of investigating agencies or any person authorized by the authority concerned in the investigation of any offence under this Act;
- (b) fails, without reasonable cause, to appear before the investigating agency when such person is required to do so by the authority concerned for the purpose of any investigation conducted under this Act;
- (c) refuses or fails without reasonable cause, to answer any question put to him by the investigating agency in relation to any matter under investigation;
- (d) refuses or fails without reasonable cause, to comply with the requirements of a notice issued to such person by the investigating agency under this Act;
- (e) fails to provide any information, report or document when requested to do so by the investigating agency for the purpose of any investigation conducted under this Act;
- (f) provides any information, report or document or makes any statement when required to do so by the investigating agency for the purpose of any investigation conducted under this Act, knowing it to be false, incomplete or misleading; or
- (g) conceals, falsifies, destroys or otherwise disposes of, or causes or permits the concealment, falsification, destruction or disposal of, any information, report, document or material knowing or having reasons to believe that such information, report, document or material is relevant to an investigation conducted under this Act,

10. An offence under this Act and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees two hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

11. Any person who makes any false allegation in any information disclosed by such person, knowing the content of such allegation to be false or having reasons to believe that such allegation is not true, commits an offence under this Act and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees one hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

12. For the purposes of this Part.-

- (a) "information on corrupt conduct" means information relating to conduct or proposed conduct that corrupts an outcome of any sport or sporting event;
- (b) "inside information" means information which is not generally available and which, if it were generally available, would or would be likely to influence any person who commonly bets on any sport or sporting event in deciding whether or not to bet on such sport or sporting event or making any other betting decision; and
- (c) "aiding", "abetting", "attempting" and "conspiring" shall have the same meaning as in the Pakistan Penal Code.

13. (1) Except as otherwise provided for by this Act, all offences under this Act, shall be investigated, tried or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act.

(2) All investigations carried out by the Investigating Agency under this Act shall be discreet except where the circumstances require otherwise.

14. An offence under this Act shall be a cognizable and non-bailable offence within the meaning, and for the purposes, of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act.

15. The federal government shall establish by Order published in the Gazette, an independent, impartial Investigating Agency.

16. (1) The Investigating agency shall.-

- (a) upon receipt or knowledge of any information, if it is satisfied that such information is credible and that such information discloses material upon which an investigation ought to be conducted; or
- (b) if the Investigating Agency is satisfied that there is *prima facie* evidence of the commission of an offence under this Act, conduct investigations as may be necessary for the purpose of institution of criminal proceedings in respect of any offence under this Act.

(2) Upon completion of an investigation under subsection (1), the Investigating agency shall,-

- (a) prepare a report containing the findings of such investigation; and

(b) where the Investigating agency finds that it has reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence under this Act has been committed, refer such report along with any other documents available with the Investigating agency in relation to such alleged offence, to the Attorney General for consideration and prosecution; or