

Sportradar Integrity Services

University of Liverpool Study into the FDS: A Summary



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Context

In 2014, Sportradar's Integrity Services underwent a thorough evaluation of their quality management systems and achieved an ISO 9001 Certification.

Looking to reinforce the credibility of the business and its award-winning Fraud Detection System (FDS), the company approached international experts David Forrest, Professor of Economics at the University of Liverpool and Ian McHale, Professor of Sports Analytics at the University of Salford, and asked them to undertake a full and independent analysis into the FDS, in order to gauge the quality and reliability of its processes and conclusions.

Commencing in January 2015, the study was completed in July 2015 following six months of testing, auditing and interviews performed by Professors Forrest and McHale.

The Study and its findings: A Summary

The 80 page study rigorously reviewed and critically analysed all aspects of the FDS and reached the following conclusions:

- That the betting data input into the first automated stage of the FDS *“was free of error. The sports datasets were gathered from a comprehensive list of sources and were subject to robust checks to ensure accuracy.”*
- The models which drive our algorithms *“conformed to best practice in their construction and performed well when we subjected them to empirical testing.”*
- *“We recommended no change in thresholds.”* – following a review of the selection criteria and thresholds used to define which matches needed further consideration.
- The methodology from which analysts rate matches as likely to have been manipulated: *“only matches where a compelling case could be made were in the end reported as suspicious to the relevant sports organisations”*
- The Summary (at the front of the Study): *“the FDS is likely to identify correctly a significant proportion of manipulated matches... we view the analysts at the FDS as being both thorough and cautious when the final decision is taken on whether to classify a match as suspicious... few false positives will be presented.”*

Conclusion

Sportradar are very happy with the findings of the Study and believe that it should embolden all recipients of the company's FDS Reports to rely on and act on the information and conclusions found within. Further intelligence or corroborating evidence is always helpful and is likely to strengthen the conviction and commitment of any investigative body or public prosecutor.

Ultimately, this Study is a game-changer. It underlines the robustness of the process and findings that are the backbone of the Integrity Services. It feels apt to end with the Study's own last sentence: *"Our overall conclusion from the study is that matches reported as suspicious by the FDS are very likely to have indeed been manipulated"*.

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