



# Sporting Integrity?

## Sport Constantly under the Spotlight

**It seems as though it has been another tough week for sport in the news headlines again.**

Whilst Westminster and Ministers are on their recess the direct policy news is a little lighter, but as you will have seen from our twitter output this week there is still plenty happening in the world of sport which has impact on our longer term thinking.

### STREETGAMES

Our partner Streetgames launched their report “Insight into Action—The Lessons from the Door-step sports club programme 2013-17”. There will be no surprises from the findings of their Insight. The target audience for DSCs is the disadvantaged 14-25 year old and not a member of any other sporting club. Just 14% visit leisure centres. This target group (amongst other disadvantaged groups) has been something I have become agitated about in sport. We talk of sport changing lives yet time



and time again our reports show the lowest socio economic groups are being excluded from much of our provision—because we design things we want to deliver to them. This report confirms what most of us should know. They want to design provision around their lives. Sport can’t keep claiming great social benefits until it is delivering to this and other groups in society and eventually our Olympic team is made up from people who have come through a DSC. We will be following a series of these debates at the Think Tank over the year.

### DOPING

Sadly the World Athletics Championships has been slightly overshadowed by a number of issues—probably non more than the ongoing battle in the #IAAF to eradicate doping from the sport. Up until this week Ussain Bolt had been antidote to the tarnished image of the sport in recent years. His defeat



# UK Sports Integrity Index 2017

MEASURING THE  
PERCEIVED LEVEL  
OF INTEGRITY OF THE  
TOP 12 PROFESSIONAL  
SPORTS IN THE UK

Portland

**“We need your input on these key issues.. We can’t afford to leave current sports administration to resolve the conflicts”**

to Justin Gatlin reignited the debate. If you follow us on twitter you will have seen several stands to this case. Many feel Gatlin should have been banned for life and the ‘booing’ in the stadium was only natural. Others feel the Gatlin case is far more nuanced and he has become a scapegoat for the sport. Again we will follow this up on our Blogs as we dive into the policy implications—as we are sure when Westminster returns this will feature in reports and hearings at DCMS Select Committee. If you have strong feelings why not submit a Blog to us?

## INTEGRITY REPORT

With almost perfect timing [Portland Group launched](#) their “UK Sports integrity Index” this week. Although the grand sounding title was a little misleading. The index is merely an opinion poll. But it is always useful to know where public perception sits for sport as this is key to its future. We linked to a good response from Leigh Thompson from the Sport & Recreation Alliance. As we identified this as a key issue for Sport in the future it is something we can’t afford to ignore. It will form one of our roundtables this year—so watch out on the website for more details.

## COMMONWEALTH BID CITY

We had a little fun with our twitter poll this week. Totally an unscientific bit of fun and not a proper poll, but interesting to see that Liverpool was the firm favourite amongst our followers to be Candidate City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Interestingly Birmingham was only just ahead of “we shouldn’t be bidding.” We wonder if the ‘legacy’ from 2012 has been a little fatigue at the claims of these major sporting events make. We have started covering a few more blogs on major events. There has been widespread support inside government and UK sport for bidding. The criteria is much better understood these days by economists and administrators but there still seems to be a need to **over-claim** the potential benefits. Again once the City to represent England has been chosen we will look into

Into this issue in a new report before Christmas.

## **E-Sports in Olympics**

It seems as though the IOC is once again going to have to look at integrating e-sports into the [Olympic Programme if Paris plans to include something in 2024](#).

There is no other single topic that creates such a strong reaction as E-sports role in competing or being included as a sport. Likewise at the Think Tank we have conflicting internal discussion on the need to embrace what is happening within E-sports for young people —whilst equally arguing the growth of e-sport does nothing to arrest the decline of physical activity. How does an Olympic games cope with these contradictions. The article by Tauriq Moosa in the Guardian this week beautifully captured the competing demands and contradictions in the Games. E-sports not welcome yet prone rifle shooting is seen as a physical sport?

We feel this is an issue that isn't going away any-time soon, and will spend some time focussing on how policy makers deal with this. We know E-sport will only grow in influence but does this mean that it can ever be acceptable as a sport or physical activity that helps us meet the WHO physical activity guidelines? We are looking again for contributors who would like to argue the case on our new website in the Autumn.

## **Athletics the failure of 4th places?**

Finally, the long list of 4th Places for UK athletes in the World Championships has re-ignited the debate about UK Sports 'No Compromise' policy on our twitter feed this week. As we go to press we only have the one Mo Farrah Gold medal on the medals table (a few more are expected at the end of Day 9).

Whilst Parliament is in recess until September there is still plenty happening so follow us on twitter or sign up to our email newsletters. With the new website developing and ready for the new Parliamentary Season we will be covering more issues with your help! Stay in Touch

