

Football Specialist Services



KCS

Strategic Intelligence & Corporate Security

Overview

KCS is proud to offer a set of specialised services for clients in the sports arena (with a particular focus on football). Having worked for football clubs across the Premier League and Championship, KCS is well-placed to assist the 'business side' with the variety of problems and issues faced to mitigate any risks and protect reputations.

Wider problems in the football world

It has long been known that professional football can be used as a tool for wider financial and organised crime. For instance in 2016 Europol exposed a Portuguese lower-

tier club which had been taken over by a Russian gang and which was then used to systematically launder money through player valuations, TV rights and betting. This model has been suspected elsewhere, most notably in Italy – but again, the size of the English game renders it a prime target. Should a club have suspicions that criminal practices (of any kind) are occurring then these need to be investigated with expertise and discretion.

Specific Services

These can include but are not limited to:

- Discreet due diligence on potential buyers/ investors in clubs
- Intelligence support in matters of dispute resolution/litigation with agents and the wider football network
- Exposure of potential criminal activity occurring within clubs from match-fixing to money-laundering
- Monitoring of threats to clubs through the cyber arena and the dark web
- Monitoring of individual players and key personnel and their social media platforms

How can we support you?

The buying and selling of clubs

As with any institution, when buying or selling a club there is a need for intense due diligence into all parties and matters to ensure that the buyer is of the reputable character, financial holdings and genuine nature that is claimed. Not only to ensure that they are likely to pass the 'fit and proper persons' test, but also to assess whether the source of their wealth may be questionable (with longer-term implications).

Through extensive yet discreet due diligence and investigation, KCS is able to 'dig deep' into the backgrounds and affairs of relevant individuals/companies and provide clarity whether these pose a reputational or financial risk to the Client, and detail 'hidden' interests about which the Client may never have been meant to find out. This is equally true whether a club is looking to sell on to an entirely new owner, or itself buy up 'franchise firms' worldwide.

Contracts, players and agents

In such a big-money market there will always be those who seek to game the system and make money illicitly or unethically. We may be considering here alleged 'tapping up' (or worse) of players by rival clubs, 'bungs' between agents to bypass Financial Fair Play rules, false claims offered by club staff in order to obtain payments/bonuses – any situation where the reputation or financial standing of a club could be in jeopardy or where it fears the actions of others bring the game into disrepute. KCS can assist in proving and exposing such offences and enable restitution.

A new security framework

With English football clubs being the richest such grouping in the world, they are highly likely to be targeted by fraudsters and organised criminal gangs. There is a need for constant monitoring of clubs' potential exposure to criminal elements (eg discussions on the Dark Web, or analysis of phishing attempts) in order to understand where the threats are and how they can be mitigated. This is equally true of internal affairs: degree and depth of employees' usage of social media or naivety over the latest cyber-criminal techniques, for instance, can reveal oft-unknown threat pathways.



Contact us

To find out more or to arrange a meeting to discuss your business needs, please contact us:

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