Do you want to bet?
The prevalence of problem gambling amongst athletes in the UK

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Introduction

It is estimated that there are 450000 problem gamblers in Great Britain (British Gambling Prevalence Survey, 2011)

College students have been identified as being at risk

Student athletes are more likely to be problem gamblers than student non-athletes (Engwold, Hunter ,& Steinberg, 2004)

Problem gambling in students is associated with a range of negative outcomes (Winters et al., 1998)

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Corruption

There have been many high profile cases of corruption in sport:
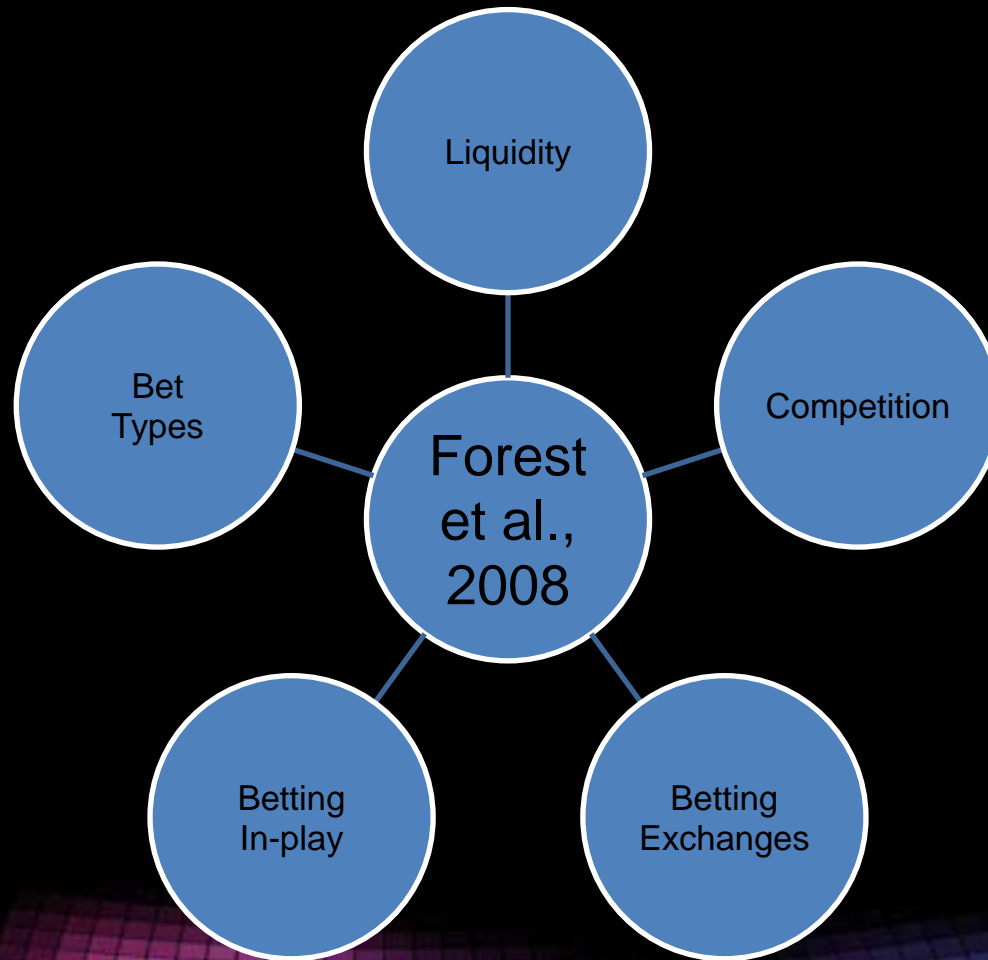
   Horse race fixing allegations

   Pakistan cricket

   John Higgins frame fixing

Chief Executive of Ladbrokes claimed that 1 horse race per day was being fixed (Griffiths, 2005)

MIKE ATHERTON ON SKY: There's been a couple of biggish no-balls actually

2 NO-BALL, THURSDAY
THE FIXER'S PLEDGE 2

"OK. Then the last ball, sixth ball, of the 10th over. Asif will be bowling it"

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Increased Risk

Method

Participants: 1049 athletes

- Males 53.9%; Females 46.1%

Instruments – Problem Gambling Severity Index (Ferris & Wynne, 2001) and questions on corruption

Procedures – Data collected at 5 Universities across England

Data analysis – descriptive statistics and chi square

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Participation in Gambling

	Sport		Non-sport	
Frequency	Males	Females	Males	Females
Daily	7.3	0.6	5.1	0.6
Weekly	19.3	1.7	12.4	5.6
Monthly	15.9	2.8	15.4	10.2
Once or twice	18.8	16.5	22.9	16.7
Never	38.7	78.4	44.2	66.9

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Participation compared

	Sporting events	
Frequency	Males	Females
UK athletes	61.3	21.6
US athletes	35	10
British Population	16	2

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Synonymous

Problem Gambling

	Males	Females
No problem	62.1	92.8
Low level	15.0	4.6
Moderate level	13.7	1.5
Problem gambling		
UK athletes	9.2	1.1
US athletes	4.3	0.4
UK population	1.1	0.2

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Possible risk factors

Male

Less self-disciplined

More open to new experiences

More emotionally unstable
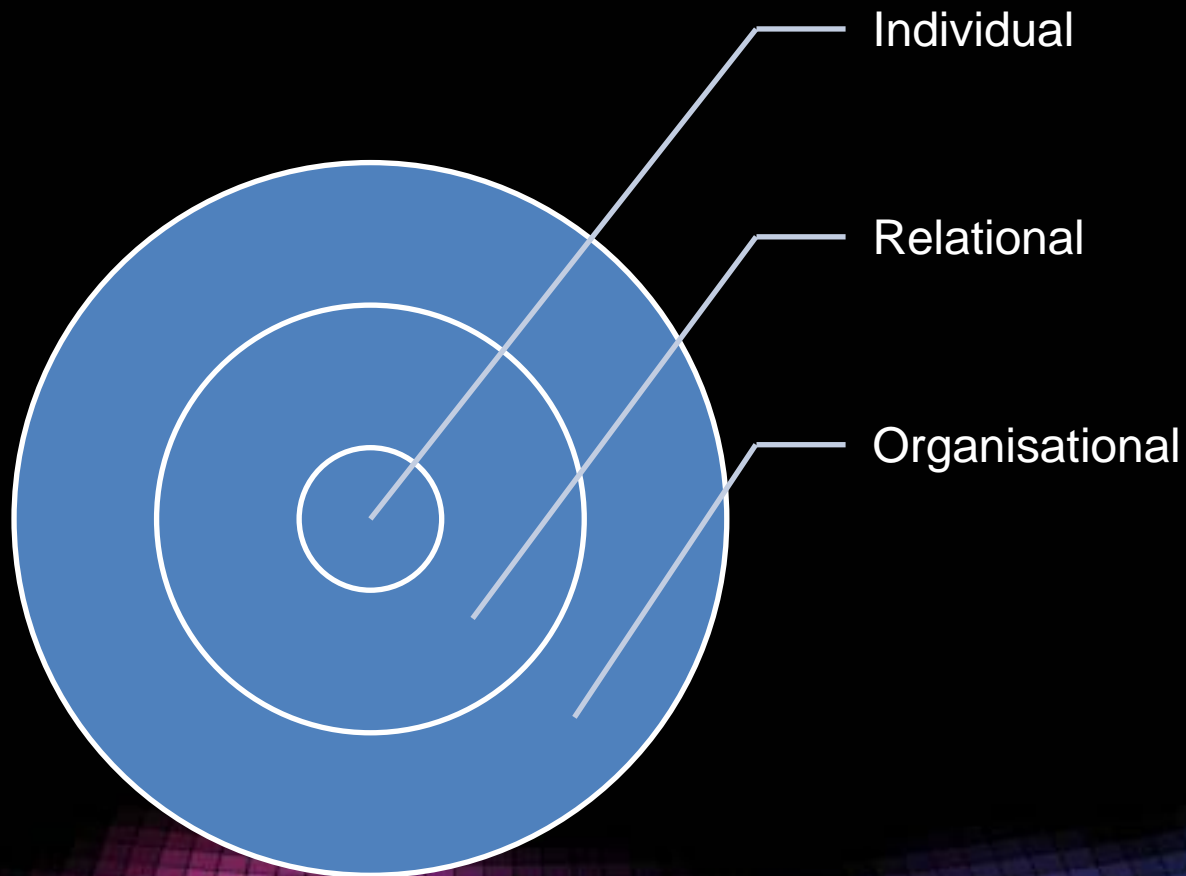
More disposable income

80% of Pgs from team sports

Corruption compared

Behaviour	UK Males	UK Females	US Males	US Females
Taken money to underperform	2.3	0	0.7	0.1
Asked to provide inside information	4.1	1.1	1.1	0.6
Providing inside information	5.1	0.7	0.5	0.2
Asked to effect the outcome	3.9	0.9	2.3	0.1
Effected the outcome	5.8	1.1	1.4	0.1
Bet on own event	4.3	0.7	2.5	0.1

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Solutions

Individual

Relational

Organisational

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Conclusion

Problem gambling and corruption appear to be key issues within this athletic population

More research is required to explore the antecedents, maintenance and consequences of such behaviour

There is a need to develop, implement and evaluate interventions designed to address this issue

It is likely that sport psychologists will work with athletes who exhibit problem gambling or are involved in corruption

Psychologists therefore need to understand the signs that may indicate such behaviour and be able to make referrals

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Any Questions?
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