# Betting irregularities cast shadow over women's cricket amid record wagers



Betting irregularities in women’s cricket have raised significant concerns, as officials monitor suspicious activities surrounding high-stakes wagers on matches in England. Bets totalling hundreds of thousands of pounds have been placed, prompting investigations into potentially corrupt practices. While no players are currently implicated in any wrongdoing, the situation echoes past crises in men's cricket, where match-fixing scandals have marred the sport's integrity.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has ramped up its focus on safeguarding the women's game, especially in light of recent historical scandals. With the women's professional circuit growing—fueled by substantial investments in the sport—offering more and more players lucrative contracts and opportunities, maintaining a clean image has become paramount. The ECB's proactive measures involve reaching out to players at grassroots levels, encouraging them to report any suspicious approaches, indicative of a broader commitment to transparency and vigilance.

Recent events have only intensified these efforts. In February, the International Cricket Council (ICC) imposed a five-year ban on Bangladeshi cricketer Shohely Akhter, marking a notable first in the women’s game. Akhter was found guilty of attempting to fix matches during the 2023 Women’s T20 World Cup in South Africa. Reports indicated that she attempted to persuade a teammate to commit what’s known as "hit wicket," a gambit that would have directly altered match outcomes in exchange for substantial bribes. The scandal not only highlights the risks involved in a burgeoning women's sport but also serves as a cautionary tale about the potential vulnerabilities it faces.

While Shohely Akhter's case is particularly alarming, it is vital to note that there are ongoing initiatives within cricket's governing bodies aimed at combating corruption. Anti-corruption officers have begun to investigate irregular betting patterns, such as disproportionate wagers on matches—with one recent example seeing over £296,000 placed on a single quarter-final match in the Vitality T20 Women’s County Cup. Comparatively, only £8,535 was bet on all men’s county fixtures on the same day, indicating a stark and concerning disparity.

The ECB is particularly conscious of maintaining the integrity of the women's game in the wake of these challenges, not least as it continues to draw in larger audiences and commendable sponsorships. This increased attention creates a delicate tension where the need for transparency must be balanced with the capabilities of a still-developing sport. Indeed, at a time when more people are tuning in to watch women’s cricket—evidenced by over 77,000 viewers for a single match—it is essential that officials continue fostering an environment of trust and integrity.

As the women's game evolves and attracts more significant financial stakes and viewership, the survival and the reputation of cricket could very well hinge upon how effectively it can weather the pitfalls of corruption, always ensuring that the thrill of the game remains unmarred by scandal. The spotlight on women's cricket thus remains not only a moment of recognition but also a pivotal challenge in safeguarding its future.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061149/Cricket-women-s-cricket-corruption-betting)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061149/Cricket-women-s-cricket-corruption-betting), [[2]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/shohely-akhter-becomes-first-woman-cricketer-to-be-banned-for-corruption-charges/articleshow/118152717.cms), [[4]](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/bangladesh-spinner-banned-for-five-years-for-match-fixing-approach-to-teammate-in-australia-match-101739510104130.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.thedailystar.net/sports/cricket/news/bangladesh-cricketer-shohaly-banned-five-years-under-icc-anti-corruption-code-3821766), [[7]](https://cricket.one/cricket-news/two-of-bangladesh-cricketers-get-caught-in-spot-fixing-scandal/63eca0c989b090d43fa0f8dc)

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7. <https://cricket.one/cricket-news/two-of-bangladesh-cricketers-get-caught-in-spot-fixing-scandal/63eca0c989b090d43fa0f8dc> - Another Bangladesh international cricketer has got their name caught up in the spot-fixing. Apparently, Bangladesh women's all-rounder Lata Mondal got an offer from her teammate Shohely Akhter Khatun for spot fixing. As per a Bangladesh news channel Jamuna TV, Mondal - who didn't play the game against Australia at Port Elizabeth, was connected by Akhter Khatun. The all-rounder didn't accept the offer and reported to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s Anti Corruption Unit. ([cricket.one](https://cricket.one/cricket-news/two-of-bangladesh-cricketers-get-caught-in-spot-fixing-scandal/63eca0c989b090d43fa0f8dc?utm_source=openai))