

Chinese Footballer Jailed in Singapore Match-fixing Scandal

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Zhao Zhipeng, a 26-year-old centre forward for Chinese football team Liaoning Guangyuan has been sentenced to seven months in jail in Singapore after being found guilty on match fixing charges. He reportedly received S\$2,000 per game for helping the team lose by a specified score. Six other Chinese players are also charged with attempting to fix matches in Singapore's S-League, which permits some foreign teams to participate with local clubs. The sentence is the harshest awarded to a foreign footballer in Singapore.

The match-fixing scandal in Singapore centres not just on the seven charged players, but also on the team's general manager, Wang Xin, who was the alleged mastermind, and is charged with bribing players to lose matches by pre-determined scorelines in order to bank winnings from a betting syndicate. The forty year-old general manager has, however, skipped bail and is believed to have returned to China. He failed to turn up at a Singapore court to face charges on 16 January.

Six other Liaoning players face charges of accepting bribes (totalling S\$27,950) to deliberately lose six S-League matches last year, when the Chinese club finished 10th in the 12-team league.