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SCRUM BAGS



In rugby, a scrum is the name given to the tightly packed group of players who, with their heads down and bodies entangled, are trying to get the ball at the restart of play. Scrums are a bit rough and tumble, but also planned and methodical. Sorta like crypto regs.

This week, the crypto regulatory scrum was back in North America, specifically Canada. In Canada, there is no federal regulatory body for securities, so regulation is left to each province. Of all the Canadian provinces, Ontario has the most often-wielded hammer.

Last spring, regulators in Ontario notified the centralized crypto exchanges, KuCoin and Bybit, that they could be in violation of securities regulations for failing to register as crypto asset trading platforms. The Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) asked these exchanges to get a license.

According to the OSC, Bybit worked with regulators and for its efforts, was fined \$2.5 million and is forbidden from opening new accounts for residents, releasing new products, or engaging in

marketing.

And KuCoin? KuCoin got the ban hammer for failing to comply. According to the OSC, it never "maintained an open dialogue, provided requested information, and committed to engaging in registration discussions." It was also fined about \$1.5 million.

According to the Director of Enforcement at the OSC, Jeff Kehoe, "Foreign crypto-asset trading platforms that want to operate in Ontario must play by the rules or face enforcement action. The outcomes announced today should serve as a clear indication that we refuse to tolerate non-compliance with Ontario securities law."

Ontario doesn't mess around, having previously banned Binance from operating in the province And of course no one can forget the Canadian Trucker Incidents earlier this year. If this old-guard-protecting regulatory scrum gets any tighter, there will be no ball to get across the goal line. Game over. North America loses.

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