

# Is sponichi.co.jp legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 90/100

sponichi.co.jp

## Verdict

90

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

sponichi.co.jp appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-17 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 75%.

What this site appears to be

Front page of Sponichi Annex — Japanese sports and entertainment news portal with headlines, article listings, subscription promotion, and sections for sports, entertainment, society, and gambling.

## Evidence status and limitations

Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN

- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
- Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

## At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

|                           |                                                                                        |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Malware engines           | <div>None flagged it</div> <div>VirusTotal</div>                                       | <div>CLEAR</div> |
| Google Safe Browsing      | <div>Not listed</div> <div>Google</div>                                                | <div>CLEAR</div> |
| Abuse reports on the host | <div>0 reports</div> <div>AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count</div>          | <div>NOTED</div> |
| Domain age                | <div>28 years old</div> <div>Registered history</div>                                  | <div>CLEAR</div> |
| Web archive               | <div>Archived since 1999</div> <div>5000 snapshots</div>                               | <div>CLEAR</div> |
| Certificate               | <div>Encrypted connection</div> <div>Issued by Cybertrust Japan SureServer CA G4</div> | <div>NOTED</div> |

The page as captured

https://www.sponichi.co.jp/



What sponichi.co.jp served when TrustSniffer captured it on 2026-08-17. The page may look different now.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 1999.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

Sponichi Annex is an established Japanese sports and entertainment news portal presenting continuously updated headlines, article listings, sports, society, gambling-related coverage, subscription and membership options, and related merchandise or special-issue sales. Its apparent business model is commercial publishing funded by advertising, subscriptions, memberships, and merchandise rather than user investment activity.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No contradictions were observed: the available evidence shows no phishing, impersonation, malicious-content, or confirmed threat-list indicators. The homepage presents a coherent editorial publication with Japanese sports and entertainment coverage, ordinary account and membership navigation, and no sensitive form, wallet connection, or credential-capture behavior. Automated interaction produced elevated external-request and page-change telemetry, but the interpreted results did not identify cloaking, hidden forms, suspicious inline scripts, or wallet-related activity; these observations are therefore treated as behavioral noise or normal page operation rather than evidence of deception. Independent operator identity remains unverified, so the legitimacy conclusion is evidence-consistent rather than proof of the real-world entity behind the site.

#### EVIDENCE

- Domain registration: 1998-10-09; 27.87 years old.
- Web-archive coverage: 5,000 snapshots from 1999-01-17 through 2021-06-13, spanning 23 years.
- Homepage capture: “Sponichi Sponichi Annex” displays extensive Japanese news content, with no detected phishing indicators, hidden forms, or brand-impersonation signal.
- External reputation checks: 0 malicious detections, 0 suspicious detections, and no confirmed threat-list or phishing hit.

#### Regulatory Verification Notes

The site presents as an informational news publisher, not a financial or investment service, and the stated revenue model is advertising, paid subscriptions or memberships, and sales of special issues or merchandise. No financial license claim or license number is established in the available page evidence; this is a transparency and verification point rather than an indication of scam activity. The available evidence also does not independently connect the website to a verified real-world operator, while the long operating history, sustained archival continuity, substantive editorial content, and clean reputation are consistent with an established publication. A third-party broker-data comparison produced no match and should be understood only as contextual reputational information, not as a licensing determination.

#### EVIDENCE

- Homepage: categorized as News / Media, with sports, entertainment, society, golf, baseball, and horse-racing coverage.
- Homepage business-model assessment: commercial publishing funded by advertising, subscriptions or memberships, and special-issue or merchandise sales; risk type informational.
- Hosting sensor: served from AS54113 (FASTLY - Fastly, Inc., US).
- TLS certificate: Cybertrust Japan SureServer CA G4, OV validation, valid to 2026-10-16T14:59:00+00:00.

#### What to Verify Next

Before credential or payment interactions, an organization should independently confirm the publisher’s legal identity through an authoritative corporate or business registry and reconcile that identity with the site’s subscription and merchandise terms. For any paid service, the terms, cancellation and refund provisions, and payment-protection arrangements should be reviewed directly on the relevant transaction pages. Official support and contact channels should be confirmed through an independent route before sensitive account issues are discussed.

#### EVIDENCE

- Homepage: provides “会員登録” and “ログイン” navigation, but the captured page contains no sensitive submission form.
- Homepage: promotes subscriptions or memberships and includes a “ショップ” section, creating distinct account and payment-use cases requiring ordinary commercial checks.

## Summary Verdict

Available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate website with a high-trust, low-risk posture and no observed scam or impersonation contradictions. The site's apparent legitimacy is strong at the website and content level, but the real-world operator identity is not independently verified.

## Infrastructure Integrity

Infrastructure resolution identified AS4694 operated by IDCF - IDC Frontier Inc. in Japan, with one resolved address assessed as a likely origin and no detected CDN or WAF layer. Separately, the transport sensor recorded Fastly infrastructure; these hosting characteristics provide technical context but do not independently establish legitimacy.

Correction: the hosting record for this site names FASTLY, a content delivery network that TrustSniffer now recognises. The statement above that no CDN edge was detected was written before that recognition and does not reflect it. A new analysis restates it from the corrected infrastructure check.

## Closing Assessment

Normal browsing is proportionate to the assessed posture; before submitting credentials or making payments, ordinary independent checks of merchant identity, transaction terms, cancellation or return conditions, and payment protections should be completed.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-17 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

## What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

## Identity verification

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Status                           | UNVERIFIED |
| Identity score                   | 30/100     |
| Identity verification confidence | 50%        |

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

## What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of sponichi.co.jp.

- The request stayed on sponichi.co.jp. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by d-53.jp, across 3 name servers. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 1999-01-17. CLEAR
- It is hosted on FASTLY, from a server in US. NOTED

## Domain intelligence

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Registrar | Not available |
|-----------|---------------|

|                    |                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hosting            | FASTLY - Fastly, Inc., US                                                                               |
| Country            | US                                                                                                      |
| Server IP          | 2a04:4e42:6b::737                                                                                       |
| Name servers       | ns002-covai2rcqtslcsj2.c.d-53.jp, ns002-covai2rcqtslcsj2.c.d-53.net, ns002-covai2rcqtslcsj2.c.d-53.info |
| SSL issuer         | Cybertrust Japan SureServer CA G4                                                                       |
| SSL expiry         | 2026-10-16                                                                                              |
| Domain age         | 27.87 years (continuous registration)                                                                   |
| Domain expiry      | Not available                                                                                           |
| Archive first seen | 1999-01-17                                                                                              |
| Archive snapshots  | 5000                                                                                                    |
| Reputation         | VirusTotal: 0 flagged   AbuseIPDB: 0 reports   Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches                          |

## About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about sponichi.co.jp at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

**This report online:** <https://trustsniffer.com/report/sponichi.co.jp> · assessed 2026-08-17