



**TENNIS
INTEGRITY
UNIT**

MEDIA INFORMATION

An introduction to the Tennis Integrity Unit

The establishment of a permanent Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) for world tennis was the major recommendation to come out of the May 2008 independent review of the betting-related corruption challenges that faced the game (*Environmental Review of Integrity in Professional Tennis*, Ben Gunn and Jeff Rees).

The comprehensive review concluded that while corruption had not taken a serious hold on the sport, the threat to the game's reputation posed by the huge and ever-increasing sums of money bet on it demanded that swift action be taken to protect the integrity of the game for all stakeholders, from players, support staff and officials through to commercial partners and fans around the world.

In September 2008 the TIU came into being as a joint initiative of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the ATP, the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour and the Grand Slam Committee.

Under the leadership of Director of Integrity Jeff Rees QPM, a former senior detective at London's Scotland Yard and chief investigator for world cricket's anti-corruption operation, the Unit has a global brief to protect the game from all forms of betting-related corrupt practice.

Operationally independent and working globally from ITF headquarters in London, this remit covers the investigation of suspicious betting patterns and allegations of corrupt practice for all professional tennis; enforcement of the stringent rules contained in the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program and player education initiatives to ensure all participants in the professional game are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to potential corruption issues.

Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program

One of the first measures introduced by the game's governing bodies after setting up the TIU was the implementation of a Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, which came into effect on 1 January 2009.

The purpose of the Program is to maintain the integrity of tennis; protect against any efforts to impact improperly the results or progress of any match and establish a uniform rule and consistent scheme of enforcement and sanctions applicable to all professional tennis events and to all governing bodies.

The provisions of the Program are set out in the 2010 WTA, ATP, ITF and Grand Slam Codes of Conduct.

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In practice, the Program means that if players have any involvement with tennis betting and match fixing, they run the risk of their careers being ended. The same penalties can also apply if they attempt to benefit from providing inside information which they know or suspect is being used for betting purposes.

Although the Program is a sport specific anti-corruption code enforced by the game's governing bodies, all parties must also be aware that in some countries attempting to profit from cheating at gambling is a criminal act, for which offenders may face prosecution and potential custodial sentencing.

Operational activities

In seeking to protect the integrity of world tennis the TIU performs a number of major functions. These include:

- identifying would-be corruptors targeting players, coaches, officials or other parties with potential influence
- initiating anti-corruption investigations based on field work, intelligence reports and confidential information
- monitoring and responding to unusual or suspicious betting patterns; the Unit works closely with reputable betting organisations to access, investigate and verify data
- development and implementation of anti-corruption education programs and presentations to players
- protecting innocent players from unfounded and malicious claims and allegations of corrupt practice

Investigative powers of the Tennis Integrity Unit

The TIU is a sporting entity which has been given a powerful range of investigative authorities by the game's governing bodies. These have been assigned to enable the Unit to act effectively and with the necessary authority to carry out meaningful investigations. They include:

- powers to require interviews with all persons covered by the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program
- access to telephone records, including billing, text and SMS messages
- access to banking and financial statements
- access to internet service records
- access to computer, hard drive and other forms of electronic information storage

Disciplinary sanctions

Sanctions for proven breaches of the Uniform Anti-Corruption Program are delivered by nominated Anti-Corruption Hearing Officers appointed by the game's governing bodies. Depending on the seriousness of the breach, player sanctions can include:

- US\$250,000 fine plus an amount equal to the value of any winnings or other amounts received in connection with the offense
- a lifetime ban from participating in any event organised or sanctioned by any tennis governing body

Decisions handed down at disciplinary hearings can be subject to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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