



# TENNIS INTEGRITY UNIT

## Annual Review • 2016



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The issue of betting-related corruption in tennis made 2016 a difficult year for the integrity of our sport. The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) was the subject of serious media allegations during the Australian Open in January, that questioned its conduct, effectiveness and resourcing.

During the year, information received from partners in the betting industry confirmed an increasing number of matches at the lower levels of the professional game that were the subject of unusual or suspicious betting patterns. While this was not conclusive proof of corruption, it is an indication of concern that in all cases has to be investigated by the TIU.

It is of course extremely regrettable that corruption exists in tennis and while the vast majority of players and officials are beyond reproach, those that choose to abuse the sport should be under no doubt that they will be subject to rigorous investigation, and where proven to have broken the rules, prosecuted under the powers of the Tennis Anti-

The governing bodies of tennis strenuously refuted the media allegations made during the Australian Open, and continue to do so. But to allow them to be thoroughly tested, tennis commissioned an Independent Review Panel (IRP) with an extensive remit to undertake the most rigorous and thorough review of the sport's integrity.

The Tennis Integrity Board (TIB) looks forward to the IRP's Interim Report in the spring of 2017, and to the Final Report that will follow. We have already committed to accept, implement and fund all of its recommendations.

In the meantime the TIB, on behalf of all governing bodies, continues to provide unanimous and unequivocal support to the TIU. Stringent enforcement of the sport's zero-tolerance approach to betting-related corruption remains our highest priority.

**PHILIP BROOK**  
Tennis Integrity Board Chairman 2016

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## THE TIU IN 2016

### JANUARY

The governing bodies of tennis related media allegations made during the Australian Open against the conduct and resourcing of the TIU. An Independent Review Panel was commissioned to test the claims and carry out the most rigorous review of the sport's integrity.

### FEBRUARY

The TIU gave evidence to the UK Government's Culture, Media and Sport Committee - tennis match fixing investigation, in London. Unranked Thai tennis player Jitaporn Nalamporn was suspended for 18 months and fined US\$5,000 after being found guilty of betting on tennis matches. He was also convicted of failing to co-operate with a TIU investigation.

### MARCH

The TIU published quarterly figures for Match Alert data received through Memorandums of Understanding with the betting industry. From January to March 2016, 45 alerts were received, assessed and followed up.

### APRIL

The TIU's operational resource and capability was expanded with the recruitment of experienced Data Analyst Nadia Tuominen who joined the Intelligence and Information team.

Former Australian player Nick Lindahl was found guilty of betting on tennis.

### MAY

Former UK law enforcement officer Simon Cowell joined the TIU as an Investigator.

### JUNE

73 match alerts were received and actioned by the TIU for the second quarter of the year, April to June 2016. During this period, 10,153 professional matches were played, with the alerts featuring on 0.24% of those matches.

### JULY

Bulgarian player Danail Tarpyov was suspended for three months and fined €5,000 for a betting-related offence. Both sanction and fine were suspended for two years on condition that no further offences are committed.

The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) responded to a substantially increased workload in 2016 with significant expansion and development, designed to provide tennis with the level of resource and expertise needed to meet the challenges posed by corruption in the sport.

To fully assess and follow up the information contained in a record number of intelligence reports, together with match alerts from the betting industry, the operational team in London was doubled in size to ten full time employees. As a result, more players and officials were investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned than in any previous year since the TIU was established in 2008. The great majority of cases involved players and officials operating at the lower levels of the sport, at ITF Futures and ATP Challenger level.

The TIU also expanded the number of confidential Memorandums of Understanding agreed with betting operators and regulators,

which contributed directly to the added numbers of match alerts received.

Along with its investigative and preventative roles, the TIU has an important part to play in developing and delivering anti-corruption education to players and officials. Our ability to expand the scope of the current program will be greatly enhanced with the appointment of a Training and Education Manager in early 2017. The role will be supported by a new online training program and smartphone App, both developed in 2016.

In line with this greatly increased activity, which is driven entirely by the operating environment in the sport, the TIU budget for 2017 stands at US\$3.23 million (US\$2.4 million in 2016).

**NIGEL WILLERTON**  
Director, Tennis Integrity Unit

magistrate for match-fixing offences. The TIU worked closely with Australian law enforcement agencies to support the case.

The TIU supported the International Olympic Committee to provide a robust anti-corruption environment for the Olympic Tennis Event in Rio de Janeiro (6-14 August). TIU investigative staff were onsite at the Event.

The Independent Review Panel website ([www.tennisintegrity.com](http://www.tennisintegrity.com)) confirmed publication of an Interim Report in the first quarter of 2017, with a Final Report to follow after a period of consultation.

**AUGUST**

**OCTOBER**

Daniel Garza, Mexico, was suspended for six months and fined US\$5,000 after being found guilty of attempting to influence the outcome of a match at the ITF USA Futures II tournament at Calabasas, California, in March 2015.

Two additional Investigators, Sarah Hamlet and Lackley Harris, joined the TIU. An Education Manager role was created to expand the scope of the player and officials training program.

**NOVEMBER**

CAS dismissed the separate appeals of Piotr Gadomski and Alexandros Jakupovic against sanctions imposed for breaches of the TACP.

**DECEMBER**

75 match alerts were received during the October to December period, bringing the full year total for 2016 to 292. This compares with 246 alerts during 2015.

**SEPTEMBER**

TIU investigations resulted in four tennis officials receiving lifetime bans. Sherzod Hasanov, Arkhip Molotyagin, Serkan Aslan and Mehmet Uker were found guilty by an ITF Disciplinary Panel of multiple corruption charges.

Constant Lestienne, France, was suspended for seven months and fined US\$10,000 for betting on tennis. The suspension was reduced to three months and two weeks and half the fine considered paid for supporting the TIU with anti-corruption education.

South African player Joshua Chetty was banned for life after being found guilty of match-fixing offences.

The TIU received 96 match alerts for the period from July to September.

**TENNIS INTEGRITY UNIT STRUCTURE AND REMIT**

The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) was established by the governing bodies of tennis in 2008 as the independent agency for implementing the sport's zero-tolerance approach to all aspects of betting-related corruption. The TIU takes its investigative powers from the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP), which came into effect in January 2009. This acts as the anti-corruption code for all professional tennis.

Based in London, UK, the TIU has a global remit to investigate and prosecute players, officials and other parties for breaches of the TACP. It is also charged with delivering anti-corruption training and education across the sport, and for implementing measures to help prevent corruption taking place.

TIU investigators have powers to obtain, with agreement, mobile phones, tablets and laptops for analysis and data

downloading. Financial information and other relevant records can also be requested to support investigations. The TIU can open investigations into any Covered Person in any part of the world, at any time.

The TACP sets out a range of offences and punishments, including, at the maximum end of the scale, life bans and fines of up to US\$250,000.

Tennis has an independent judiciary process, where anti-corruption hearings are presided over by highly qualified Anti-Corruption Hearing Officers. They bring extensive legal experience and expertise to the role. Disciplinary decisions reached by Hearing Officers are implemented by the Tennis Integrity Board, on behalf of the sport. These decisions can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

“The TIU has a global remit to investigate and prosecute players, officials and other parties for breaches of the TACP.”

**THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS**



**TENNIS INTEGRITY BOARD MEMBERS**



**PHILIP BROOK**  
Chairman, All England Lawn Tennis Club, on behalf of the Grand Slam Board



**CHRIS KERMODE**  
Executive Chairman and President, ATP



**DAVID HAGGERTY**  
President, ITF



**STEVE SIMON**  
Chief Executive Officer, WTA

The Tennis Integrity Board (TIB) is the policy making executive providing oversight and strategic direction for the TIU. It is responsible for financing the work of the unit through a funding formula based on contributions of 25% each from the WTA and the ATP, and 10% each from the ITF and the four Grand Slams.

In 2016 the Board met on four occasions; at the Australian Open in January, Roland Garros, May, US Open, September, and the ATP World Tour Finals, London, in November. The Chairman of the Board was Phillip Brook, Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. He is succeeded for 2017 by David Haggerty, President of the ITF. The chairmanship rotates between the governing bodies on a 12-monthly, calendar year cycle.

Professional Tennis Integrity Officers (PTIOs) are senior officials representing the governing bodies who provide the TIU with day-to-day access to expert tennis knowledge and insight. This includes reviewing investigative cases from a tennis perspective, prior to referral to an independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer.

**PROFESSIONAL TENNIS INTEGRITY OFFICERS**

**BILL BABCOCK**  
Director, Grand Slam Board

**GAYLE BRADSHAW**  
Executive Vice President, Rules and Competition, ATP

**STUART MILLER**  
Senior Executive Director, Integrity & Development, ITF

**COURTNEY MCBRIDE**  
Senior Counsel, WTA

## SANCTIONED PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

During 2016, nine players and officials were convicted and sanctioned as a result of TIU disciplinary investigations. Five cases involved lifetime bans from the sport.

In addition, two players convicted of offences in 2015 had appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed and the original suspensions upheld in full.

The total of eleven cases prosecuted and defended represent the most prolific year

since the unit was set up in 2008. The previous highest total was six successful prosecutions in 2015.

One of the most significant cases of 2016 was the investigation and prosecution of a network of corrupt officials from Turkey and Uzbekistan for manipulating and selling scoring data to gamblers. This was the first instance of co-ordinated corrupt activity among officials.

<p><b>JATUPORN NALAMPHUN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 22, Thailand</li> <li>● Unranked</li> <li>● Betting on tennis and failing to co-operate with a TIU investigation</li> <li>● 16.02.16 - 18 months suspension: US\$5,000 fine</li> </ul> <p>Admitted to betting on tennis, contested, but convicted of failing to co-operate with a TIU investigation.</p>	<p><b>DANAIL TARPOV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 27, Bulgaria</li> <li>● Career-high 989 singles</li> <li>● Facilitating betting on tennis</li> <li>● 02.07.16 - 3 months suspension: €5,000 fine (both suspended for 2 years)</li> </ul> <p>Opened an online betting account for use by a third party and subsequently allowed his personal bank account to be used for operating it.</p>	<p><b>SHERZOD HASANOV &amp; ARKHIP MOLOTYAGIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Uzbekistan, match officials</li> <li>● Multiple breaches of the ITF Code of Conduct for Officials.</li> <li>● 14.09.16 - Lifetime bans</li> </ul> <p>TIU investigations led to Mr Hasanov and Mr Molotyagin being found guilty by an ITF Disciplinary Panel of charges, laid under the Code of Conduct for Officials. Full details at <a href="http://www.itftennis.com/news/241319.aspx">http://www.itftennis.com/news/241319.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>CONSTANT LESTIENNE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 24, France</li> <li>● Career-high 164 singles</li> <li>● Betting on tennis</li> <li>● 21.09.16 - 7 months suspension: US\$10,000 fine (suspension reduced by half 50% of fine considered paid in return for assistance with anti-corruption education)</li> </ul> <p>Placed bets on 220 tennis matches through online accounts. The TIU investigation was supported by the ARJEL, the French online gambling regulator.</p>
<p><b>JOSHUA CHETTY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 21, South Africa</li> <li>● Career-high 1,370 singles</li> <li>● Match-fixing</li> <li>● 28.09.16 - Lifetime ban</li> </ul> <p>Admitted approaching another player with financial inducements to underperform in a singles and doubles match during the ITF Futures F1 event in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in November 2015.</p>	<p><b>SERKAN ASLAN &amp; MEHMET ULKER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Turkey, match officials</li> <li>● Multiple breaches of the ITF Code of Conduct for Officials.</li> <li>● 30.09.16 - Lifetime bans</li> </ul> <p>TIU investigations led to Mr Aslan and Mr Ulker being found guilty by an ITF Disciplinary Panel of charges laid under the Code of Conduct for Officials. Full details at <a href="http://www.itftennis.com/news/241318.aspx">http://www.itftennis.com/news/241318.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>DANIEL GARZA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 31, Mexico</li> <li>● Career-high 294 singles</li> <li>● Contriving an outcome</li> <li>● 18.10.16 - 6 months suspension: US\$5,000 fine</li> </ul> <p>Convicted of attempting to influence the outcome of a match, at the ITF USA Futures 11 tournament at Calabasas, California, in March 2015.</p>	<p><b>PIOTR GADOMSKI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 25, Poland</li> <li>● Career-high 338 singles</li> <li>● November 2016 - Court of Arbitration for Sport Appeal dismissed</li> </ul> <p>Appeal against a seven year suspension and US\$15,000 fine for match-fixing offences, and of having contact with banned former player Sergei Kuznetsov, was dismissed by the CAS Panel.</p>
<p><b>ALEXANDROS JAKUPOVIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 34, Greece</li> <li>● Career-high 464 singles</li> <li>● November 2016 - Court of Arbitration for Sport Appeal dismissed</li> </ul> <p>Appeal against a lifetime ban imposed in December 2015, was dismissed by the CAS Panel. In addition to upholding the sanction in full, costs of CHF 5,000 imposed.</p>	<p>“During 2016, nine players and officials were convicted and sanctioned as a result of TIU disciplinary investigations.”</p>		

## PLAYER EDUCATION

Player education is a critical function, especially for young people coming into the sport. All professionals complete a compulsory online Tennis Integrity Protection Program (TIPP). This familiarises them with grooming techniques and the correct course of action to take if approached by a potential corruptor. A confidential email reporting line, monitored 24-7 by TIU officers, is a successful channel of communication. TIPP is supplemented by a suite of educational materials and resources.

Working closely with the governing bodies, the TIU makes regular presentations to

players. These include the ATP Player University, Top 200 WTA players, Juniors at Grand Slams, and one-to-one briefings at tournaments.

2017 will see the introduction of a dedicated online training and education module produced specifically for match officials.

In late 2016, the TIU created a new role of Training Manager that will see the scope and content of anti-corruption training and education expanded considerably for 2017 and beyond.

### TIU SMARTPHONE APP

During 2016 a new TIU App was developed for Apple and Android smartphones. Produced in six languages—English, Italian, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese—it provides direct access to the player education program through the WTA and ATP Playerzones and ITF IFIN accounts.

Anti-corruption rules and useful tips to understand them are also included, along with tennis news feeds from ESPN, CNN, Sky and BBC. The App is designed to supplement other TIU educational initiatives, providing players with easy access to anti-corruption materials wherever in the world they may be.



### NEW TIPP FOR 2017

Tennis has been a leader in delivering quality anti-corruption education programs. The TIPP (Tennis Integrity Protection Program) was introduced in 2011 and has been completed by over 27,000 players and officials. For 2017, a new TIPP will be introduced using animated scenarios as a contemporary and realistic means of communicating key messages to a multi-ethnic, global audience. Subjects covered include match-fixing, grooming, betting on tennis and reporting approaches to the TIU. Available in six languages—English, Italian, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese—the program is accessible through WTA and ATP Playerzones and ITF IFIN accounts. A further development agreed in late 2016 for introduction in 2017, will be the mandatory requirement for all players to complete anti-corruption training every two years. A dedicated TIPP for officials will also be introduced.



## WORKING WITH THE BETTING INDUSTRY

The TIU works constructively with the regulated betting industry through a series of confidential Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with regulators, licensees and betting operators around the world. During 2016, the number of MoUs more than doubled as new operators and regions signed up to share information in the fight against corruption.

Match Alert data received through MoUs is a valuable resource that can highlight a range of unusual and potentially suspicious behaviours and activity. Every alert received by the TIU is assessed and followed up as an indicator that something inappropriate may have happened.

In all cases where alerts do suggest corrupt activity, the TIU investigates and takes appropriate action.

The learning gained from dozens of tennis investigations shows there are many valid reasons, other than corrupt activity, that can explain unusual patterns, including:

- incorrect odds-setting
- player fitness, fatigue and form
- playing conditions
- personal circumstances
- well-informed betting

Information from partners in the sector contributed to a number of successful TIU prosecutions in 2016, including those of Jaturern Nalamphun, Danail Tarporov and Constant Lestienne.

Alongside its relationships with betting operators, the TIU also has MoUs and working agreements with bodies such as the International Olympic Committee, Europol, and international law enforcement agencies involved in tennis investigations. The unit is a member of the UK Sports Betting Integrity Forum, and a contributor to numerous other anti-corruption forums and initiatives.

## INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

Following critical media reporting of the TIU at the Australian Open in January 2016, the governing bodies of tennis set up an Independent Review Panel (IRP) to test the allegations and review the effectiveness of the sport's existing anti-corruption practices and procedures.

Following the most comprehensive review of the integrity of the sport ever undertaken, the IRP is expected to publish an Interim Report in the spring of 2017. This will be followed by a consultation process that will allow a wide range of stakeholders to submit comments for consideration. The IRP will then publish a Final Report, which tennis has committed to fully accept, fund and implement all of its recommendations.

The three-person Panel brings together legal expertise from the UK, the US and Europe. It consists of:

- Adam Lewis QC (Chair), Blackstone Chambers, London
- Beth Wilkinson, Wilkinson, Walsh + Eskovitz, Washington DC
- Marc Henzlein, Lalive SA, Geneva

London-based law firm Charles Russell Speechlys LLP acts as the Solicitor and Secretariat to the IRP. More information at [www.tennisirp.com](http://www.tennisirp.com)

## NEW TIU WEBSITE



The TIU's new website has been designed to provide more data and information in a user-friendly format, particularly for smartphone users.

[www.tennisintegrityunit.com](http://www.tennisintegrityunit.com)

### CONTENT NOW INCLUDES:

- Full archive of all media statements
- Listings of suspended players and those whose sanctions have expired
- Explanation of the TIU's investigative process
- Working with the betting industry
- Educational resources for players
- Access to the Tennis Integrity Protection Program
- Independent Review Panel

### TIU MATCH ALERT DATA 2016

In 2016 the TIU began publishing match alert data supplied through Memorandums of Understanding with betting operators and regulators. The full year total of 292 alerts for 2016 compares with the 246 received for 2015.

The majority of alerts continued to come from the lower levels of professional tennis, while the main ATP and WTA Tours and the Grand Slam events were the subject of just eight alerts between them during the year.

	Total	Grand Slam	ATP Tour	WTA Tour	ATP Challenger	ITF Men's Futures	ITF Women's	Hopman Cup Bain Cup Fed. Cup
Match Alerts Q1	48	1	0	1	12	24	10	0
Match Alerts Q2	73	0	2	0	14	33	24	0
Match Alerts Q3	96	2	0	0	31	54	9	0
Match Alerts Q4	75	0	0	2	23	41	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>

In 2016 a total of 114,126 professional men's and women's matches were played, compared to 118,284 in 2015.

## TACKLING ONLINE ABUSE

Online abuse of players through social media channels is an area of growing concern. The TIU plays an active role in this area by working closely with players and governing bodies. This can include contacting the relevant social media organisation on behalf of the player to report the abuse and seek to have the account closed. In more serious cases where threats are made, the TIU advice is to report concerns to law enforcement agencies, for risk assessment and investigation of any

crime that may have been committed. Key points stressed in education programs are for players to report concerns to the TIU and save/forward screen shots and messages. All cases are logged and responded to. Other practical advice includes: blocking the abuser; not engaging in online conversation with them; checking privacy settings to reduce unwelcome contact; careful judgement in accepting friend requests.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The TIU is funded by an annual budget from the governing bodies of tennis, based on a formula of 25% each from the WTA and the ATP, and 10% each from the ITF and the four Grand Slams.

In 2016 the budget originally set at US\$1.9

The majority of the TIU's annual expenditure of US\$2.4 million in 2016 was allocated to the following six areas of operation:

## TENNIS ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM 2017

In January 2009, the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP) was adopted by professional tennis as the code governing the investigation and prosecution of betting-related corruption. It applies to all players, officials and other Covered Persons involved in the sport. Where corruption is proven to have taken place, stringent penalties can be imposed, including lifetime bans and fines of up to US\$250,000. The TACP equips the TIU with substantial powers of investigation which include the authority, with permission, to forensically download and analyse the content of mobile phones, computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Bank and financial records must also be supplied on request. In cases where parties under investigation fail to co-operate by unreasonably withholding permission or information, they can be subject to a disciplinary charge and fined or suspended if proven guilty.

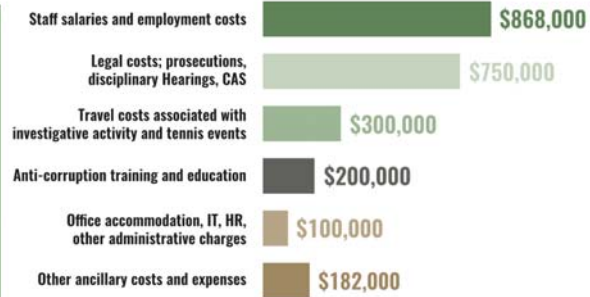
As the global anti-corruption body for all professional tennis, sanctions imposed on players and officials under the TACP are binding in all international jurisdictions. By comparison, fines and suspensions that may be imposed by national federations apply only to that country, and then only to events

It is important that in a fast-changing world, disciplinary codes keep pace with evolving situations and circumstances. For that reason the TACP is reviewed on an annual basis, ensuring its provisions and powers are current and relevant, but also proportionate.

For the 2017 edition, the ability of the sport to impose a provisional suspension on a Covered Person suspected of a corruption offence, has been strengthened. Previously, a provisional suspension could only be secured once a disciplinary Notice had been served. This meant that in some cases, suspects were able to continue playing despite posing a risk to the integrity of the sport. The updated TACP, effective 1 January 2017, now states:

**Due Process:** Section G.1.e  
The PTO may make an application to the AHO for a provisional suspension of the Covered Person if the PTO determines that: (i) there is a substantial likelihood that the Covered Person has committed a Corruption Offense punishable by permanent ineligibility, (ii) in the absence of a provisional suspension, the integrity of tennis would be seriously undermined, and (iii) the harm resulting from the absence of a provisional suspension outweighs the hardship of the provisional suspension on the Covered Person.

million to allow for recruitment of additional staff and associated costs.



held under the auspices of that governing body.

The full 2017 TACP can be viewed at [www.tennisintegrityunit.com](http://www.tennisintegrityunit.com)

“For the 2017 edition, the ability of the sport to impose a provisional suspension on a Covered Person suspected of a corruption offence, has been strengthened.”



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