

London, 7 April 2020

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| **Tennis Integrity Unit Briefing Note: January – March 2020** |

**Increase in first quarter match alerts linked to suspension of tennis**

Between January and 22 March 2020 the TIU received a total of 38match alerts through its Memorandums of Understanding with the regulated betting industry. This compares to 21 alerts for the same period in 2019, a year in which the fewest alerts were recorded since data was first published in 2015.

The increase of reported matches in the first quarter of 2020 is an indication that the entry levels of professional tennis were deliberately targeted by corruptors, as the sport moved towards suspension due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In anticipation of heightened integrity concerns when tennis resumes, the TIU, in conjunction with the governing bodies of tennis, is developing an education and awareness campaign to inform and support players, officials and tournament staff. Further details will be announced in due course.

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| **Total Match Alerts**  **Jan to March** | **Grand Slam** | **ATP Tour** | **WTA Tour** | **ATP Challenger** | **ITF Men**  **$15k** | **ITF Men**  **$25k** | **ITF Women**  **$15k** | **ITF Women**  **$25k** | **ITF Women**  **$60k** | **Davis, Fed Cups** |
| **38** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**TIU match alert policy**

* every alert reported to the TIU is recorded, assessed and followed up as an indicator that something inappropriate *may have happened*. It is important to appreciate that an alert on its own is *not evidence* of match-fixing;
* there are many reasons other than corrupt activity that can explain unusual betting patterns, such as incorrect odds-setting; well-informed betting; player fitness, fatigue and form; playing conditions and personal circumstances;
* where analysis of a match alert does suggest corrupt activity, the TIU will conduct a full, confidential investigation.

**New CEO joins the TIU**

Jonny Gray became the first Chief Executive Officer of the TIU when he joined the organisation in mid-February. A former Colonel in the British Army and senior partner with Control Risks, he will be responsible for implementing the integrity recommendations of the Independent Review Panel, which include the establishment of a new, independent integrity organisation with a separate legal personality.

**TIU Education update; Australian Open, WTT $15,000 pilot, online education during suspension of tennis**

January’s Australian Open saw more than 650 officials, main draw and junior players receive integrity briefings and one-to-one sessions ahead of and during the tournament. Bespoke education sessions were also delivered to ATP coaches and the ATP’s international group tournament directors’ workshop. In February, a pilot Education outreach project took place at the ITF World Tennis Tour combined $15,000 event in Heraklion, Crete. This new initiative included presentations and an integrity pledge campaign for players, coaches, officials and tournament staff. More than 100 players received face-to-face education, alongside all tournament officials.

Colombia became the second nation to complete the TIU’s integrity criteria as part of the ITF Recognition of National Training Centres Programme. Six further nations are being supported as they work towards certification.

During the suspension of tennis the TIU team has continued to deliver its comprehensive education programme, including online 1-2-1 sessions for WTA Rookie players and Grand Slam Development Fund grant recipients.

**Disciplinary code rules strengthened for Provisional Suspensions**

Amendments have been introduced to the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP), to strengthen the rules relating to the Provisional Suspension of individuals suspected of serious corruption offences. With effect from 1 April 2020, a Covered Person charged with a criminal offence or the subject of criminal proceedings, can be immediately suspended by an independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer (AHO). The individual subject to the provisional suspension retains the right to appeal that decision to the AHO.

A further amendment clarifies that a decision to impose, or not impose, a Provisional Suspension cannot be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The final change allows a Covered Person subject to a Provisional Suspension to appeal for that suspension to be lifted after a period of 90 days, rather than the previous term of 120 days.

**Disciplinary decisions – January to March 2020**

Between January and March three players – Jonathan Kanar, Joao Olavo Soares de Souza and Patrick Keane - were subject to disciplinary sanctions for breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program. In addition, an appeal decision was received for Argentinian player Nicolas Kicker:

* <https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/jonathan-kanar-suspended-and-fined-after-admitting-corruption-offences>
* <https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/lifetime-ban-and-200000-fine-joao-olavo-soares-de-souza-after-conviction-match-fixing-charges>
* <https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/independent-anti-corruption-hearing-officer-reduces-nicolas-kicker-suspension-recognition-player-education-support>
* <https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/patrick-keane-suspended-and-fined-betting-tennis-offences>

These sanctions have previously been announced and are included here as a retrospective record.

**More information**

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