

**IN THE MATTER OF A NOTICE OF MAJOR OFFENSE OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION OFFENSES
UNDER THE TENNIS ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM**

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS INTEGRITY AGENCY

AND

CHUKANG WANG

DECISION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION HEARING OFFICER AS TO PENALTY

1 On 26 March 2025, I found the charge against player Chukang Wang under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (**'TACP'**) section D.1.o. (soliciting) established. Section D.1.o reads as follows:

No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, facilitate or incite any other person to commit, attempt, agree or conspire to commit any Corruption Offense.

2 Subsequently, on the application of the International Tennis Integrity Agency (**'ITIA'**) I ordered that Mr Wang be provisionally suspended from 26 March 2025.

3 Mr Wang is a professional male tennis player and is a covered person under sections B.27 and B.12 of the TACP. It was not in contest that Mr Wang was bound by the TACP, with the applicable provisions being those of the 2022 TACP in relation to substantive law and the 2024 TACP in relation to procedure. Nor was my appointment as an Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer in issue.

4 My reasons for concluding that Mr Wang engaged in the conduct which breached the section are set out in the principal decision. In summary, I concluded that he sent WhatsApp messages to another player, [REDACTED] with the intention of sounding him out as to whether he would participate in an agreement to fix the result of their match.

5 I thought it inappropriate, and unfair to Mr Wang, to find more than one of the charges proved, notwithstanding that possibly more than one corruption offense may have been established on the evidence. I considered that the most relevant offense to the

established facts is that of soliciting, proscribed under TACP section D.1.o and set out at [1] above.

6 The ITIA has, in its written submissions, sought that Mr Wang be banned for around 12 months and fined \$2,000 (\$1,000 suspended).

7 Mr Wang represented himself at the hearing. I requested that he file submissions as to penalty by 7 April 2025. He did not do so, although in an email of 7 April 2025, he expressed his disagreement with my decision.

8 The Notice of Charge of Mr Wang contained reference to section H of the 2024 TACP which deals in part with sanctions against players who breach TACP which may be imposed by Anti-Corruption Hearing Officers ('**AHOs**') :

H.1 "Except as provided in Sections F.5 and F.6, the penalty for any Corruption Offense shall be determined by the AHO in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section G, and may include:

"**H.1.a.** ... a fine of up to \$250,000 plus an amount equal to the value of any winnings or other amounts received by such Covered Person in connection with any Corruption Offense [and] ineligibility from Participation in any Sanctioned Events for a maximum period of permanent ineligibility unless permitted under Section H.1.c."

The exception in Section H.1.c referred to relates only to being allowed to attend an Event "for the purpose of any authorized anti-gambling or anti-corruption education or rehabilitation program organized or sanctioned by that Governing Body."

Therefore, your potential sanction under Section H.1.a is life/permanent ineligibility, a **\$250,000** fine and repayment of your corrupt payment.

9 The Notice also referred to and enclosed a link to the TACP Sanctioning Guidelines ('**Guidelines**'), issued by the Tennis Integrity Supervisory Board ('**TISB**'). These provide a framework for the issuing of sanctions under the TACP to support fairness and consistency. They are not binding on AHOs but set out various principles and factors which AHOs may

10 The five steps in the Guidelines are as follows:

a) Determining the offense category;

- b) Starting point and category range (which includes a non-exhaustive list of aggravating and mitigating factors);
- c) Consideration of any reduction for early admissions;
- d) Consideration of any other factors which may merit a reduction, such as substantial assistance to the ITIA;
- e) Setting the amount of the fine (if any).

11 I have used the Guidelines as an important reference to the matters to be considered in determining the appropriate penalty which must be imposed upon Mr Wang.

12 However, I have resisted the temptation of engaging in their mechanical application. I prefer to adopt an intuitive synthesis approach to all the relevant factors surrounding the commission of Mr Wang's offense which, of course, includes the matters adverted to in the Guidelines.

13 In reaching my decision, I have taken into account the following matters.

14 First, there is no suggestion that Mr Wang has committed any prior offense under the TACP. He is a young player (25 years of age), and still, I presume, wishes to play competitive tennis at a professional level.

15 Second, I agree with the submissions of the IATA, that the nature of Mr Wang's offending — in endeavouring to solicit ██████████ to throw the match, ranges between low to medium. In terms of culpability, I regard Mr Wang's conduct as more likely falling within Categories B and C, and more likely towards C as described in the Guidelines. The soliciting of ██████████ was relatively inept and appears to have lacked any genuine premeditation or planning. Moreover, by the next morning, Mr Wang had abandoned the enterprise. There is no reliable evidence that he was acting in concert with anyone else.

16 Third, no harm was done by reason of his conduct. ██████████ was sensible enough not to consider engaging in the scheme, and the match proceeded, as far as can be ascertained, without any integrity issue, with no material gain to anyone.

17 Fourth, there was no reputational damage to the integrity of professional tennis — as far as I can tell.

18 Fifth, Mr Wang does not obtain the benefit of any reduction for an early admission of the charge. To the contrary, he has maintained an indefensible position and demonstrated no remorse for his conduct.

19 Sixth, I have no evidence as to whether Mr Wang was suffering from any condition or disorder which might have affected his decision-making process. But what is clear is that he has no genuine remorse.

20 Finally, and I regard this as the most important factor, there is the issue of deterrence — Mr Wang must understand that any attempt at match fixing (no matter how amateurish) will not be countenanced in the sport. Equally important is that other players need to know that there are harsh sanctions for this type of conduct which, as the submissions of the ITIA contend, cannot be tolerated.

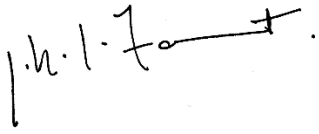
21 When all these matters are considered, the appropriate penalty is that of a suspension for eight months from competitive professional tennis. In addition, it is appropriate as suggested by the ITIA, that a fine should be imposed upon Mr Wang. It should be in the sum of \$1,500. I do not have any evidence as to Mr Wang's financial position, but the fine I propose to impose is not one which will create a great financial burden — if necessary, it can be subject to a payment plan agreed with the ITIA.

22 Accordingly, and in conformity with section G.4.b of the TACP, I order as follows:

1. Mr Wang's penalty falls within section H.1.a of the TACP.
2. Mr Wang is ineligible to participate in a sanctioned event as defined in the TACP for a period of 8 months, commencing on 26 March 2025 and ending on 25 November 2025.
3. Mr Wang is fined \$1500 which must be paid in full before reinstatement.

23 Subject to Mr Wang's appeal rights, under section G.4.d of the TACP this Decision is a "full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties". Mr Wang has a right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) pursuant to section

I.1 of the TACP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.H. Forrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Jack Forrest KC

11 April 2025