

**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**

**ANZE ARH**

**DECISION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION HEARING OFFICER**

1. Anze Arh is a twenty-five-year-old Slovenian professional tennis player registered with the International Tennis Federation ('ITF'). He had completed the Tennis Integrity Protection Program ('TIPP') in February 2017, March 2019 and March 2021.
2. I am satisfied that Mr Arh is a covered person under sections B.27 and B.12 of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program ('TACP') and that Mr Arh was bound by the TACP, with the applicable rules being relevant to the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The 2024 TACP governs procedure.
3. The charges against Mr Arh relate to three different categories of offending, which are set out in more detail later. The first relates to betting by Mr Arh on multiple tennis matches between April 2017 and April 2020. The second relates to deliberately losing a match, a [REDACTED] event at a tournament ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) in Tunisia, in April 2019. Mr Arh served [REDACTED] double faults in the [REDACTED] game of the [REDACTED] set against [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. There was 'suspicious betting' on this match, including a bet placed by a fellow Slovenian who had a relationship with Mr Arh. The third relates to a series of false statements made by Mr Arh to the International Tennis Integrity Agency ('ITIA') investigators during interviews in 2021 and in correspondence with the ITIA.
4. Mr Arh did not seek to be legally represented on these charges. He has not disputed the charges and has, tacitly, agreed to the determination on penalty being made by me on the papers.

5. Out of an abundance of caution I state that I have no association with the ITIA or Mr Arh. No issue was taken as to my capacity or power to hear the charges as an Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer ('AHO').

### **The charges**

6. The Notice of Major Offense under the 2024 TACP, dated December 20, 2024, set out the charges and their particulars as follows:

Charge	TACP Section	Summary
1	TACP 2017, 2018 and 2020 D.1.a (Wagering) "No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, Wager on the outcome or any other aspect of any Event or any other tennis competition."	Between April 2017 and April 2020, 45 bets were placed on tennis matches by a [REDACTED] account in your name.  In your interview with the ITIA on 27 May 2021, you admitted that any bets placed on that account were made by you. <sup>1</sup> Each of these bets was in breach of Section D.1.a of the 2017, 2018 and / or 2020 TACP.
2	TACP 2019 D.1.d (Contriving) "No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, contrive or attempt to contrive the outcome or any other aspect of any Event." D.1.b (Facilitation) "No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, facilitate, encourage and/or promote Tennis Betting." D.2.a.i (Failure to report) "In the event any Player is approached by any person who offers or provides any type of money, benefit or Consideration to a Player to (i) influence the outcome or any other aspect of any Event...it shall be the Player's obligation to report such incident to the TIU as soon as possible."	On [REDACTED] April 2019, you played in the [REDACTED] round of the [REDACTED] event at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Tunisia against [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. You lost that match [REDACTED].  In April 2019, the ITIA received a match alert which reported suspicious betting on you losing set [REDACTED] game [REDACTED]. In this game, you served [REDACTED] double faults.  Your financial records indicate a relationship between you and a Slovenian bettor who placed one of the suspicious bets.  The ITIA alleges that you intentionally did not use your best efforts in this match (in breach of section D.1.d of the TACP) in order to facilitate betting (in breach of section D.1.b of the TACP).  You also failed to report any approach made to you to fix this match, in breach of section D.2.a.i of the TACP.
3	TACP 2021 F.2.b (Failure to co-operate) "All Covered Persons must cooperate fully with investigations conducted by the ITIA including giving evidence at hearings, if requested. Even in the case where a Covered Person is	In your interview with the ITIA on 18 January 2021, you denied betting on tennis matches. <sup>2</sup> In your written response of 3 February 2021 to a Demand issued by the ITIA of the same date, you stated that you had not made any bets on tennis using your [REDACTED] account. These statements were both false as you subsequently admitted, in your interview with the ITIA on 27 May 2021, (i) that you had placed

<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 2, page 13.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 1, page 40.

	<p>represented by a legal counsel, the Covered Person is still personally responsible for ensuring that they cooperate fully with the investigation. The Covered Person shall be deemed not to have cooperated if the Covered Person's legal counsel interferes with an ITIA investigation. A Covered Person's failure to comply with any Demand, preserve evidence related to any Corruption Offense or otherwise cooperate fully with investigations conducted by the ITIA, may result in an adverse factual inference against the Covered Person in any matter referred to an AHO."</p>	<p>bets on certain tennis matches and (ii) that any bets placed on your ██████ were made by you;<sup>3</sup> and further, your ██████ account records show 46 bets placed on tennis matches between March 2017 and April 2020.</p> <p>You failed to disclose that you held accounts with Skrill, Paysafe and Neteller: (i) on 18 January 2021 when you stated in your interview with the ITIA that you did not use money transfer systems;<sup>4</sup> and (ii) on 21 January 2021 when you provided your response to Demands issued by the ITIA on 19 and 21 January 2021 for bank records, specifically stated to include online accounts or online money transfer applications.</p> <p>You further failed to disclose that you held an account with Neteller in your interview with the ITIA on 27 May 2021, after your Skrill account was identified and you were asked whether you held any other bank accounts or e-wallets. You then arranged for the closure of this account on 28 May 2021. The timing indicates that you did so for the purpose of concealing this account from the ITIA.</p> <p>You failed to disclose that you funded your ██████ account through your Skrill account when you provided your response on 3 February 2021 to a Demand issued by the ITIA of the same date regarding the means of financing your ██████ account. You later confirmed in your interview with the ITIA on 27 May 2021 that you used Skrill to fund your ██████ account, after a connection between these accounts was put to you.<sup>5</sup> You also later provided your Skrill account records which include payments to ██████</p> <p>You provided misleading conflicting information regarding your Skrill account. In your interview with the ITIA on 27 May 2021, you stated that you opened this account in 2018 and used it personally.<sup>6</sup> However, you subsequently stated that this account was opened and managed by your father: (i) in your response, provided on 27 June 2021, to a Demand issued by the ITIA on 21 June 2021; and (ii) in your interview with the ITIA on 6 October 2021.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>You failed to adequately explain the identity of persons whom you transacted with through Skrill, your relationship with them, and the basis for such transactions, in your response provided on 27 and 28 June 2021 to Demands issued by the ITIA on 21 and 28 June 2021 respectively.</p> <p>You also failed to adequately explain the identity of persons whom you transacted with through Neteller, your relationship with them, and the basis</p>
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<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 2, pages 13–16.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 1, page 35.

<sup>5</sup> Exhibit 2, page 19.

<sup>6</sup> Exhibit 2, page 19.

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit 3, pages 5 and 6.

		for such transactions, in your response provided on 15 July 2021 to a Demand issued by the ITIA on 8 July 2021.
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### Mr Arh's ITIA interviews and initial response

7. Mr Arh was interviewed, remotely, by an ITIA investigator (Mr Mark Fletcher) on 18 January 2021 ('**January 2021 interview**'), 27 May 2021 ('**May 2021 interview**') and on 6 October 2021 ('**October 2021 interview**').
8. Mr Arh also provided responses to a number of requests of the ITIA investigators in January, June and July 2021 — relating primarily to his betting transactions and bank accounts held by him.
9. The substance of the allegations against Mr Arh are contained in the summary of the charges joined to paragraph [6] above.
10. In the course of the January 2021 interview, Mr Arh was asked the following questions:
  - Q: Do you operate any betting accounts online?
  - A: No.
  - Q: No. Do you place bets on tennis by any other means in person or through a third party?
  - A: No. No, no, no.
11. Then, when asked:
  - Q: You don't operate any betting accounts in your name?
  - A: Well I have one, but I'm not betting.
  - Q: Okay. What company is that with?
  - A: It was [REDACTED] but that was ...
  - Q: [REDACTED]
  - A: ... years ago and I ...
  - Q: What did you say? You said that too quick. What company?
  - A: It was [REDACTED] but I – it was years when I created it. I wasn't even playing, I

mean I wasn't even on the ...

Q: When did you create it?

A: I can't remember.

Q: Okay. And why did you create it?

A: I mean when I was young we were – we bet on football on that with friends.

Q: Okay, so you've never betted on tennis with that account?

A: No, no.

Q: Okay, do you have any other betting accounts?

A: No.

12. In the course of this interview, Mr Arh told the ITIA investigator that he only had one bank account, with a Slovenian bank, SKB, and did not use money transfer systems.<sup>8</sup>
13. On 21 January 2021, again in response to a request from the ITIA, Mr Arh denied that he had accounts with any other money providers or banks.
14. On 3 February 2021, after a request made by the ITIA, Mr Arh reaffirmed that he had not made any bets on tennis using his [REDACTED] account.
15. On 27 May 2021, Mr Fletcher again remotely interviewed Mr Arh.
16. In the course of the interview, it was put to him that he had placed 44 bets on ITF, WTA or ATP tennis matches on his [REDACTED] betting account.
17. Contrary to what he had told the ITIA investigator in January, Mr Arh then admitted to having a Skrill account in his name which, he agreed, was used to fund the [REDACTED] account. Mr Arh then told the ITIA investigator that he opened this account in 2018 and used it personally. It was this account that €5000 was paid into shortly after the fixed match in Tunisia.
18. Subsequent to being interviewed, Mr Arh was requested to provide the identity of the persons with whom he transacted using the Skrill account and his relationship with those persons. He failed to do so. In addition, he gave misleading evidence as to the person

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<sup>8</sup> Exhibit 1, page 33.

who used the account — maintaining at times that it was [REDACTED].

19. In his final interview on 6 October 2021, Mr Arh confirmed that he also had a Neteller account in his name, which he closed on 28 May 2021 (i.e., directly after the May 2021 interview).

20. When asked about the Tunisian match, Mr Arh denied fixing the match:

Q: ... you managed to score [REDACTED] and you'd only served [REDACTED] double faults in total in the whole match. So, in that game, you scored point [REDACTED] and your opponent scores the next [REDACTED] points as a result of your [REDACTED] double faults. How do you explain that?

A: It is absolutely not true that these serves were double fault serves on purpose. I don't know where it comes from but it is absolutely not true.

...

Q: Yes okay, I'll put that maybe a little bit clearer. There was a total of six bets made by three betting accounts on that game. All the bets were placed within a two minute window, suggesting coordinated action. Five of the bets were for [REDACTED] to win game [REDACTED] set [REDACTED] and one bet for [REDACTED] to win game [REDACTED] set [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and that is a specific bet. All six bets won. The total amount placed across the bets was 8,350 British pounds, and the total profit to the bettors was 3,840. Do you know anybody who bet on that game?

A: No, I hadn't lost the match on purpose and I do not know who placed bets. Bets can be placed to anyone. I just played my tennis and that was it.

### **Mr Arh's response to the ITIA charges**

21. On 7 January 2025, Mr Arh set out his response to each of the charges:

Dear Mr. Rutherford,

I am writing in response to the Notice of Major Offense under the 2024 Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP), dated December 20, 2024. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my perspective on the allegations outlined in your letter. Please know that I take this matter with the utmost seriousness and am committed to cooperating fully to resolve it transparently and fairly.

#### **Allegation 1: Wagering**

I acknowledge that the [REDACTED] account mentioned was registered in my name. However, I would like to clarify that at the time of these activities, I was unaware that placing bets on tennis matches violated the TACP. This lack of awareness was not out of disregard but rather a result of my limited understanding of the regulations.

It is important to note that there was no financial gain or significant profit

generated from these bets, which further demonstrates the lack of intent to gain any improper advantage or violate the spirit of the game. Furthermore, I have never placed a bet on any tournament in which I participated, and I strictly refrained from doing so to ensure fairness and integrity in my own matches.

From the very beginning of this investigation, I have cooperated fully with the ITIA, providing all requested information and evidence to assist in uncovering the facts. I remain committed to continuing this cooperation as the process moves forward.

### **Allegation 2: Contriving Outcomes**

I acknowledge the gravity of the situation surrounding the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] match in 2019. This incident represents a crucial mistake in my life, one that I deeply regret. At the time, I was influenced and guided into making this decision, which I now recognize was wrong and entirely inconsistent with my personal values and the principles of tennis.

This was a one-time occurrence, and I have never engaged in similar conduct before or since that match. I fully understand the repercussions of my actions and have reflected extensively on how I let myself be led astray in such a significant manner. I regret the harm caused to the integrity of the sport and to those who have supported me throughout my career.

I was acting out of fear and in response to a threatening situation, which has made it very hard for me to truly return to professional tennis. That fear still exists to this day. Incidents like this happen on every corner, and while fines are issued swiftly, players do not feel protected when these situations arise.

### **Allegation 3: Failure to Cooperate**

While I understand that certain inconsistencies in my initial responses may have raised concerns, I want to reiterate that my intention has always been to cooperate fully with ITIA. Initially, my reluctance to cooperate stemmed from fear, but I ultimately provided any information I had that could contribute to a gap-free and transparent investigation. In fact, it was only through the details I shared that the second allegation came to light.

From the outset of this investigation, I have supplied every piece of information and evidence requested, along with additional documentation that I believe could assist in clarifying the circumstances. My cooperation has been driven by a genuine desire to demonstrate accountability and to uphold the integrity of the sport. Any lapses in communication or clarity on my part were entirely unintentional, and I remain fully prepared to address them further if needed.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Tennis has been my life for as long as I can remember. Ever since I was very young, it was all I did - my passion, my purpose - the reason I dedicated myself entirely to this sport, [REDACTED]. My entire world revolved around tennis, and it shaped every aspect of my life.

This entire process has been a deeply challenging experience for me, and I have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Additionally, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I understand and fully accept that a suspension is likely, and I am prepared to face the consequences of my actions. However, despite everything, my love for tennis remains unwavering. I am aware that my future in this sport is uncertain, but if given the opportunity, I would still love to play. Tennis is not just a career to me - it is the essence of who I am, and I cannot imagine my life without it.

With that in mind, I respectfully request that no financial penalties be imposed, as I am unable to pay any fines [REDACTED].

In recognition of the seriousness of my actions and as a demonstration of my willingness to make amends, I would like to propose an alternative form of compensation, such as contributing to tennis-related social work or educational programs. For instance, I would be more than willing to participate in anti-corruption campaigns, deliver talks to young players about the importance of integrity in sports, or assist with community outreach programs to promote ethical behavior in tennis.

I believe that such efforts could allow me to give back to the sport that has been my entire life and help prevent others from making the mistakes I have made. I am committed to using my experience as an opportunity to educate and inspire others to uphold the values of fairness and honesty that are fundamental to tennis.

I deeply regret the mistakes I have made and sincerely apologize for any harm caused to the sport of tennis and its integrity. Thank you for considering my response and this proposed solution. I remain available to provide any additional information or clarification you may require.

## **Process**

22. After providing his response, Mr Arh was contacted by the ITIA to clarify his response, and, in particular, whether he admitted or denied that he committed the offenses detailed in the charges.

23. In his response to this query, he said:

I refer to your letter, as well as my written response, and I would like to once again express my deepest regret for what has happened.

I take this matter very seriously and am truly sorry for the situation at hand.

I am fully prepared to do whatever is in my power to contribute positively, particularly by raising awareness among young players and helping to educate them on the importance of integrity in sport.

At this stage, I have nothing further to add beyond my written response, except to reaffirm my willingness to cooperate as fully as possible.



24. The ITIA case secretariat replied:

We will proceed on the basis that you admit that you committed each of the corruption offences specified in the Notice of Major Offence but seek to mitigate the sanction, by providing written submissions (on the question of sanction only) to be considered by an Anti-corruption Hearing Officer (AHO) in determining the sanction to be imposed.

You will be notified of next steps once the AHO is appointed to this matter.

25. On 21 January 2025, Mr Arh was notified that I had been appointed as the AHO and that it was understood by the ITIA that he proposed to plead guilty to the charges and proceed by way of written sanction submissions only.

26. Since that time, no complaint or objection has been received from Mr Arh to this process.

27. In the circumstances, I am satisfied that Mr Arh —

(a) is not disputing the charges and that the facts relied upon by the ITIA and set out in the Notice of Major Offense are not in issue; and

(b) does not contest the manner in which this hearing is to be conducted — by determination by me based on the written submissions of the parties and the supporting material.

## **Analysis**

28. Mr Arh has not been the subject of any previous sanction under the TACP and has, in his submissions, expressed what I regard as genuine remorse for his conduct. On the other hand, he was unhelpful and untruthful to the point of obstruction in each of his interviews and in his response to the ITIA's requests for further information.

29. The ITIA has, in its submissions, sought the following penalty as a sanction for the three charges: 3 years of ineligibility; and a \$7,500 fine with an additional \$7,500 suspended on the basis of no further breaches of the TACP within the period of ineligibility.

30. Mr Arh has not made any submission as to the extent or level of the penalty other than to submit that a fine should not be imposed.

31. Section H of the 2024 TACP deals in part with sanctions against players who breach a provision of the TACP:

**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.

32. The exception contained in section H.1.c 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.”

33. The TACP Sanctioning Guidelines (**“Guidelines”**), issued by the Tennis Integrity Supervisory Board (**“TISB”**) 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 consider appropriate to take into account. An AHO retains full discretion in relation to the application or departure from the Guidelines.

34. 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).

35. The Guidelines also address the question of multiple charges against a player:

Where there are multiple Corruption Offenses, in the interests of efficiency, they should ordinarily be taken together in one concurrent sanctioning process (albeit taking particular cognizance of the offense(s) which carry(ies) the highest sanction).

36. However, given the disparity of the charges against Mr Arh, I have determined that the mechanical application of the Guidelines is inappropriate. This is a case where two of the charges have no relationship (charges 1 and 2) and the third charge (false statements) is significantly different although related to charge 1.
37. In my view, each of the charges need to be considered separately, and a penalty imposed on each. It is then necessary to stand back and determine the total effective penalty, which in a practical sense involves a consideration of whether the penalties should be cumulative or whether part or in whole, concurrent.
38. In relation to each of the charges I have endeavoured to apply the principles discussed in the Guidelines in determining the appropriate sanction.

*Charge 1 – betting*

39. Professional tennis players are not permitted to bet on any tennis match: section D.1.a of the TACP.
40. Mr Arh admitted in the May 2021 interview that he placed 45 bets on tennis matches between April 2017 and April 2020 with [REDACTED] — in an account in his own name. His explanation that he was unaware that placing bets on tennis matches violated the TACP cannot be accepted. It is basic integrity common sense that professional tennis players cannot bet on tennis matches, notwithstanding that they may not be competing in the relevant event. Moreover, Mr Arh had participated in several integrity training sessions during this period.
41. Similarly, whether he made a profit or not on the bet misses the point. The rule is absolute, and the breach was not isolated but repeated over a number of years.
42. Mr Arh's culpability falls within Category A of the Guidelines — high culpability — and Category 1 in terms of impact — it has a significant material impact on the reputation and integrity of the sport.
43. The appropriate penalty for this conduct is one year of ineligibility.

*Charge 2 – match fixing*

44. Mr Arh competed in a [REDACTED] match against [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Tunisia on [REDACTED] March 2019. He lost the match [REDACTED] and served [REDACTED] double faults in the [REDACTED] game of the [REDACTED] set.
45. The charge comprises three separate breaches of the TACP: contriving, facilitation and failing to report.
46. Bookmaker [REDACTED] reported suspicious betting to the ITIA: six successful bets were placed by three customers within a two-minute window, including one bet which matched the precise game score, with a total profit of £3,840 from the six bets.
47. In addition, a Skrill transfer of €5,000 was made shortly after the match into Mr Arh's account. Absent an explanation from Mr Arh, it can be reasonably inferred, at least on the balance of probabilities, that such a payment was related to the fixing of the Tunisian match.
48. In his response to the charges, Mr Arh accepts that he committed the offenses and describes it as 'a one-time occurrence' and that he was 'acting out of fear and in response to a threatening situation'.
49. I accept the submission of the ITIA that match fixing to enable betting is one of the most serious forms of offense under the TACP and has a 'material impact on the reputation of the sport'.
50. Mr Arh's culpability is high and falls within Category A and Category 1 in terms of impact, as it has significant material impact on the reputation and/or integrity of the sport.
51. As just mentioned, Mr Arh has not only admitted his involvement in the fixing of this match but has also expressed his regret at what he did, and the harm caused to the integrity of the sport and to those who had supported him throughout his career.
52. I accept that these are genuine sentiments, and, in combination with his early admission of this offense, need to be considered.

53. I have considered the psychological impact that these charges have had upon him, and his statement that his entire world revolved around tennis and shaped every aspect of his life.
54. I have also had regard to his submission that his financial situation is parlous, and, on his account, [REDACTED]. This, he says, has resulted in immense hardship.
55. Notwithstanding this, I think the imposition of a fine is necessary to demonstrate to others, as well as to Mr Arh, that this conduct cannot be condoned, and will inevitably result in not only ineligibility, but also a financial penalty.
56. The appropriate penalty is three years' ineligibility on this charge.
57. I have taken into account Mr Arh's financial position and consider that a fine of \$5,000 is appropriate, with a stay of six months on payment of the fine. After that time, Mr Arh may enter into a payment plan with the IATA.

*Charge 3 – non-co-operation with ITIA investigators*

58. It is clear that Mr Arh's conduct, during 2021, was designed to impede or deflect the ITIA investigation into his conduct and that of others associated with him.
59. As described earlier, Mr Arh initially denied any betting on tennis matches, both in his January 2021 interview and his email of 3 February 2021. It was only when confronted with the details of his [REDACTED] account that he conceded placing the bets.
60. Throughout 2021, Mr Arh consistently misled ITIA investigators as to not only the existence of betting accounts in his name, but also as to the existence of bank accounts in his name and the nature of the transactions associated with those accounts — the identity of which he had initially concealed from ITIA investigators. As it transpired, during the relevant period he had operated three separate accounts — Skrill, Neteller and Paysafe in addition to the SKB account.
61. He regularly gave false or misleading answers to the ITIA investigators when asked for

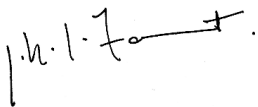
further details of particular banking transactions and those associated with them.

62. I do not accept Mr Arh's submission that he endeavoured to co-operate. As far as I can tell, it was only when confronted with the evidence of the existence of those accounts or the particular transactions, that he conceded these facts.
63. The ITIA, in its submissions, has identified a number of aspects of Mr Arh's conduct including—
- (a) his attempt to conceal his accounts with online money transfer applications, which show the receipt of thousands of Euros through these platforms, but with no explanation as to the basis for them;
  - (b) his connection with a Skrill user who placed two suspicious bets on the fixed match and whose address (given to the bookmaker) was in Ljubljana, Slovenia; and
  - (c) his failure to identify from whom he received the €5,000 via Skrill seven days after the fixed match, as well as a further receipt.
64. This offending was consistent and designed to mislead the ITIA investigators in determining the true nature of his involvement in corruption offenses — and also the identities of others who may have participated. Although Mr Arh has contended that there are other factors at play which led to this behaviour, no evidence has been adduced which would support that proposition. The distinct impression one gets from reading Mr Arh's email responses to ITIA requests and his answers in the interviews is that his primary defence was to deny and, only when appraised of the evidence, make appropriate but limited admissions.
65. In terms of culpability, under the Guidelines, his offending falls between Category A (high) and B (medium) as it was recurrent and over a period of time; in respect of impact, it falls within Category 2-material impact on the integrity of the sport. Mr Arh is to be given some credit for his admissions, admittedly belatedly, as to some aspects of his conduct.

66. The penalty in a case such as this needs to set an example not only to Mr Arh, but, more importantly, to others as to the need to be frank and open when questioned by ITIA investigators in relation to potential corruption offenses.
67. The appropriate penalty on this charge is that of 15 months' ineligibility.

### **Conclusion and orders**

68. The end result is that a suspension of three years from competitive professional tennis should be imposed in respect of charge 2, with a fine of \$5,000. The sanctions in respect of charges 1 and 3 (one year and fifteen months suspension respectively) should be served concurrently with the three-year suspension on charge 2. Thus, Mr Arh is suspended for three years from competitive tennis and fined \$5,000.
69. Accordingly, and in conformity with section G.4.b of the TACP, I order as follows:
- (1) Mr Arh's penalty falls within section H.1.a of the TACP.
  - (2) Mr Arh is ineligible to participate in a sanctioned event as defined in the TACP for a period of three years, commencing on 1 May 2025 and ending on 30 April 2028.
  - (3) Mr Arh is fined \$5,000, payment of which is stayed for six months.
70. Subject to Mr Arh'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 Arh has a right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration of Sport pursuant to section 1.1 of the TACP.



**The Honourable Jack Forrest KC**

**1 May 2025**