
05

ITF:

**Submission to the
Independent
Review Panel**

**Independent
Review
of Integrity
in Tennis**

APPENDIX

SUBMISSION TO INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL ON BEHALF OF ITF

1. As the world governing body for tennis, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has 211 member National Associations (NAs), in partnership with which it provides the development of the tennis 'eco-system' known as the Player Pathway. This acts as the developmental route for all professional players and includes the ITF Junior Circuit, and men's and women's Professional Circuit. In essence, the ITF develops all players who participate on the ATP and WTA tours and at Grand Slam events. In 2016, the ITF organised, in association with its NAs, 1,212 Professional Circuit events and 450 ITF Junior Circuit events. This developmental role is unique to the ITF.
2. The ITF and NAs are also jointly responsible for investing in, and developing, the game at grassroots level, which is necessary to (a) maintain the existence and relevance of tennis as a sport, and (b) provide the next generation of players for the upper levels of professional events. In 2017, the ITF will invest \$8.9 million into its development programmes, to which only the Grand Slams make a contribution, and even this (a total of \$2.2 million) represents only 0.02% of the Grand Slams' estimated total annual revenue of \$1 billion. The contribution to development from the Grand Slams is appreciated, but is minimal in comparison to their assets.
3. In 2016, prize money at each \$15,000 Pro Circuit event increased by \$10,000 and, in 2017, prize money at every \$10,000 event will increase by \$5,000. The majority of these increases were (and will be) funded by the ITF's data rights agreement with Sportradar, signed in 2012, and since renewed for 2017-2021, which is the sole meaningful revenue stream for many Pro Circuit events. Whilst betting-related corruption has an economic component, simply increasing prize money is not a complete solution, as there are behavioural and cultural elements that must also be addressed.
4. There are too many 'professional' players (13,736 in 2013) and events. It is important that any change to the number of players and events does not compromise the long-term sustainability of tennis and its global reach. A reformed structure, which caters for around 1,000 men and 1,000 women, and creates a set and appropriate number of job opportunities for those players, is required. Below this, an interim tour that provides opportunities for players from all backgrounds to transition to the professional tour is required. Work to model the size of a future professional player community will be completed by the ITF in March 2017.
5. Appropriate integrity measures must be introduced at all tennis events (and for all players) that are at risk of corruption. In January 2017, the ITF will begin to introduce integrity protection measures at Pro Circuit events. The increased integrity protection measures will be funded from the ITF data rights agreement with Sportradar. Without access to the necessary funding to support such measures, lower-level tennis events are at risk of becoming too expensive to organise, putting at risk the sustainability of the sport.
6. In addition to being an important revenue stream, a centralised data rights agreement contributes to the protection of integrity by mitigating the threat of courtsiders, and deterring the collection of unauthorised data and the creation of any unregulated betting market (both of which we are reliably informed pre-existed any ITF data rights agreement). Even with a data rights agreement in place, courtsiders continue to attempt to gain access to Pro Circuit events, and so without that agreement there is a significant risk that unauthorised data collection (and unregulated betting markets) will increase significantly. With or without a data rights agreement, additional integrity protection measures would need to be put in place to mitigate this threat. Therefore, data rights agreements should be permissible for all tennis events, subject to appropriate measures of integrity control being in place at those events.
7. The protection of integrity of all players, events and stakeholders that are susceptible to corruption must be the responsibility of an independent integrity organisation with an appropriate governance structure. For players, starting such protection only once they reach professional status is too late, and would leave them more accessible to corruptors at an earlier stage in their careers, making tennis an impossible sport to police. A coherent tennis-wide protection strategy is required, which must reach down to junior players and events.