
08

USTA:

**Submission to the
Independent
Review Panel**

**Independent
Review
of Integrity
in Tennis**

APPENDIX



The United States Tennis Association

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) was founded in 1881. Today the USTA is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the United States.

The USTA's Professional Tennis and Player Development Divisions manage all aspects of the USTA's involvement in the professional sport. The Professional Tennis division deals primarily with the operational aspects of events including supervisory personnel, umpires, commercial integration, etc. while Player Development interfaces closely with up-and-coming players and support personnel (private coaches, parents, etc.).

The USTA owns and operates the US Open —one of the world's highest-attended annual sporting event — and in 2004 launched the US Open Series, linking seven summer tournaments to the US Open. Additionally, since the beginnings of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) the USTA has owned, operated, or licensed operations of events on both tours.

The USTA owns or operates over 100 USTA Pro Circuit events within the United States and manages and selects the U.S. teams for Davis Cup, Fed Cup, the Olympics and the Paralympic Games.

As such, the USTA regularly interacts with the Grand Slam Board, the ATP World Tour, the WTA Tour, and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in the implementation of all current levels of professional tennis.

Sports Betting in the United States

Sports betting is prevalent and popular in the United States. It has been illegal, however, since 1992 when Congress passed the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) effectively outlawing sports betting in most of the U.S. Four states - Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon - that previously allowed sports betting were grandfathered by the law and therefore allowed to offer sports betting. Today, however, Nevada is the only state in which traditional, single game betting on college and professional sports through licensed bookmakers is legal. The prohibition on sports betting has resulted in the development of a large illegal black market, which almost all observers believe generates revenues that far exceed those of the legal market. In total, Americans bet at least \$149 billion illegally on U.S. sports in 2015, (compared with \$4.2 billion wagered on sports through legal channels in Nevada of which only \$333,000 was bet on

sports other than football, basketball and baseball). Legal betting on tennis is not popular or common among Americans.¹

The recent change in the US presidential administration seems to have stimulated efforts to legalize sports betting in the United States, the status of which the USTA will continue to monitor.

Data Licensing

US Open

The USTA has licensed various data and live streaming rights since 2012. Currently, the USTA grants WME/IMG (formerly International Management Group, "IMG") the rights to license live streaming and data for the US Open to the betting industry on a global basis as permitted by law. The USTA also engages IBM as its Information Technology partner for the US Open. IBM provides point by point data as well as statistical analysis, which is primarily utilized by broadcasters and is published on the US Open digital platforms for the benefit of the public. IBM has provided this service since 1992.

USTA Pro Circuit

From 2013-2016 the USTA granted Sportradar the right to sublicense livestreaming and closed circuit television rights for US women's pro-circuit events for use by the betting industry. The USTA currently is contemplating renewing that license. The USTA is also a beneficiary of i) the ITF-Sportradar license for non-ATP challenger events in the US, and ii) the ATP-IMG agreement for live streaming of ATP challenger events in the US.

The USTA acknowledges that gambling and attempted match fixing on Futures level events appears to be the primary impetus that drives integrity issues. Unless gambling can be essentially eliminated at this level (through agreements with gambling companies, security measures, and other means) we believe it is better to provide data distribution from those events than not. The USTA advocates for a holistic approach to reduce illegal betting opportunities through cooperation and regulation with betting operators, small but effective security fixes at Pro Circuit events, and much more robust education and prevention training for players, tournament staff, officials and others affiliated with these events.

Integrity Issues and the USTA: Historical and Current

Historical

Since 2008 the USTA has had in effect recommended practices such as anti-gambling signage around the player, officiating, and media areas of the US Open and Pro Circuit events, issuance of notices to staff on anti-gambling, social media warnings, and year-round blockage of on-line betting sites to all USTA employees. The USTA also maintains cameras on every match court at the Open. Since 2009 the US Open's Information Technology Division has implemented aggressive measures to prevent connectivity with internet gambling sites via attempts from within player areas, media areas, broadcast areas, and US Open staff areas.

¹ American Gaming Association

USTA Pro Circuit supervisors are responsible for posting the signage and making reports to the TIU in the event they suspect an integrity issue. Historically, training on integrity issues for the Pro Circuit supervisors has been sporadic, consisting primarily of emails from the ITF and ATP. Over the period of 2009-2015, the USTA filed approximately 7 match alerts to the TIU, all occurring at Pro Circuit events.

At a governance level, the USTA (along with the other Grand Slam tournament entities) has been represented on the Tennis Integrity Board by Philip Brook, Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Aside from this representation, the USTA's role has largely been limited to receiving updates from Nigel Willerton (and before him, Jeff Rees) of the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) during meetings with him at the various Grand Slams as part of the regular Grand Slam Board meetings. Until the accusations of integrity issues at the Australian Open in 2016, integrity issues were perceived by the USTA as a minor problem with only sporadic infractions in the United States., The US Open has activated closely against the "DO NOT CREDENTIAL" lists issued by the TIU in the 2009-2016 timeframe and also did so at all other levels of professional tennis where the USTA had a presence.

Current

In 2016, the USTA implemented the following measures at the US Open:

- Approximately 615 individuals providing services in player areas at the US Open completed the TIU's Tennis Integrity Protection Program (TIPP).
- USTA designed and presented a version of the TIPP Program for use in training 430 seasonal hires who work in the areas of access control, player dining and player drivers.
- Mandated the Officials and Junior competitors attend TIU presentations on anti-corruption rules and reporting obligations. Bound the Officials contractually to comply with the Tennis Anti-Corruption program.
- TIU presented during the annual US Pro Circuit Tournament Director Workshop.
- Implemented new technology tools for umpires at the US Open to more closely parallel the tools used by umpires at ATP World Tour and WTA Tour events.
- Updated all posters/signage on social media and TIU Anti-corruption rules for the player areas.
- Exercised new safe guards and checks for its credentialing database to ensure compliance with the TIU "Do Not Credential" list.
- Caught, removed and served trespass notices on 19 courtsiders, and tracked and revoked ticket purchases made by known courtsiders with the aid of additional resources not previously deployed.

- Collaborated with IMG to increase data monitoring of all qualification and main draw matches including analysis of match data and live video capture alongside the monitoring of betting operator alerts. IMG provided daily reports on umpire performance, courtsider detection and betting anomalies.
- Completely integrated USTA/US Open Security Division into efforts to combat integrity issues.

Looking forward

For 2017, the USTA is:

- Designing and implementing a new integrity module to overlay and filter all applicants for credentials to both the US Open as well as USA Team Events.
- Working with IMG to receive live courtsider detection based on and betting alerts and patterns at the US Open.
- Exploring opportunities to utilize facial recognition software to identify known courtsiders at the US Open.
- Continued upgrading of technology tools related to umpires' performance on court and continued educational training of umpires.
- Enhanced training and procedures for Pro Circuit Supervisors and Tournament Directors.

The USTA advocates for the following actions:

Tennis Integrity Unit

- The expansion of integrity services into an amalgamated organization comprising anti-corruption, anti-doping, education and other integrity services. An amalgamated organization will increase efficiencies through the sharing of intelligence, resources and the development of cross functional expertise.
- That any Integrity Organization (whether an amalgamated organization or an expanded version of the TIU) be physically independent of the ITF or other Tennis Governing Bodies² to ensure independence and transparency in its governance and operation.

² The Tennis Governing Bodies are the International Tennis Federation ("ITF"), Association of Tennis Professionals ("ATP"), Women's Tennis Association ("WTA"), and The Grand Slam Board (comprised of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated, the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Limited, the Fédération Française de Tennis, and Tennis Australia).

- The expansion of governance of the Integrity Organization through the creation of an independent Board, external audits, and other checks and balances. The USTA believes it important to have tennis expertise on the Board but that tennis professionals not make up the majority of the Board.
- The creation of regional offices or the placement of regional officers. As with the above recommendation, the USTA believes that such office or individual should not be embedded in one of the governing bodies of tennis or a national federation.³ We remain open -minded about investigating economies of scale with other professional sports and law enforcement agencies related to enhanced enforcement of integrity strictures.

Education

The TIPP Module has been a good start in making players aware of integrity issues, but players must be engaged further, through the use of live presentations, signage, information conveyed through player portals, and other reminders, particular at the level where players are most vulnerable, e.g. Futures and Challenger level players. The USTA is particularly interested in providing a more fulsome educational campaign for junior players.

USTA would encourage creation of compulsory education and testing for player support staff (coaches, physios,) as well as tournament personnel. It is our understanding that the ITF is in the process of creating an Officials-specific tennis integrity training, which the USTA would deploy.

Professional Tennis

USTA supports a reformed definition of “professional tennis,” and are aligned around a threshold for “professionals” as those competing at the Challenger level or above.

Conclusion

The inquiry of the Independent Review Panel (IRP) as authorized by the various tennis governing bodies in January 2016 has exposed weaknesses in the sport which need to be buttressed by focused personnel and resources. The USTA is prepared to work with the other tennis governing bodies as well as interested law enforcement agencies and other sporting bodies to establish an independent anti-corruption authority whose focus is solely on eliminating the opportunities to corrupt those within tennis and other sports.

We thank the IRP for the opportunity to provide this statement and look forward to the IRP interim report.

³ While recognizing the financial challenge total independence creates, the USTA believes it necessary to ensure that the TIU be protected from improper influence by the leadership of tennis.