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Annual Review

Tennis
you can
trust.



WHAT WE DO

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) is an independent body established by the international governing bodies of tennis to promote, encourage and safeguard the integrity of professional tennis worldwide.

The agency is responsible for the **Tennis Anti-Corruption Program**, which covers the rules in tennis concerning match fixing and betting issues. This includes establishing and maintaining the rules, as well as ensuring that players, coaches and officials are fully aware of the risks and consequences through education outreach.

From 1 January 2022, the ITIA is also responsible for the administering of the **Tennis Anti-Doping Programme** on behalf of the international governing bodies of tennis.

This Annual Review looks at the agency's operations in 2021.

**Promote,
encourage and
safeguard the
integrity of
professional
tennis worldwide.**



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INDEPENDENT CHAIR

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FOREWORD

Jennie Price CBE
Independent Chair



2021 has been memorable if challenging year for everyone in tennis. On court, we saw a return to action for many tennis tournaments following an enforced pause in 2020, while off court the sport continued to face the financial, practical and personal challenges presented by the global pandemic.

It was a significant year for the ITIA as January 2021 marked its official establishment as the sport's independent integrity agency. The international governing bodies of tennis willingness to proceed with this decision, and to increase our funding despite the many challenges facing the sport shows how seriously integrity is taken – but also demonstrates that the issues are clear and present. Match fixing has not gone away and indeed the financial pressures faced by players, thanks to the current global situation – particularly at the lower echelons – has meant the risks are higher than ever.

During the year the sport made significant progress to addressing many of the recommendations put forward by the Independent Review Panel in 2018.

For example, education and prevention efforts are now central to the ITIA's mission. It is not enough to just investigate and sanction those who have broken the rules: we must reach those within the game early to make sure they are fully aware of the risks and consequences, and I was very pleased that, despite Covid related travel restrictions, our education team was able to travel to tournaments in Italy, Spain and the US to talk to players at all levels of the game. The sport also needs to consider whether there are structural factors that are making players vulnerable to corrupt approaches, and this will be one of our most important areas of work in 2022.

2022 also sees the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme come under the auspices of the ITIA, which will bring new challenges – but also considerable opportunities – as we bring integrity under one fully and legally independent organisation.

Our Board has worked hard this year and I am very grateful for the unstinting support of the ITIA's Directors and for the excellent leadership of our CEO, Jonny Gray. All of the ITIA's members – the ATP, WTA, ITF and the Grand Slam tournaments – are united in their desire to ensure the game is free from corruption. They have put their trust in the ITIA to deliver this and the whole team is grateful for their support.

Tennis is leading the way in this regard and tennis fans should be reassured that we are all fully committed to ensuring the sport they are watching is **Tennis You Can Trust.**

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INTRODUCTION

Jonny Gray
CEO



2021 was a year that saw the ITIA – and indeed tennis as a whole – make significant progress in its fight against match fixing and doping in the sport. In our first year as a fully legally independent entity, we brought in a number of fundamental alterations to our operations and made some exciting hires, increasing our resources and capacity as well as finding new and more efficient ways to work.

Establishing a new, in-house legal team and the work that went into integrating the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme from 1 January 2022 are hugely significant for the future of the sport.

The old Tennis Integrity Unit relied entirely on external legal support, which was expensive and challenging to plan for. The new team, led by Ben Rutherford who was appointed at the end of 2020, enables us to keep our external legal costs to a minimum as well as streamline our processes. This was a key recommendation of the IRP recommendations and one we are pleased to have implemented.

This change also saw the first 'Proposal for disposition' cases, which meant sanctions could be confirmed without a hearing, upon admission of guilt.

Another key appointment for the organisation in 2021 was that of Nicole Sapstead. Nicole joined us from UK Anti-Doping to head up the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme from 2022. The last few months of 2021 were spent working with the International Tennis Federation to ensure the programme was handed over. The Tennis Integrity Supervisory Board was satisfied this met the criteria set out and with suitable governance agreed, accordingly signed it off in the final Board Meeting of the year.

We continue to work closely with the regulated betting industry to share intelligence, data and good

practice. The match alerts we receive from the industry in themselves are not proof of match fixing, but are useful indicators of where something may have happened. It is not surprising that we received more match alerts in 2021 than 2020 [see page 07 for full details] but interesting that it is lower than 2019 figures. It remains to be seen whether this is a downward trend.

Despite the ongoing challenges that the global pandemic brought, I am extremely proud of the work that the ITIA team has done this year. We continue to investigate corruption and where we have proof, take the appropriate steps to remove individuals from the sport. Investigators and educators have been able to travel to tournaments where regulations and guidelines allow and we are working hard to close off any historic investigations as well as explore new prevention approaches.

I am excited about the plans we have for 2022 and beyond, which will see an integrated anti-corruption and anti-doping approach for tennis. We are on a novel and positive journey and we remain hugely grateful to our member organisations for their commitment and support.

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EDUCATION UPDATE

Matthew Perry

Senior Manager Education & Training



Education and prevention initiatives are a central part of the ITIA's strategy. The ability to travel to tournaments to deliver anti-corruption messages in 2021 were still impacted by Covid, however there were opportunities to travel in the latter months of the year to the US Open, an ATP Challenger event in Sicily and the Eddie Herr International Junior Championship in Florida.

It was pleasing that both participants of one of the most talked-about matches of 2021, the US Open Women's final between Emma Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez, had both received one-to-one Anti-Corruption training from the ITIA's education team.



ITIA's Jonny Gray and Matt Perry talking to players at ATP Challenger event, Alicante October 2021.



Informal briefing with Matt Perry and coaches at ATP Challenger event, Alicante October 2021.

ITIA's Richard Sackey-Addo talking to players at the Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup in Sardinia, October 2021.



Legal Director Ben Rutherford (3rd from left) and ITIA Independent Board member Sal Perna (4th from left) talking to players at the Australian Open, January 2022.



1,200+

players, coaches and officials
educated both face to face and online.

Educated players from **40+** different nations and from every region.

Presented to

600+

coaches at the 2021 PTR Annual Symposium and ITF World Coach Conference.

Pro players ranked from

#32 - #1699

on ATP/WTA tours educated in F2F sessions.

10

National Tennis Centres have now successfully achieved integrity standards.

Junior players ranked from

#1 - #1699

on ITF Junior Tour.



MATCH ALERTS

The ITIA has a number of agreements in place with regulated betting companies, regulators and with the International Betting Integrity Association. The industry will report any suspicious betting activity to the ITIA.

Match alerts are not in themselves proof of match fixing, but can be an indicator that something inappropriate may have occurred.

Where further analysis of a match alert does suggest corrupt activity, the ITIA conducts a full and confidential investigation.

It is important to note that unusual betting patterns can occur for many reasons other than match fixing – for example incorrect odds-setting; well-informed betting; player fitness, fatigue or form; playing conditions and personal circumstances.

	ATP CHALLENGER	ATP WORLD TOUR 250	ATP MASTERS 1000	M25 MEN'S - WORLD TENNIS TOUR	M15 MEN'S - WORLD TENNIS TOUR	W80 WOMEN'S - WORLD TENNIS TOUR	W25 WOMEN'S - WORLD TENNIS TOUR	W15 WOMEN'S - WORLD TENNIS TOUR	GRAND SLAM - WIMBLEDON	GRAND SLAM - US OPEN	DAVIS CUP	
Q1.				23
Q2.					11
Q3.	38
Q4.					41

In total, 113 match alerts were received in 2021 by the ITIA.

This is up from 2020 which saw 77 alerts in a season impacted by Covid, but down on 2019 when 138 alerts were received.

113

PUBLISHED SANCTIONS

<p>Sofia Dmitrieva</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Alija Merdeeva</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Nikita Gudozhnikov</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>30 months ban</p> 	<p>Abiodun Oyegoke</p> <p>Nigeria</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 
<p>Bukola Popoola</p> <p>Nigeria</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Barbora Palcatova</p> <p>Slovakia</p> <p>3 years ban (15 months suspend-</p> 	<p>Franco Feitt</p> <p>Argentina</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Roman Khassanov</p> <p>Kazakhstan</p> <p>10 years ban</p> 
<p>Carlos Andrés Sepúlveda Navarro</p> <p>Columbia</p> <p>3 years ban</p> 	<p>Temur Ismailov</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Amal Sultanbekov</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>5 years ban</p> 	<p>Simohamed Hirs</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 
<p>Hichem Yasri</p> <p>Algeria</p> <p>3 months ban</p> 	<p>Dario Drebenstedt</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>12 months ban</p> 	<p>Albina Khabibulina</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Mauricio Astorga</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>3 years ban</p> 
<p>Amine Ahouda</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>11 years ban</p> 	<p>Anas Chakrouni</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>10 years ban</p> 	<p>Ayoub Chakrouni</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>Lifetime ban</p> 	<p>Mohamed Zakaria Khalil</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>9 years ban</p> 
<p>Soufiane El Mesbahi</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>9 years ban</p> 	<p>Yassir Kilani</p> <p>Morocco</p> <p>9 years ban</p> 	<p>Carlos Ramirez Utermann</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>1 year and 10 months ban</p> 	<p>Roberto Santino Quintana</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>2 years ban</p> 



FINANCE

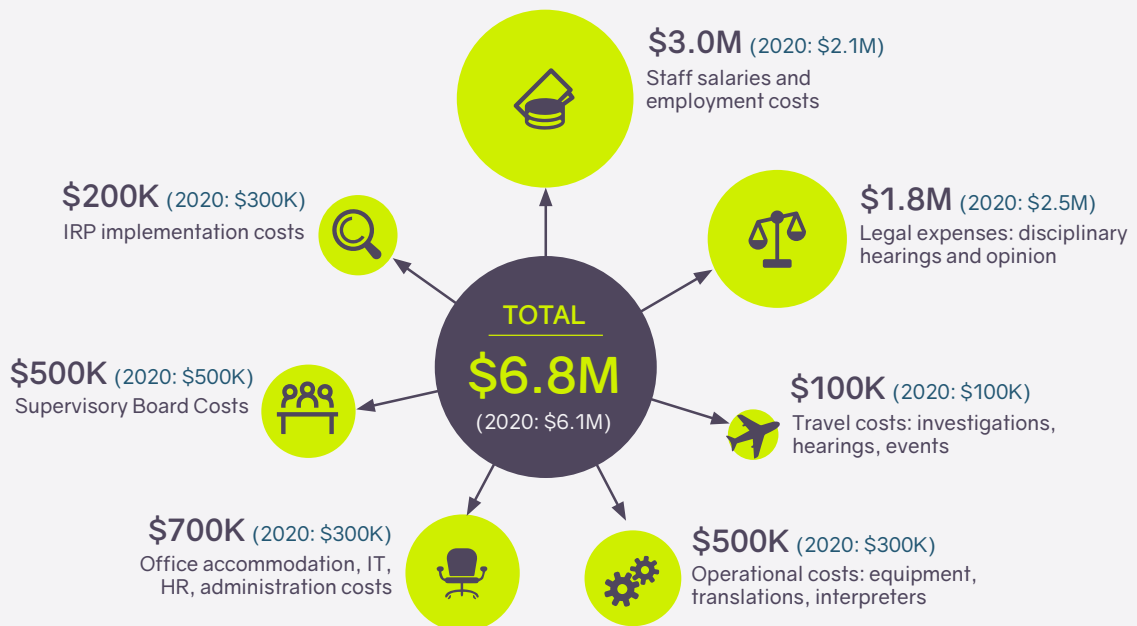
The ITIA budget is set by the Tennis Integrity Supervisory Board with each funding organisation contributing an equitable amount of one seventh.

The funders are: ATP, WTA, ITF and Grand Slam Board (Wimbledon, Roland Garros, Australian Open and US Open).

Budget

	Anti-Corruption	Anti-Doping (ITF)
2020	\$7.23M	\$5.7M
Final year of the Tennis Integrity Unit		
2021	\$8.4M	\$5.7M
Integrated Anti-Corruption and Anti-Doping		
2022	\$15.8M	

Major areas of ITIA expenditure in 2021





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The ITIA works across the sport of tennis with our member organisations to **promote, encourage** and **safeguard** the integrity of professional tennis worldwide.

The organisation also liaises with sporting and governmental bodies across the world to share relevant intelligence and / or best practice.

Examples of organisations that the ITIA has engaged with in 2021 include:





GOVERNANCE

The work of the ITIA is overseen by the Tennis Integrity Supervisory Board (TISB), which is made up of representatives from the International Governing Bodies of the sport and independent members. It is chaired by Jennie Price CBE.

The Board met eight times during 2021 via video conference to discuss the work of the International Tennis Integrity Agency.

The major decisions agreed by the Board in 2021 included:

01.

Agreement that the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme will be transferred from the International Tennis Federation to the ITIA.

02.

Agreed changes to the 2022 Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, including:

- A new 'prohibited association' clause meaning that players, coaches or officials who have been sanctioned for anti-corruption offences can no longer have any sporting or professional association with participants in the sport – both inside and outside of sanctioned events.
- Ability to allow evidence gathered in anti-doping investigations to be used in anti-corruption investigations and vice versa, providing certain conditions are met.
- Addition of events sanctioned by National Associations to list of events covered by the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.

03.

Appointment of auditors for the ITIA.

04.

Confirmation of the 2022 budget for the integrated Anti-Corruption and Anti-Doping programmes.

05.

Agreement of an overarching strategy for the ITIA's work.

06.

Agreement to begin work on a continuous attitude survey among players in the sport concerning integrity issues.



BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

There are three sub-committees of the TISB which report in to the main Board:

Audit Committee

Chaired by Independent Director Bob Harayda, the Audit Committee reviews the annual budget and deals with matters of risk management and assurance. The Audit Committee met three times in 2021.



Philip Brook CBE, Bob Harayda, Jonny Gray, Avil Martindale and Kirsty Batchelor.

Remuneration & Nomination Committee

Chaired by Independent Director Sir Philip Craven MBE, the Remuneration & Nomination Committee reviews the pay and performance of the ITIA CEO, and has reviewed the HR programme, policies and contractual requirements of the new ITIA. This committee also met three times in 2021.

Rules Committee

Chaired by ITIA CEO Jonny Gray, the Rules Committee met on numerous occasions throughout 2021 to discuss the application, interpretation and development of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program rules and to make recommendations to the Board. It also advises the IGBs on the optimal balance between commercial opportunities and integrity safeguards.





COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors



Jennie Price CBE
Independent Chair



Mark Young
ATP



Steve Simon
WTA



David Haggerty
ITF



Philip Brook CBE
Grand Slam Board
(Replaced by Ugo Valensi from 2022)



**Sir Philip Craven
MBE**
INED; Chair of
Nominations and
Remuneration
Committee



Avril Martindale
INED



Sal Perna AM
INED



Bob Harayda
INED; Chair of
Audit Committee



Jonny Gray
ex officio, CEO,
Chair of Rules
Committee

Secretary

Nick Currie, Fieldfisher LLP

Company Registration number

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Registered Office

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Independent Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP

2021

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