

February 24, 2003

David Price
Vice President of Enforcement
NCAA
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

Dear David,

I am writing you on behalf of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) to request your help and guidance with certain issues involving Division I tennis eligibility.

In the last several years there has been a heightened concern among many men's and women's Division I tennis coaches and administrators, and our student-athletes and their parents, that there are ineligible players competing in Division I NCAA tennis.

There is also the definite perception, whether accurate or mistaken, that the NCAA has often not taken effective action when such ineligible players have been reported. Obviously this impression tends to encourage some coaches to believe that these NCAA eligibility rules are not particularly important, and in fact, can be ignored if doing so is necessary to keep one's program competitive.

The ITA is very concerned about this situation, and its impact on the integrity of our college sport. The ITA Division I Operating Committee is exploring a variety of ways to respond to this situation, including a proposed amendment to NCAA Bylaw 14.2.3.2, to tighten up some of the gray areas and loopholes in recruiting, and also the adoption of a code of ethics for our coaches, to emphasize the importance of coaches acting in a moral and ethical manner.

At the same time, it would be a great help if you could provide us with the following information, which we could share with our membership:

- 1) To which NCAA department should information about eligibility violations be sent?
- 2) Is it acceptable for a coach to send this information anonymously?
- 3) What is the standard operating procedure by the NCAA once it receives such information? If there is an investigation, how long would this usually take?
- 4) Would it be possible to make the results of the investigation available to the complainant, and to the NCAA tennis coaches as a group?

Clearly, it is in the best interest of the NCAA and intercollegiate tennis that these concerns be addressed in a forthright and positive manner.

The ITA Operating Committee has suggested that we send hard copies of this email to the Conference offices, to inform them as well of these problems. And with your permission, we would also like to make available on our ITA website the information which you provide, in order to educate our membership about these important issues.

David, thank you once again for your advice and help.

Yours truly,

David A Benjamin
Executive Director
DAB:tjg

Enclosure

Cc: Steve Mallonee

Delise O'Meally

Tom Jacobs

Mark Bockelman

Jim Murphy

NCAA Div. I Conference Commissioners

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ITA Operating Committee