

March 12, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. David Benjamin
Executive Director
Intercollegiate Tennis Association
174 Tamarack Circle
Skillman, New Jersey 08558

Dear David:

This is in response to your letter of February 24 concerning issues involving Division I tennis eligibility. As I mentioned in my e-mail last week, it's been a wild time in the enforcement services department during the last two weeks, so I trust you will understand my delay in responding.

First, let me indicate that the enforcement services staff has been active in pursuing amateurism eligibility issues involving tennis. In the last four years, there have been 157 cases processed through student-athlete reinstatement involving impermissible prize money, and the large majority of those were in the sport of tennis. Half of those, 78, were processed in 2002.

We believe that this increase in reinstatement cases resulted because of our interaction with conference compliance officials after receiving information in an anonymous letter regarding possible amateurism violations involving several men's tennis student-athletes. We prepared a lengthy memorandum ([attached](#)) and sent it to selected conference commissioners for their guidance in dealing with the issue. We discovered that much of the information reported was wrong (the information indicated what the student-athletes *could* have won rather than what they *actually* won, if anything), but many violations were uncovered anyway.

The enforcement staff has recognized that amateurism violations have not been pursued vigorously in the past. Because of that recognition, amateurism issues were assigned to Bill Saum in 1999, and we now have a staff of four persons who deal with them. (Their duties also include agents and gambling issues.) While most of their activity has been most visible (and sometimes controversial) in the sport of men's basketball, particularly with regard to international student-athletes, they have followed up on leads involving numerous other sports such as baseball, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

In response to your specific questions, let me offer the following:

1. *To which NCAA department should information about eligibility violations be sent?*
The information should be sent to Bill Saum, director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities, in the enforcement services department.
2. *Is it acceptable for a coach to send this information to you anonymously?*
We would prefer that the coach provide his identity when he sends the information, although we can and do accept anonymous information. We can agree to protect the coach's identity; in that event, the coach becomes a "confidential source" (whose identity is known only to the enforcement staff) rather than an "anonymous source." In either event, the information should contain specific details about the allegation. We tend to give little credence to anonymous reports that contain no details.
3. *What is the standard operating procedure by the NCAA once it receives information? If there is an investigation, how long would this usually take?*

When information of possible NCAA rules violations is received, it is assigned to an enforcement representative for processing. The quality of the information and the representative's caseload determine subsequent steps. Allegations that could result in ineligibility declarations for student-athletes in a sport that currently is in season usually draw priority. Although we attempt to process cases in a timely fashion, the volume of caseloads some-times slows the process; thus, it is impossible to provide a specific time frame by which a case is concluded.

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?*

Long-standing NCAA enforcement procedures bind the staff with a confidentiality clause that prohibits the enforcement staff from commenting on cases it processes. Although we sometimes tell the complainant the outcome of a case in very general terms, we could not share information with the tennis coaches as a group.

We look forward to working with your organization in dealing with these issues. Please feel free to post this letter on your Web site.

Sincerely,

David Price
Vice-President for Enforcement Services

DP:ajh

Attachment