



October 11, 2010

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mr. David Benjamin
Executive Director
Intercollegiate Tennis Association
174 Tamarack Circle
Skillman, New Jersey 08558-2021

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

I hope you are well. My name is Angie Cretors and I work within the agent, gambling and amateurism activities (AGA) department at the NCAA. The AGA staff is currently reaching out to various coaching organizations to provide information related to sports wagering and how this is affecting current student-athletes participating in your sport. Sports wagering continues to be a serious problem that threatens both the well-being of the student-athlete and the integrity of the game. In response, the NCAA has taken action to curb the threats against student-athletes by limiting sports wagering activity and educating student-athletes, coaches and athletics department staff on the dangers of sports wagering.

While the NCAA and its members have made progress in educating student-athletes on the dangers of sports wagering, additional efforts are needed. The NCAA believes that educational efforts should start with the student-athlete's coaches because they are the key to informing student-athletes about the consequences and risks associated with sports wagering.

Recently, the NCAA released its second national study on sports wagering behaviors of NCAA student-athletes. The study demonstrates that coaches are the most significant source of education for student-athletes. According to the study, when student-athletes were asked what were the most effective ways to influence them not to wager on sports, they consistently indicated their coach would be the most effective.

However, the research also produced alarming results that show no division or institution is immune to sports wagering issues. The survey indicated that 6.7 percent of men's tennis student-athletes and .8 percent of women's tennis student-athlete's had bet on sports socially during the past year. The survey also showed that approximately 90 percent of men and 95 percent of women across all three divisions who have received NCAA educational messages (including through meetings at championships venues) believe the information discourages student-athlete wagering.

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Once tennis student-athlete's choose to wager on sports, they are wagering their collegiate future. The NCAA has taken a hard stance on sports wagering by opposing all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. NCAA rules state that student-athlete's, coaches and athletics department staff cannot place a wager on any NCAA-sanctioned sport which encompasses intercollegiate, amateur and professional level sports. The NCAA and its members have determined that student-athlete's who violate the sports wagering rules can receive anywhere from a one-year suspension to complete loss of eligibility.

However, sports wagering not only jeopardizes a student-athletes' eligibility it also puts their well-being at risk. When student-athlete's wager on sports, they are frequently wagering with someone connected to organized crime, such as a campus bookie. Often times, those placing the wager or even the bookie themselves do not know that the wagers are backed by organized crime. When student-athlete's gamble with organized crime they become indebted to them. Former organized crime members have informed the NCAA that once student-athlete's place wagers with their organization, they would threaten to expose the student-athlete's gambling problems or threaten physical harm unless the student-athlete agreed to cooperate and provide assistance or information.

The NCAA would like to begin working with your coaches association to deliver the important educational message about the dangers and rules around sports wagering. The NCAA will continue to work with campuses across the country to make sure they have the tools and processes in place to address the issue, as well as addressing the initiative on a national level.

Additional sports wagering information can be found by visiting the redesigned NCAA interactive sports wagering website, www.dontbetonit.org. The website provides new commentary from CBS basketball analyst Clark Kellogg, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, Las Vegas sportsbook operators and oddsmakers, and members from the each of the professional sports league's investigation departments.

If you are interested in assisting with the NCAA agent, gambling and amateurism activities staff's educational efforts, please feel free to contact me at 317/917-6082.

Sincerely,



Angie Cretors
Associate Director of Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities

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