

Report Says Tennis Has 'Significant' Integrity Problems *from VOA*

A new report says the sport of tennis faces "very significant" problems with integrity.

The report said the problems, (1)_____ issues like (2)_____ play and honesty, are most notable at the lower levels of the sport. It said a major cause was a sharp increase in internet (3)_____ -- with some players winning money by losing to their (4)_____ on purpose.

The Interim Report of the Independent Review of Integrity was (5)_____ last week after a two-year independent investigation. It said that investigators had not found (6)_____ corruption at the highest levels of tennis worldwide. But it did find that there is "(7)_____ of some issues at these levels."

The report offered suggestions for (8)_____ with those issues. One idea is a proposal to study how tennis players are paid. (9)_____, payments are based on appearances in tennis events. The report also proposed a study of the current system for (10)_____ players. And it called for closer examination of the lower levels of tennis.

The Review was ordered by major bodies of the sport in 2016. They acted following a report by the British Broadcasting Company and BuzzFeed News. The report claimed that 16 of the world's top 50 players were suspected of (11)_____ losing to other players.

The report said the "problems are greatest where prize money relative to costs," (12)_____ of public interest and attention, and financial resources of tennis events are (13)_____.

It added that the (14)_____ of online gaming and the sale of official 'live' results of tennis matches have (15)_____ the problem. Such results are published on the internet and social media as play continues.

The writers of the report added that there are no simple solutions. But they want "to address and limit the betting markets that (16)_____ drive...the problem."

The report said many at the lowest level of tennis (17)_____ to cover the costs of competing. This, the report said, made the idea of placing bets on matches more (18)_____ to players. Many of them had knowledge of match-fixing.

A study of 3,200 players found that 16 percent said they knew players placing bets on matches, while 11 percent knew of inside information being (19)_____.

Tennis's governing organizations have promised to (20)_____ the report's final findings after a period of discussion.

I'm Jonathan Evans.

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The Interim Report of the Independent Review of Integrity was released last week after a two-year independent investigation. It said that investigators had not found widespread corruption at the highest levels of tennis worldwide. But it did find that there is “evidence of some issues at these levels.”

The report offered suggestions for dealing with those issues. One idea is a proposal to study how tennis players are paid. Currently, payments are based on appearances in tennis events. The report also proposed a study of the current system for rating players. And it called for closer examination of the lower levels of tennis.

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The report said the “problems are greatest where prize money relative to costs,” likelihood of public interest and attention, and financial resources of tennis events are lowest.

It added that the launch of online gaming and the sale of official ‘live’ results of tennis matches have worsened the problem. Such results are published on the internet and social media as play continues.

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