

CAS 2011/A/2621 David Savic v. Professional Tennis Integrity Officers

AWARD

delivered by

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

sitting in the following composition:

President:

Mr. Dirk-Reiner Martens, Attorney-at-law in Munich, Germany

Arbitrators:

The Hon. Michael J. Beloff QC, Barrister in London, UK

Mr. David W. Rivkin, Attorney-at-law in New York, USA

Ad hoc clerk: Mr. Ioannis Mournianakis, Attorney-at-law in Athens, Greece

in the arbitration between

DAVID SAVIC, Belgrade, Serbia

Represented by Mr. Jim A. Sturman QC, London, UK, Mr. Richard J. Livingston QC, London, UK, Mr. Dragan Grebo, Attorney-at-law, Belgrade, Serbia, Ms. Alice Bricogne, junior counsel, London, UK

- Appellant -

and

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS INTEGRITY OFFICERS, Florida, USA and London, UK Represented by Mr. Stephen D. Busey and Mr. John F. MacLennan, Attorneys-at-law, Jacksonville, Florida, USA, and Mr. William Babcock, PTIO (GSC), Mr. Gayle David Bradshaw, PTIO (ATP)

- Respondent -

1. THE PARTIES

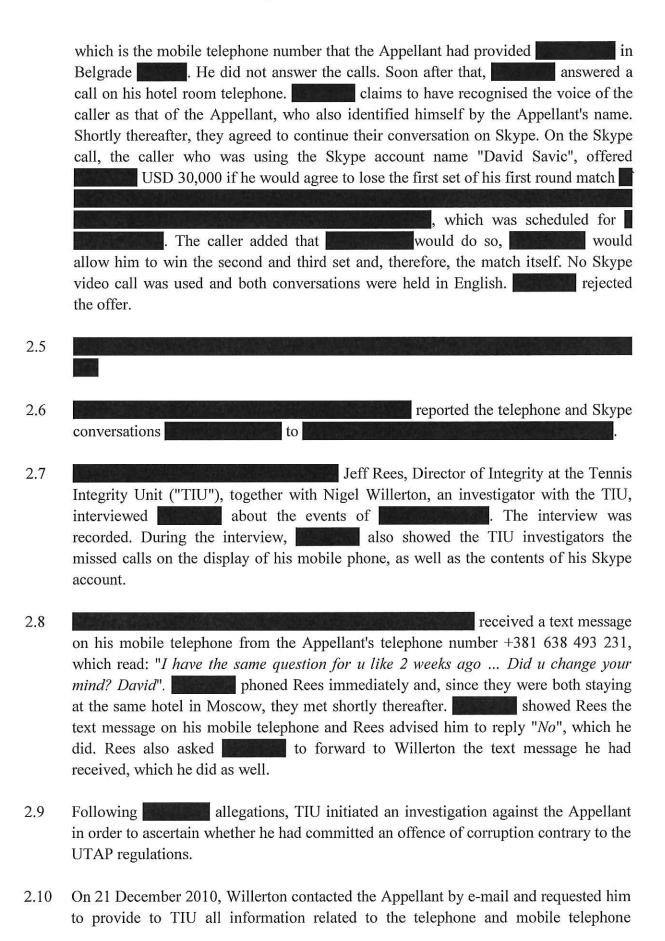
- 1.1 David Savic (hereinafter the "Appellant") is a Serbian professional tennis player who is a member of the Association of Tennis Professionals ("ATP").
- 1.2 The Professional Tennis Integrity Officers (hereinafter "PTIOs" or the "Respondent") are appointed by each of the following governing bodies of professional tennis: ATP Tour, Inc. (ATP Tour), Grand Slam Committee (GSC), International Tennis Federation (ITF) and WTA Tour, Inc. (WTA). These governing bodies participate in the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, which they adopted in 2009 in order to put in place a stringent code of conduct to combat gambling-related corruption worldwide. The objectives of the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (2010 version, hereinafter "UTAP" or the "Program"), as stated in the Program's introduction, are to:

"(i) maintain the integrity of tennis, (ii) protect against any efforts to impact improperly the results of any match and (iii) establish a uniform rule and consistent scheme of enforcement and sanctions applicable to all professional tennis events and to all Governing Bodies".

2. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Below is a summary of the main relevant facts and allegations based on the parties' written submissions, pleadings and evidence adduced at the hearing. Additional facts and allegations may be set out, where relevant, in connection with the legal discussion that follows. Although the Panel has considered all the facts, allegations, legal arguments and evidence submitted by the parties in the present proceedings, it refers in its Award only to the submissions and evidence it considers necessary to explain its reasoning.

2.2	is a professional tennis player and
	a member of the ATP,
	He and the Appellant came to know each other and became close friends
	为是的对话,但是这些是自己的特别是这些人,但是这样的是是是一个人,也是是是是是
	They last met in person in Belgrade, Serbia, in
	, and on that occasion they
	exchanged their mobile telephone numbers.
2.3	
2.4	was in his hotel room in Beijing. Late in the evening he received two calls on his mobile phone from the telephone number +381 638 493 231.



numbers in his possession, the billing records of such telephone numbers, as well as statements of his bank accounts and betting accounts, if any.

- 2.11 On 11 January 2011, the Appellant replied to Willerton and confirmed that his mobile telephone number is +381 638 493 231 and that he owns two bank accounts but no betting accounts. He also sent to him scanned copies of the contract and the billing records of his mobile telephone. These records did not show any outgoing calls made from the Appellant's mobile telephone number to mobile telephone or his hotel There was only one entry of a text message sent through the server of the Appellant's mobile telephone service provider at 14:22:51.
- 2.12 On 15 February 2011, the Appellant was interviewed by Willerton and Dee Bain, who is also a TIU investigator. The Appellant denied all the allegations and was not able to provide an explanation for them.
- 2.13 On 22 March 2011 in Miami, USA, Willerton and Bain interviewed

 They both denied being aware of any of allegations and also denied having any information relative to attempts by the Appellant or anyone else to influence the outcome of match
- 2.14 On 24 May 2011, the PTIO sent an e-mail to the Appellant charging him with Corruption Offences under the UTAP.
- 2.15 A copy of the e-mail was sent to Professor Richard H. McLaren who holds an appointment as the Anti-Corruption-Hearing Officer under Article F.1 of the UTAP (hereinafter "AHO").
- 2.16 On 12 September 2011, the case was heard in London, UK, where both parties presented their case before the AHO.
- 2.17 On 30 September 2011, the AHO issued a decision (hereinafter "AHO Decision"), finding that the Appellant had violated three sections of the Corruption Offences portion of the Program and ordered that:

"Savic (a Covered Person) having committed a Corruption Offense under Article D.1.c, d. and f. is to be fined in the amount of US \$100,000 and declared to be permanently ineligible to compete or participate in any event organized or sanctioned by any Governing Body as all of these terms are defined under the 2010 Program and in particular Rule H.1.c.".

2.18 On 4 October 2011 the Appellant received the AHO Decision.

3. PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

- 3.1 On 27 October 2011, the Appellant filed a statement of appeal dated 18 October 2011 with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) pursuant to the Code of Sports-related Arbitration (the "Code") to challenge the AHO Decision. He submitted the following prayers for relief:
 - "... this Court is invited to re-visit the facts and the law de novo, annulling the original Decision and either substituting its own Decision or remitting the case for re-hearing by a different AHO",

and/or

- "... to impose a different and much lower fine which there is some hope of the Appellant being able to pay within a reasonable period of time, which is proportionate and which the public would consider fair".
- 3.2 By letter dated 31 October 2011, the CAS Court Office invited the Appellant to nominate an arbitrator. The CAS Court Office also requested the Appellant to pay the Court Office fee and to provide information on and proof of the date on which he received the challenged decision.
- 3.3 By letter dated 1 November 2011, the Appellant informed the CAS Court Office that he had received the challenged decision by e-mail on 4 October 2011, attaching the relevant correspondence.
- 3.4 By letter dated 2 November 2011, the Appellant nominated the Hon. Michael J. Beloff QC as arbitrator.
- 3.5 On 4 November 2011, the Appellant filed the Appeal brief including an expert report from the telecommunications expert Goran Bozic.
- 3.6 By letter dated 8 November 2011, CAS acknowledged receipt of the Court Office fee, notified the appeal to the Respondent and noted that English would be the language of the present arbitration proceedings.
- 3.7 By letter dated 16 November 2011, the Respondent requested a thirty day extension of the deadline to submit its answer in order to be able to consult with an expert with respect to the issues raised by the expert report filed on behalf of the Appellant.
- 3.8 By letter dated 17 November 2011, the Respondent nominated Mr. David W. Rivkin as arbitrator.

- 3.9 On 24 November 2011, the CAS Court Office granted the Respondent an extension of time until 29 December 2011 to file its answer.
- 3.10 On 5 December 2011, the CAS Court Office advised the parties that the Panel had been constituted as follows:

President: Mr. Dirk-Reiner Martens, Attorney-at-law in Munich, Germany

Arbitrators: The Hon. Michael J. Beloff QC, Barrister in London, UK

Mr. David W. Rivkin, Attorney-at-law in New York, USA

3.11 By letter dated 7 December 2011, the CAS Court Office forwarded to and invited comments from the parties on an e-mail received by Mr. Dirk-Reiner Martens, arbitrator appointed as President of the Panel, with the following content:

"When taking a first look at the papers I noticed that the appeal is directed against a decision rendered by Richard McLaren. In this context I want to bring to your attention that Richard McLaren is the President of the Basketball Arbitral Tribunal (BAT), a court of arbitration which has been created by me and which is managed by my law firm. I continue to be independent of the parties in this matter, but wanted to inform you about the above circumstances".

No comments from the parties were received by CAS.

- 3.12 By letter dated 20 December 2011, the Respondent requested an additional thirty day extension for its response in order to complete its examination and report.
- 3.13 By letter sent on 23 December 2011, the Appellant agreed to an extension of time for a maximum of two (2) weeks for the Respondent to file its answer.
- 3.14 On 23 December 2011, the Panel granted the Respondent until 16 January 2012 to file its answer.
- 3.15 By letter dated 13 January 2012, the CAS Court Office informed the parties that the proposed date for a hearing was 29 March 2012 and requested them to confirm their availability.
- 3.16 On 13 January 2012, the Respondent filed its answer to the appeal accompanied by 34 exhibits on CD-ROM including expert reports by John David Cross, telecommunications security consultant at Diligence BSB Forensic, and by Michael George, senior forensic consultant at Diligence BSB Forensic, as well as witness statements from Willterton and Rees. The Respondent requested CAS to decide that:

- "... the sanction of a lifetime period of ineligibility and a \$100,000 fine imposed by the Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer is not disproportionate to the offences committed by Mr. Savic and should be upheld by the Panel".
- 3.17 By letter dated 16 January 2012, the Respondent provided the CAS Court Office with an audio recording of the hearing held on 12 September 2011 before the AHO.
- 3.18 On 17 January 2012, the CAS Court Office informed the parties that in accordance with Article R56 of the Code,

"unless the parties agree otherwise or the Panel order otherwise on the basis of exceptional circumstances, the parties shall not be authorised to supplement or amend their requests or their argument, nor to produce new exhibits, nor to specify further evidence on which they intend to rely after the submission of the appeal brief and of the answer".

- 3.19 By letter dated 30 January 2012, the Respondent requested permission that pursuant to Article R44.2 of the Code, be allowed to testify at the hearing via tele- or video-conference, should he be unable to appear in person due to his tennis schedule.
- 3.20 By letter to the parties dated 31 January 2012, the CAS Court Office informed the parties that the hearing would be held on 29 March 2012. Further, the parties were invited to provide the CAS Court Office on or before 29 February 2012 with the names of all persons who would be attending the hearing.
- 3.21 By letter dated 10 February 2010, the CAS Court Office invited the parties pursuant to Article R44.3 of the Code to file a second round of submissions, in order to allow the Appellant to respond to the PTIO's answer. Moreover, procedural directions were made by the Panel, including *inter alia* the following:
 - "1. The Panel requests the personal presence of both Mr. Savic and at the hearing. A video-conference will only be permitted if good grounds are shown for their non-availability.

 (...)
 - 3. In order to ensure that the hearing will finish in one day, the Panel will apply the "chess clock" system, with both parties having a set number of hours for their case; the parties will be free to divide their time between evidence and pleadings as they choose.

(...)

5. In order to give the parties an opportunity to raise procedural issues in advance of the hearing, the President of the Panel suggests holding a

conference call with counsel in advance of the hearing; the President of the Panel would be available on 20 March 2012 at 4 pm for the call. (...)".

3.22	By letter dated 16 February 2012, the Respondent informed the CAS Court Office that
	Therefore, the Respondent renewed its request to the Panel for testimony to be taken by video-conference.
3.23	By letter to the CAS Court Office dated 22 February 2012, the Appellant requested an extension of time of ten days to file its second written submission.
3.24	By two letters dated 23 February 2012, the Respondent provided the CAS Court Office with a list of the persons that would attend the hearing, and addressed some procedural matters it wished to raise during the conference call between the President of the Panel and the parties, scheduled for 20 March 2012.
3.25	By letter sent on 26 February 2012, the Appellant communicated to the CAS Court Office a list of the persons who would attend the hearing. Further, and in regards to the Respondent's letter of 16 February 2012, the Appellant suggested that, given the importance of the personal presence at the hearing, the Panel should order to appear in person at the hearing.
3.26	On 28 February 2012, the Appellant filed with CAS his second submission, including his response to the answer and statement of defence of the Respondent, a witness statement by the Appellant and a second expert opinion by Mr. Goran Bozic. In his response, the Appellant requested that the Panel order the experts to file an agreed document setting out the areas of agreement/disagreement between them in the form of an addendum report by 27 March 2012.
3.27	On 1 March 2012, the CAS Court Office informed the parties that Mr. Ioannis Mournianakis would act as <i>ad hoc</i> clerk in the present arbitral proceedings.
3.28	On 8 March 2012, the CAS Court Office informed the parties that the Panel directed the experts of the parties, Messrs. Bozic and Cross, to file an agreed document setting out the areas of agreement/disagreement between them in the form of an addendum

3.29 On 9 March 2012, the Order of Procedure was communicated to the parties by the CAS Court Office. Signed copies of it were returned to CAS on 12 March 2012 by the Respondent and on 14 March 2012 by the Appellant.

report by 27 March 2012.

- 3.30 On 19 March 2012, the Respondent filed with CAS its reply to the Appellant's response to the answer and statement of defence, including witness statements by Rees and Willerton.
- 3.31 On 20 March 2012, a telephone conference was held between the President of the Panel, counsel for the parties and CAS counsel Louise Reilly. During the conference, the procedural issues included in the CAS letter of 10 February 2010 were addressed and clarified for the parties, as were issues raised in the Respondent's letter of 23 February 2012, namely the order in which the witnesses would testify, whether written witness statements or expert reports could be used in lieu of direct examination and whether experts needed to be present for cross-examination or whether a video-conference could be used instead.
- 3.32 By letter dated 23 March 2012, the Respondent submitted to the CAS Court Office the agreed document prepared by the experts of the parties setting out the areas of agreement between them.
- 3.33 By letter sent directly to the Respondent on 26 March 2012, the Appellant repeated his request to invite to appear in person at the hearing,
- On 27 March 2012, the Respondent informed the CAS Court Office that hearing in person, but would give his testimony during the hearing via video-conference, assisted by his counsel,
- 3.35 A hearing was held on 29 March 2012 at the CAS premises in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Panel was assisted by Louise Reilly, counsel to the CAS, and by Ioannis Mournianakis, *ad hoc* clerk.
- 3.36 The hearing was attended:
 - a) for the Appellant: by Mr. David Savic, the Appellant; assisted by Mr. Jim
 A. Sturman QC, lead counsel, Mr. Richard J. Livingston
 QC, Mr. Dragan Grebo, attorney-at-law, Ms. Alice
 Bricogne (junior counsel), and Ms. Slavka Cogley,
 interpreter.
 - b) for the Respondent: by Mr. William Babcock, PTIO (GSC), Mr. Gayle David Bradshaw, PTIO (ATP), Mr. Stephen D. Busey and Mr. John F. MacLennan, counsel.

- 3.37 The parties confirmed that they had no objections to the composition of the Panel.
- 3.38 At the hearing, the Panel heard together with the parties the testimony of the Appellant, as well as those of Nigel Willerton and Jeffrey Rees. Testimony was also given by Messrs. Goran Bozic and John David Cross (called as expert witnesses by the Appellant and the Respondent respectively).
- 3.39 After the examination of the witnesses, counsel for the parties made their closing statements and, upon closure, both parties expressly stated that they had no objection to the conduct of the hearing.
- 3.40 By CAS letters dated 13 and 19 April 2012, the parties were invited to comment on whether the Judgment of the Swiss Federal Tribunal in *Matuzalem v. FIFA* (4A_558/2011), issued on 27 March 2012, and of the award in *CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC*, issued on 23 March 2012 would have any impact on the present case.
- 3.41 On 27 April 2012 the Appellant submitted his comments.
- 3.42 Onm 30 April 2012 the Respondent submitted its comments.

4. THE PARTIES' SUBMISSIONS

4.1 The following outline of the parties' positions is illustrative only and does not purport to include the detail of every submission put forward by the parties. The Panel, however, has carefully considered all such submissions made by the parties, whether or not referred to in this summary.

A. Appellant's Submissions and Requests for Relief

4.2 In summary, the Appellant submits the following in support of his appeal:

4.3	The Appellant disputes that he either attempted or successfully managed to contact
	by telephone and Skype calls or text messages,
	. The Appellant argues that it was some third person who contacted on
	all occasions, by calling him on his mobile and hotel room telephone and on Skype on
	, and by sending him a text message

4.4 The Appellant contends that the AHO decided the case according to an inappropriate standard of proof. Since the allegation made against him was of corruption - in reality a crime which moreover carries with it a career-ending sanction - the standard of proof which should have been applied in the present case "is either the criminal standard"

bearing in mind that the offence charged amounts to attempted bribery or alternatively a standard to the 'comfortable satisfaction' of the AHO". Moreover, the standard of proof that was applied in the AHO Decision (preponderance of the evidence) is contrary to the jurisprudence of CAS in cases involving allegations of corruption and contravenes the Appellant's right to a fair hearing under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

- 4.5 Alternatively, the Appellant submits that a mere preponderance of evidence test is inconsistent with the laws of the State of Florida, again because of the gravity of the charge and the nature of the potential sanctions. He asserts that, on a proper application of the laws of the State of Florida, the higher standard of clear and convincing evidence should have been applied.
- In consequence, the Appellant questions the conclusions in the AHO Decision that find the Appellant guilty of having committed a Corruption Offence under the rules of the Program. Based on the findings of the expert reports of Mr. Goran Bozic, the Appellant argues that the missed calls and the Skype conversation of and the text message "could quite easily have been sent/carried out by a Third Party without the knowledge or complicity of the Appellant but using his name, mobile phone, mobile phone number and Skype details", a practice known as "spoofing". Furthermore, the Appellant argues that the Respondent, who carries the burden of proof, failed to produce strong and convincing evidence to support its case against the Appellant, and that there were obvious gaps in its evidence.
- 4.7 In particular, the Appellant submits that there is no record of the alleged communications on his mobile telephone billing and that, as regards the text message of _______, the only evidence the Respondent provides in support of its contention that it was sent by the Appellant is a mere coincidence of timing between the text message that was received by _______ and an entry in the billing records of the Appellant's mobile phone which shows a text message sent from the Appellant's mobile telephone to his service provider at 14:22:51 while he was in Croatia _______. The Appellant argues that his billing records provided no further evidence whatsoever as to the recipient or the content of the text message that was sent by the Appellant at 14:22:51.
- 4.8 Additionally, the Appellant argues that, since the Respondent's investigators did not conduct a forensic examination of the Appellant's mobile telephone or of laptop, they failed to provide any sufficient evidence that the alleged telephone or Skype calls and the text message actually originated from the Appellant.

- 4.9 The Appellant further submits that voice recognition cannot always be considered as reliable evidence and has under certain circumstances to be used with caution. In the case at hand, testified that he had recognized the Appellant's voice; however given that first had only heard the Appellant's voice once 18 months ago and second the calls in question were long distance calls the testimony was suspect.
- 4.10 Alternatively, the Appellant suggests that CAS should lift the sanctions imposed by the AHO Decision because they are manifestly excessive and disproportionate and take no account of the individual circumstances of the Appellant. The Appellant is a first-time offender. He has been a professional tennis player for the last ten years and has no other skill from which he can earn a living, At the same time his life-long tennis career earnings are allegedly a mere \$ 86,727.
- 4.11 The Appellant also contests the statement in the AHO Decision that severe sanctions should be justified as providing deterrence to others. The Appellant notes that sanctions to be just should be tailored to the individual offender and his offence and would still provide sufficient deterrence. He invites the Panel to annul the sanctions imposed by the AHO Decision and replace them by any other lesser sanction it considers equitable.
- Finally, the Appellant comments on the significance for the present case of the Swiss 4.12 Federal Tribunal Judgment in Matuzalem and the CAS award in Köllerer and focuses on two issues in relation to the contested decision: the admissibility of the applied standard of proof and the proportionality of the imposed sanction. The Appellant argues that in light of the Judgment of the Swiss Federal Tribunal of 27 March 2012 in Matuzalem v. FIFA, the application of such a low standard of proof by the AHO Decision violates fundamental legal principles and is inconsistent with the values which constitute the basis of any legal order. Moreover, the sanction imposed is heavily disproportionate given the grave encroachment on the Appellant's economic and professional freedom involved as well as the fact that there is no interest vested in the Respondent to justify it. The Appellant further invites the Panel not to follow the CAS award in the case 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC (save in so far as it imposed a financial penalty), since CAS knows no principle of stare decisis at this Court and the particular circumstances of the present case as well as the principle of proportionality do not justify a lifetime ban.

B. Respondent's Submissions and Requests for Relief

- 4.13 In summary, the Respondent submits the following in response:
- 4.14 Inviting the Panel to accept evidence, the Respondent alleges that the Appellant called on his mobile and hotel room telephone and then on Skype

occurred in this case.

company.

	on did not answer the two calls on his mobile telephone, but he did answer the call on his hotel room telephone and then continued the conversation on Skype.
4.15	The Respondent submits that recognised the voice of the person calling on the hotel room telephone and on Skype as that of the Appellant and that the Appellant identified himself by name. On the conversation they had on Skype, the Appellant offered US \$ 30,000 if he were to agree to lose the first set of his first round match would lose the second and third sets, permitting to win the match.
4.16	The Respondent further contends that it was the Appellant who sent to message from his own mobile telephone that read: "I have the same question for u like 2 weeks ago Did u change your mind? David".
4.17	Based on the expert report of Mr. Cross the Respondent argues that the Appellant's mobile phone billing records would not show the missed calls of because unanswered or missed calls are not billable and would thus not appear in those records.
4.18	The Respondent contends that the possibility of an impersonation as put forward by the Appellant is the least plausible scenario in the present case, given all the personal and contact details to which such an impersonator would be required to be privy.

4.19 The Respondent states that the Appellant did not have his mobile phone examined although such examination could have established any impersonation by a third party. Furthermore, he did not respond to the Respondent's request to authorize the release of relevant information from the Skype account he was using and from his mobile phone

Furthermore, the fact that spoofing can occur is by itself no evidence that it actually

- 4.20 The Respondent argues that the standard of proof chosen by the parties according to Article G.3 of the Program (preponderance of the evidence) is not impermissibly low. The Respondent submits that the laws of the State of Florida which may be applicable to the present dispute (Article J.3 of the Program), do not require a burden of proof greater than a preponderance of the evidence in order to satisfy due process.
- 4.21 Moreover, the Respondent submits that the sanctions imposed by the AHO on the Appellant are not disproportionate to the offences. Match-fixing is one of the most

serious offences in professional tennis, particularly when one player attempts to corrupt another player.

4.22 Finally, the Respondent denies that the Judgment of the Swiss Federal Tribunal in *Matuzalem* has any direct bearing on the present case. According to the Respondent, the Tribunal did not condemn the sanctioning of an athlete with a lifetime, worldwide ban on competing as contrary to public policy *per se*, but only when it was said to be based on the particular interest of the sanctioning sporting federation there at stake (i.e. debt collection). The interest of the Respondent in the present case - i.e. combating corruption – fully justified the removal of an individual player's right to compete in the very sport which he sought to corrupt. The Respondent also submits that the CAS award in the *Köllerer* case in its material parts supports the AHO Decision and the Respondent's arguments regarding the applicable standard of proof, the use of voice recognition over telephone as evidence as well as the appropriateness of the sanctions imposed on the Appellant.

5. JURISDICTION OF THE CAS

- 5.1 The jurisdiction of CAS is not disputed by the parties and has been confirmed by the signing of the Order of Procedure by the parties. In addition, it is provided for in Article I.1 of the UTAP.
- 5.2 The Panel is satisfied that CAS has jurisdiction to decide the present dispute between the parties.

6. APPLICABLE LAW

6.1 Article R58 of the Code provides as follows:

"The Panel shall decide the dispute according to the applicable regulations and the rules of law chosen by the parties or, in the absence of such a choice, according to the law of the country in which the federation, association or sports-related body which has issued the challenged decision is domiciled or according to the rules of law, the application of which the Panel deems appropriate. In the latter case, the Panel shall give reasons for its decision".

6.2 Pursuant to Article C.1 of the UTAP, "(A)ll Players, Related Persons, and Tournament Support Personnel shall be bound by and shall comply with all of the provisions of this Program and shall be deemed to accept all terms set out herein". Furthermore, Article B.18 of the UTAP provides that ""Player" refers to any player who enters or

participates in any competition, event or activity organized or sanctioned by any Governing Body".

- 6.3 The Appellant is a member of the ATP and, therefore, the Panel finds that in this case the applicable regulations are all pertinent UTAP rules and regulations. Since the alleged offences occurred in 2010, the 2010 version of the Program shall be applicable.
- 6.4 The applicable UTAP rules are the following:

"D. Offenses

Commission of any offense set forth in Article D or E of this Program or any other violation of the provisions of this Program shall constitute a Corruption Offense for all purposes of this Program.

1. Corruption Offenses

(...)

- c. No covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, contrive or attempt to contrive the outcome or any other aspect of any event.
- d. No covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or facilitate any Player to not use his or her best efforts in any event.

(...)

f. No covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, offer or provide any money, benefit or Consideration to any other Covered Person with the intention of negatively influencing a Player's best efforts in any event.

G. Due Process

(...)

3. Burdens and Standards of Proof

a. The PTIO (which may be represented by legal counsel at the Hearing) shall have the burden of establishing that a Corruption Offense has been committed. The standard of proof shall be whether the PTIO has established the commission of the alleged Corruption Offense by a preponderance of the evidence.

(...)

H. Sanctions

- 1. The penalty for any Corruption Offense shall be determined by the AHO in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article G, and may include:
- a. With respect to any Player, (i) a fine of up to \$250,000 plus an amount equal to the value of any winnings or other amounts received by such Covered Person in connection with any Corruption Offense, (ii) ineligibility for participation in any event organized or sanctioned by any Governing Body for a period of up to three years, and (iii) with

respect to any violation of clauses (c) - (i) of Article D.1, ineligibility for participation in any event organized or sanctioned by any Governing Body for a maximum period of permanent ineligibility.

(...)

c. No Player who has been declared ineligible may, during the period of ineligibility, participate in any capacity in any event (other than authorized anti-gambling or anti-corruption education or rehabilitation programs) organized or sanctioned by any Governing Body. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such Player shall not be given accreditation for, or otherwise granted access to, any competition or event to which access is controlled by any Governing Body, nor shall the Player be credited with any points for any competition played during the period of ineligibility.

(...)

I. Appeals

- 1. Any Decision (i) that a Corruption Offense has been committed, (ii) that no Corruption Offense has been committed, (iii) imposing sanctions for a Corruption Offense, or (iv) that the AHO lacks jurisdiction to rule on an alleged Corruption Offense or its sanctions, may be appealed exclusively to CAS in accordance with CAS's Code of Sports-Related Arbitration and the special provisions applicable to the Appeal Arbitration Proceedings, by either the Covered Person who is the subject of the Decision being appealed, or the TIB.
- 2. Any Decision appealed to CAS shall remain in effect while under appeal unless CAS orders otherwise.
- 3. The deadline for filing an appeal with CAS shall be twenty business days from the date of receipt of the Decision by the appealing party.
- **4.** The decision of CAS shall be final, non-reviewable, non-appealable and enforceable. No claim, arbitration, lawsuit or litigation concerning the dispute shall be brought in any other court or tribunal."

6.5 Article J.3 of the UTAP further provides that:

"This Program shall be governed in all respects (including, but not limited to, matters concerning the arbitrability of disputes) by the laws of the State of Florida, without reference to conflict of laws principles".

6.6 It follows that the laws of the State of Florida also apply complementarily.

7. Admissibility

- 7.1 The statement of appeal was filed within the deadline set out in Article I.3 of the Program. It further complies with the requirements of Articles R47 and R48 of the Code.
- 7.2 Accordingly, the appeal is admissible.

8. MERITS

- 8.1 According to Article R57 of the Code, the Panel has "full power to review the facts and the law". As repeatedly stated in CAS jurisprudence, by reference to this provision the CAS appellate arbitration procedure entails a de novo review of the merits of the case, and is not confined merely to deciding whether the ruling appealed was correct or not. Accordingly, it is the function of this Panel to make an independent determination as to merits (see CAS 2007/A/1394 Landis v. USADA, para. 21).
- 8.2 In that context, the Panel must address the following three main issues:
 - A. the applicable standard of proof;
 - B. whether the evidence relative to the alleged events of supports a finding of violation and
 - C. if a finding of violation be established, the proportionality of the imposed sanctions.

A. The applicable standard of proof

- 8.3 Pursuant to Article R58 of the Code, the regulations and rules of law that govern the present dispute are primarily those chosen by the parties. Accordingly, the regulations of the UTAP and the law of the State of Florida are applicable.
- 8.4 The UTAP provides that the applicable standard of proof shall be whether the PTIO have established the commission of the alleged corruption offences by a preponderance of the evidence (Article G.3).
- With respect to the limits in the application of the rules of law chosen by the parties, the Panel endorses the position articulated in CAS 2009/A/1926 ITF v. Gasquet & CAS 2009/A/1930 WADA v. ITF & Gasquet, para. 11:
 - "(...) The application of the (rules of) law chosen by the parties has its confines in the ordre public (HEINI A., Zürcher Kommentar zum IPRG, 2nd edition

2004, Art. 187 marg. no. 18; see also KAUFMANN-KOHLER/RIGOZZI, Arbitrage International, 2006, marg. no. 657). Usually, the term ordre public is thereby divested of its purely Swiss character and is understood in the sense of international or transnational sense (KAUFMANN-KOHLER/RIGOZZI, Arbitrage International, 2006, margin no. 666; HEINI A., Zürcher Kommentar zum IPRG, 2nd edition 2004, Art. 187 margin no. 18; cf. also PORTMANN W., causa sport 2/2006 pp. 200, 203 and 205). The ordre public proviso is meant to prevent a decision conflicting with basic legal or moral principles that apply supranationally. This, in turn, is to be assumed if the application of the rules of law agreed by the parties were to breach fundamental legal doctrines or were simply incompatible with the system of law and values (TF 8.3.2006, 4P.278/2005 marg. no. 2.2.2; HEINI A., Zürcher Kommentar zum IPRG, 2nd edition 2004, Art. 190 margin no. 44; CAS 2006/A/1180, no. 7.4; CAS 2005/A/983 & 984, no. 70)."

8.6 Therefore, the Panel notes that the applicable standard of proof in this particular case will be "preponderance of the evidence", unless (i) the law of the State of Florida mandatorily suggests otherwise, or (ii) the application of such standard is incompatible with some relevant aspect of *ordre public*.

B. Evaluation of the evidence relative to the alleged events of

- 8.7 When evaluating the evidence, the Panel is well aware that corruption is, by its very nature, likely to be concealed as the parties involved will seek to use evasive means to ensure that they leave no trail of their wrongdoing.
- 8.8 In the appealed Decision, the AHO reached the following conclusions:

"I have found that it has been proven on a preponderance of the evidence that
in the Skype conversation during the late evening on Savic by
verbal communication approached and offered to pay him if he
would contrive to lose the first set of his professional tennis match
In so doing, a Corruption Offence was
committed under the provisions of D.1.c to contrive the outcome of a
professional tennis match. The Player also committed an offence under D.1.a
in that he directly solicited to not use his best efforts in the first set
of the match. Finally, in committing the above two offences a third rule
infraction occurred in that he offered money with the intention of
negatively influencing his best efforts in the first set of the match in violation of
D.1.f of the 2010 Program. an SMS was sent by Savic to
in a further attempt to entice to contrive the outcome of

some future match in violation of Article D.1.c of the Program" (paragraphs 30, 31 of the AHO Decision).

8.9	As previously explained, the Appellant alleges that he never attempted or successfully managed to contact by using telephone and Skype calls or text messages, either on all occasions.
8.10	The Panel will examine separately the two occasions on which the contested facts allegedly occurred, and will then establish if the disputed offences took place or not.
1.	The telephone and Skype calls of
8.11	The Panel is satisfied that on two calls on his mobile telephone from a number that was the same as the one the Appellant had provided to that later that night he received a Skype call by someone who was using the Skype account name "David Savic".
8.12	indeed showed to Rees and Willerton the entry of a missed call dated from the Appellant's mobile telephone number appearing on the display of his mobile telephone, as well as the screen of his laptop on which the Appellant's name was shown as a friend Skype account. Photographs were taken of both the telephone and the laptop.
8.13	The Panel notes that, contrary to the Appellant's submission, testified not only at the hearing before the CAS, but also before the TIU investigators and the AHO, that he recognised the voice of the Appellant in the person who called him on his hotel room telephone and on Skype and that the Appellant made him an offer to fix his first round match. During the video-conference on the day of the CAS hearing, he clearly stated that he was certain that it was the Appellant's voice, and that the voice was not distorted as a result of the long-distance calls.
8.14	The Appellant suggested that the billing records of his mobile telephone provided no evidence of him making any calls.
8.15	The Panel notes, however, that, as both experts of the parties agreed in their common statement of 23 March 2012, missed calls are not billable and therefore they do not appear on the billing records. Moreover, the call hotel room telephone could have easily been made using another telephone number or even the same Skype account that was used for the Skype call later that same evening and would therefore also not have appeared in the Appellant's billing records.

8.16	The Appellant further suggested that voice recognition cannot be a reliable form of identification, given the fact that during the last years he and had met only very rarely.
8.17	The Panel is of the opinion that it is possible to recognise a person's voice if one was a close friend of that person and has spent considerable time with him, even if only when both were younger. In addition, the Appellant had met with was thus acquainted with the adult voice of the Appellant as well. It accepts testimony that he accurately recognized the Appellant on the occasions in issue.
8.18	The Appellant's explanation for those calls was that some third person impersonated him by "spoofing" his mobile telephone and Skype communications.
8.19	The Panel accepts that it is possible to "spoof" telephone, text message and Skype communications, in line with the joint statement of both parties' experts of 23 March 2012.
8.20	However, the Appellant failed to provide any evidence that such an impersonation actually occurred on the occasions in issue or any reason why someone would choose to impersonate him or who that person might be, in particular since such person must have been able convincingly to imitate the Appellant's voice, tone and content, which would significantly limit the field of potential candidates.
8.21	It is true that the former relationship between the Appellant and could explain why an alleged impersonator would choose to impersonate the Appellant to approach. It is equally true, however, that the very fact of the relationship between the two would also explain why the Appellant himself might select as the object of his corrupt offer.
8.22	Finally, it was suggested by the Appellant that there was no evidence that was approached in order to fix his match ; in fact, denied that such an approach was made. This, however, does not seem to the Panel to be of itself significant. There are a number of explanations, all as consistent with the Appellant's guilt as with his innocence, the most obvious being that without cooperation, no purpose would be served by approaching as well.
8.23	The Panel therefore accepts the testimony as to the existence and content of the telephone and Skype calls and as to the fact that he was able to recognise the voice of the Appellant over the phone. There is no apparent reason why would try to invent such a story so damaging to the Appellant – and none was successfully advanced by the Appellant either; the Panel discounts the

	suggestion that had himself unsuccessfully invited the Appellant to 'throw' a match when both were juniors.
8.24	Furthermore, voice recognition over the phone has been also accepted by the CAS in its award in the <i>Köllerer</i> case (cf. para. 113), which was the first case brought before this Court under the UTAP.
2.	The text message
8.25	The Panel notes that the content of the text message is undisputed.
8.26	The Appellant argued that the mere coincidence of timing of the text messages on his billing records and mobile telephone is not sufficiently strong evidence to inculpate him.
8.27	The Panel agrees that it cannot be determined from the billing records of the Appellant who was the final recipient of the text message. However, the Panel also notes that the Appellant has made no efforts to prove who that final recipient was - for instance, by requesting information from the mobile telephone service provider or by conducting a forensic examination of his telephone, even if the chances of gathering such information may have been low because of the lapse of time.
8.28	The Panel notes that the content of the text message received by , as well as its relationship in terms of subject matter with the communication that took place , convincingly demonstrate that the sender of that text message was the same person who initiated the calls .
8.29	In addition, as regards the third person scenario put forward by the Appellant, the Panel is of the opinion that it would make little sense, if any, for any such third person to try to approach impersonating the Appellant for a second time, given the outcome of his first effort.
	Conclusion
8.30	The Panel in summary finds that the logical explanation for both telephone calls and text is that they were initiated by the Appellant and not by any third person. Not only is the Appellant's version entirely speculative but it defies common sense. Why, for example, should a third person having reached by telephone hang up and start a new Skype call? The Panel had the advantage of seeing and hearing both the Appellant and, albeit by video conferencing facility only, It does not accept the former's evidence, and does accept the latter's.

3. The applicable standard of proof

- 8.31 In the light of the above, the Panel concludes that the disputed facts have been proven not only by preponderance of the evidence, but indeed to the Panel's comfortable satisfaction. The evidence provided by the Respondent was sufficiently strong and convincing to persuade the Panel even if applying a higher standard of proof than that required under Article G.3 of the Program.
- 8.32 Therefore, the Panel finds it does not need to determine what standard of proof was required. However it would, given the debate, make these observations.
 - (i) Florida law does not seem to prevent an application of preponderance of the evidence as a standard of proof, since it accepts that such a standard does not violate due process (see The Florida Bar v. Mogil, 763 So.2d 303 (Fla. 2000)). The same opinion is endorsed in CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, para. 85.
 - (ii) The comfortable satisfaction standard applied by the Panel is in line with constant CAS jurisprudence and does not constitute a violation of ordre public. According to CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, para. 87, even the application of a lower standard of proof, such as the preponderance of the evidence, cannot lead to a violation of public policy.
 - (iii) The Judgment of the Swiss Federal Tribunal *in Matuzalem v. FIFA*, while acknowledging that public policy has both substantive and procedural contents and is violated when some fundamental legal principles are disregarded (para. 4.1), says nothing more precise about the applicable standard of proof in a case such as the present.
 - (iv) In principle, the criminal standard "beyond reasonable doubt" does not apply in a disciplinary case in the context of a private association. The Swiss Federal Tribunal has pointed out in its review of several CAS decisions that: "the duty of proof and assessment of evidence are problems which cannot be regulated, in private law cases, on the basis of concepts specific to criminal law" (2nd civil Division, Judgement of 31 March 1999, 5P.83/1999, Par. 3.d).d).
 - (v) According to constant CAS jurisprudence in doping cases: "To adopt a criminal standard (at any rate where the disciplinary charge is not of one of a criminal offence) is to confuse the public law of the state with the private law of an association (...)" (CAS 98/208 N., J., Y., W. / FINA, para. 13).

C. Proportionality of the sanctions

1. The lifetime ban

- 8.33 The Panel takes account of the following matters:
 - (i) Pursuant to the provisions of the Program, the AHO has a measure of discretion in setting a sanction.
 - (ii) According to CAS jurisprudence, the sanction imposed on an athlete must not be disproportionate to the offence and must always reflect the extent of the athlete's guilt (CAS 2001/A/330 R. v. FISA).
 - (iii) CAS has accepted in match-fixing cases in football that a life ban can constitute a proportionate sanction because of the damage caused to the integrity and the image of the sport (CAS 2010/A/2172 O v. UEFA).
 - (iv) Match fixing is the most serious corruption offence in tennis and a threat to the integrity of professional sport, as well as to the physical and moral integrity of players. It also constitutes a violation of the principle of fairness in sporting competitions.
 - (v) In the case at hand, the Appellant tried to corrupt another player.
 - (vi) Applying a similar reasoning, the Panel in CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, deemed it irrelevant whether a person is successful in actually fixing a match or not (para. 120) and found for the reasons expressed there:

"no option other than to confirm the lifetime ban imposed by the AHO. As explained in detail by the Governing Bodies, the sport of tennis is extremely vulnerable to corruption as a match-fixer only needs to corrupt one player (rather than a full team). It is therefore imperative that, once a Player gets caught, the Governing Bodies send out a clear signal to the entire tennis community that such actions are not tolerated. This Panel agrees that any sanction shorter than a lifetime ban would not have the deterrent effect that is required to make players aware that it is simply not worth the risk. Therefore, the Panel concludes that the sanction of a life ban imposed by the AHO Decision is not disproportionate to the offence" (para. 123).

The Panel agrees with that reasoning. (Moreover while stare decisis does not apply to CAS decisions, comity suggests that respect ought in any event be paid to previous decisions of obvious relevance).

(vii)In *Matuzalem*, the Swiss Federal Tribunal approached the question of whether disciplinary sanctions violated public policy not *in abstracto*, but by reference to the specific interest the sanctioning sport governing body wishes to pursue.

"The measures taken by such sport federations which gravely harm the development of individuals who practice the sport as a profession are licit only when the interests of the federation justify the infringement of privacy" (para. 4.3.3 in fine).

- 8.34 Applying that test in the present case, the interest that the sanctioning authority is seeking to enforce is the protection of the integrity of sport against corruption, a fundamental sporting principle explicitly mentioned in the UTAP provisions. This is a compelling interest to balance against the Appellant's rights to work unlike the obviously lesser interest of contractual stability sought to be relied on by FIFA in *Matuzalem* to justify a life ban. There are other means to enforce a debt than as lifetime ban; but such a ban is the only truly effective means of purging a sport of corruption.
- 8.35 Therefore for all these reasons, the Panel concludes that the sanction of a life ban imposed by the AHO Decision does not violate public policy and is not disproportionate to the offences committed in the present case.

2. The fine of USD 100,000

- 8.36 In CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, where, as noted, a professional tennis player was found guilty of match-fixing under the provisions of the UTAP. The Panel upheld the imposed sanction of a lifetime ban on the athlete for the reasons there expressed, but did not confirm the financial penalty of USD 100,000 imposed by the AHO in the contested decision.
- 8.37 In the same award, the Panel expressly acknowledged that any sanction should be sufficiently high to confirm that corruption offences are not taken lightly. It added however that

"it would be inappropriate to impose a financial penalty in addition to the lifetime ban, as the sanction of permanent ineligibility provides for the deterrence that corruption offences call for" (CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, para. 127)

taking into account that

"The lifetime ban also has a considerable financial effect on the Player because it significantly impacts the Player's future earnings by eliminating tennis as a source of revenue. In this respect, the AHO noted that the Player's means are limited (...). Indeed, no evidence was put forward that the Player benefited (financially or otherwise) from any of the charges for which he has been found liable" (CAS 2011/A/2490 Köllerer v. ATP, WTA, ITF & GSC, para. 129).

8.38 In the present case, the Panel is content to adopt the position articulated by the CAS in the *Köllerer* case for the reasons expressed there and, therefore, considers that the life ban in itself is sufficiently severe to reflect the gravity of the corruption offences. The Panel therefore sets aside the part of the AHO Decision imposing a fine of USD 100,000.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Panel finds, consistently with the AHO, that the Appellant has committed the corruption offences under Articles D.1.c, d and f of the Program.
- 9.2 The Panel finds that the life time ban is not disproportionate given the nature of the offences committed and, therefore, upholds the sanction of life time ineligibility of the Appellant to compete or participate in any event organised or sanctioned by any Governing Body under the Program.
- 9.3 The Panel lifts the fine of USD 100,000 imposed by the AHO Decision.
- 9.4 As a result, for all the above reasons, the Appeal is partially upheld.

10. Costs

- 10.1 As this is a disciplinary case of an international nature brought by Mr Savic, pursuant to Article R65 of the Code the proceedings will be free, except for the Court Office filing fee of CHF 1,000 paid by Mr Savic, which is retained by the CAS.
- 10.2 Article R64.5 of the Code provides:

"In the arbitral award, the Panel shall determine which party shall bear the arbitration costs or in which proportion the parties shall share them. As a general rule, the Panel has discretion to grant the prevailing party a contribution towards its legal fees and other expenses incurred in connection

with the proceedings and, in particular, the costs of witnesses and interpreters. When granting such contribution, the Panel shall take into account the outcome of the proceedings, as well as the conduct and the financial resources of the parties."

- 10.3 In the present case, the Respondent substantially prevailed. Accordingly, the Panel grants the Respondent a contribution towards its legal costs incurred in connection with the present arbitration.
- 10.4 Taking into account the factors set out in the rule the Panel notes that the Appellant's earning power as a professional tennis player is effectively at an end and he is thus as the unsuccessful party, ordered to pay the Respondent as a contribution for the incurred legal fees and other expenses a nominal amount only of CHF 3,000 (three thousand Swiss Francs).

ON THESE GROUNDS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport rules that:

- 1. The appeal filed by Mr. David Savic on 27 October 2010 against the decision issued on 30 September 2010 by the Anti-Corruption-Hearing Officer under the provisions of the Uniform Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, is partially upheld.
- 2. The decision issued on 30 September 2010 by the Anti-Corruption-Hearing Officer finding that a corruption offence had occurred and declaring the Appellant to be permanently ineligible to compete or participate in any event organized or sanctioned by any tennis Governing Body is confirmed.
- 3. The decision issued on 30 September 2010 by the Anti-Corruption-Hearing Officer to impose a fine of USD 100,000 on the Appellant is set aside.
- 4. All other motions or prayers for relief submitted by the parties are dismissed.
- 5. This award is pronounced without costs, except for the Court Office fee of CHF 1,000 paid by Mr. David Savic which shall be retained by the CAS.
- 6. Mr. David Savic is ordered to pay the PTIO as a contribution for the incurred legal fees and other expenses an amount of CHF 3,000.

Place of arbitration: Lausanne, Switzerland

Date: 5 September 2012

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT

Dirk-Reiner **Martens**President of the Panel

Michael J. **Beloff**Arbitrator

David W. **Rivkin**Arbitrator

Ioannis **Mournianakis** *Ad hoc* clerk