

# Why Former NBA Referee Tim Donaghy is Disreputable

## Why former nba referee tim donaghy is disreputable

In late 2019, I was asked if I “hated” Tim Donaghy following my ongoing criticisms of his media appearances. I’ve engaged in hundreds of conversations regarding the NBA betting scandal over a decade and yet no one had ever posed that question to me about the former referee. After quickly explaining I do not “hate” Donaghy (in truth, it never occurred to me to bother), I realized people apparently don’t know why he is disreputable.

Here, then, are the major problems with using Tim Donaghy as a stand-alone, unverified source. There are two inter-related issues with Donaghy: he has a lengthy documented history of (1) telling *demonstrable* falsehoods concerning matters of importance and (2) troubling behavior.

### Donaghy Falsehoods

Beyond the objective data (betting lines and records), there’s also a vast universe of *informed* people who explain there are many crucial Tim Donaghy assertions which are either incorrect or outright falsehoods about the scandal and related matters.

This universe of Donaghy detractors (on the NBA betting scandal alone) includes:

- his co-conspirators
- many pro gamblers (including some who cooperated with the govt)
- FBI agents (including SSA Phil Scala, whom Donaghy loves

to [improperly] cite)

- prosecutors
- Judge Carol Bagley Amon, etc.

Anyone familiar with my years of work on the scandal knows how much time I have spent on this consequential issue (see., e.g., my latest commentary here).

There are also major longstanding personality issues with Donaghy...

### **Troubling Donaghy Behavior**

Have you noticed that in a span of a decade you haven't heard people who know Donaghy say "I can't believe what he admitted to/has been convicted of doing; that seems so unlike him" or "He's such a great person" or "I feel so bad for him" and the like? With that in mind, here is a sampling of issues involving Donaghy over the years (and please note, as I explain in *Gaming the Game*, some of these matters informed and influenced decisions in the federal NBA betting scandal investigation and prosecution):

- Notorious for his temper and "short fuse" dating at least to high school straight through the NBA scandal when a federal official described him as "a fucking loose cannon"
- Arrested for allegedly threatening a mail carrier (charges of disorderly conduct, harassment, and stalking were dropped when the carrier didn't appear in court)
- Sued by neighbors for harassment and invasion of privacy (suit was dropped, but Donaghy was suspended from his country club as a result of his actions)
- Another neighbor said Donaghy "was so bad you can't imagine...The guy had a personality problem from Day One, with 99% of people" with whom Donaghy came in contact. "Unless everything went his way...he just became a flaming maniac"

- The Mayor of his township said Donaghy had “a very dictatorial personality, a very aggressive personality”
- Donaghy’s off-court behavior so troubled the NBA they sanctioned Donaghy by prohibiting him from working a round of playoffs one season
- Donaghy’s wife, soon after filing for divorce, requested a restraining order because he allegedly threatened to “knock [her] head off [her] body when he was “enraged, out of control” (matter was dropped when wife didn’t appear in court)

Please also consider what reporters looking into these circumstances have discovered when they reached out to former Donaghy teammates, classmates, colleagues, and associates...

- “every teammate, classmate, or associate contacted...by the [Delco] Daily Times either chose not to comment on Donaghy or didn’t return phone calls...While there are those empathetic to Donaghy and his gambling-related plight, many others consider his a karmic downfall”
- “several sources described him as fairly unpopular with his peers, past and present...From his Philly basketball roots to his peers in the NBA, Donaghy isn’t described with much affection”

Donaghy’s troubling behavior has continued and he has privately and publicly lashed out against many parties, making baseless claims in the process. He also – unsolicited – publicly mocked his ex-wife’s appearance in response to a 2019 ESPN article about the scandal:



Tim Donaghy  
@TimDonaghy2

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Let them know it was total BS, Spoke to Scala (mis-quoted). Only thing correct was the photo of my EX wife looking well over 200lbs.



5:26 PM - 19 Feb 2019



Tim Donaghy  
@TimDonaghy2

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The only think correct in the article was the pic of my overweight EX WIFE.....

12:19 PM - 19 Feb 2019

So, with the collective decades-long evidence of lies and falsehoods and frauds, along with an unreal history of troubling personal behavior\*, you can hopefully understand why many people like me can't understand the routine, often genteel, manner in which some media personalities treat the discredited and disturbed Donaghy.

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\*I haven't humored above other issues such as Donaghy admitting having someone take his SATs for him, allegedly cheating on his wife, allegedly using prostitutes and drugs with co-conspirator Tommy Martino during the scandal (as Martino claims), in addition to repeatedly defrauding his employer, etc.