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Nicol's coach gets showcause letter

RICHARD Glanfield, squash star Nicol David's personal coach, has been issued a showcause letter by the SRA of Malaysia for not reporting to Kuala Lumpur despite being ordered to do so.

Glanfield, who is on the National Sports Council's payroll, has been transferred to KL but wants to remain in Penang to continue working with Nicol.

It is learnt that this is one reason for Nicol's below-par performance in the Busan Asian Games as she wants Glanfield to continue coaching her.

However, SRAM feels that Nicol needs a new coach with new ideas to prevent her from getting into a slump.

Glanfield's refusal to shift his base to KL has been going on for months.

NSC director general Datuk Mazlan Ahmad confirmed that Glanfield had indeed been issued a showcause letter by SRAM.

"It was issued sometime ago and this matter will be solved once and for all when we return to KL," said Mazlan, declining to comment further.

However, Nicol has, in several meetings with SRAM president Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir and the NSC, insisted that she wants to continue with Glanfield as her coach.

SRAM and NSC, not wanting to jeopardise Nicol's career, have even asked her to shift base to KL but the player, citing her family, won't do so.

Nicol is in danger of not realising her full potential should she not train regularly with players of higher calibre.

Only moments after Nicol was beaten by Hong Kong's Rebecca Chiu in the women's final, Mazlan said NSC was even willing to send her to London to train alongside Ong Beng Hee and Azlan Iskandar at the Neil Harvey training centre in Chingford.

In fact, Nicol had a one-week stint there sometime ago but came back. NSC is even willing to send her to a training centre for women players in Holland but the choice is Nicol's.

That Nicol has tremendous potential is something no one disputes but she has to remember that she is no longer in the junior ranks.

The senior circuit is of a different class and Nicol has to make some adult decisions and adjustments if she hopes to progress.