



**GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI**  
**AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ ANTI-DOPING**

**THE HEARING COMMISSION FOR THE ATHLETES AND THEIR  
SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO VIOLATED THE ANTI-DOPING RULES**

**To**  
IRIMIA RALUCA IONELA  
Danube Braila Sport Club  
Romanian Handball Federation  
Ministry of Youth and Sport  
International Handball Federation  
Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee  
World Anti-Doping Agency

**Bucharest, 17.12.2013**

Regarding the case of **National Anti-Doping Agency** *versus* the athlete **Irimia Raluca Ionela**, affiliated to Danube Braila Sport Club,

**DECISION**

**No. 23/17.12.2013**

**Issued by**

**THE HEARING COMMISSION FOR THE ATHLETES AND THEIR  
SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO VIOLATED THE ANTI-DOPING RULES**

**With the following structure:**

**Chairman**

Ioan DOBRESU

**Members:**

Iulia Monica ACATRINEI

Valentina ALEXANDRESCU

Doina MELINTE

Cristian SMARANDA

Vlad STOENESCU

Irina TURCU

Graziela Elena VAJIALĂ

Secretary of the Hearing Commission: **Gabriela ANDREIASU**

*The Hearing Commission for the athletes and their support personnel who violated the anti-doping rules*, named herein after “the Commission”, summoned on 17.12.2013, 10:00 H, at the National Anti-Doping Agency official seat in Bucharest, 37 – 39 Basarabia Bvd., District 2, for the hearing of the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela, affiliated to Danube Braila Sport Club, residing in 54 Eroilor Street, Bl 118, Sc B, Appt. 18, Suceava City, Suceava County, holds the followings:

Following the doping control conducted in competition on 01.11.2013 at the sport discipline handball, at Danube Braila Sport Club – Cetatea Deva Sport Club match, at National Handball Championship, conducted in Braila, the analytical result of the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela’s sample with the code number 6070157A indicated the presence of the prohibited substance **dexamethasone**, included in class S9– Glucocorticosteroids of the Prohibited List.

*The Hearing Commission for athletes and their support personnel who violated the anti-doping rules* summoned in a meeting session on 02.12.2013, where the athlete reported herself together with the doctor Tigirlas Victoria and the coach Alexandru Viorel. Mr. Marinescu Mihail represented Romanian Handball Federation as observer.

The athlete stated that she was getting a treatment with dexamethasone, the substance administrated intravenously by the doctor Tigirlas Victoria. The Commission held the fact that during the doping control the athlete stated at section “*Declaration of medication/supplements*” that she had used ketonal and dexamethasone. The athlete also stated that she had experienced exquisite pain at her shoulder and she submitted herself to the doctor Tigirlas Victoria, who administrated her dexamethasone intravenously, without knowing the consequences of its administration, in terms of anti-doping rules. The athlete also stated that she did not request the B sample analysis.

The doctor Tigirlas Victoria, employee of Danube Braila Sport Club, stated that the athlete was diagnosed with: post traumatic contusion of the right shoulder and the treatment with ketonal and dexamethasone was administrated intravenously to her on 30.10.2013.

Also with this occasion, the doctor made clear to the Commission that she wanted to put the athlete's medical file to the Commission's disposal.

The Commission evaluated the athlete's medical documents as useful and appropriate for the case settlement and disposed to have it postponed for 17.12.2013.

On 17.12.2013 the Hearing Commission took note of the content of the medical file of the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela submitted on 04.12.2013 by establishing that it contained the following documents: Medical Report no. 6988/23.09.2013 issued by Braila County Emergency Hospital, Medical History signed and stamped by the doctor Tigirlas Victoria and result of magnetic resonance imaging analysis issued on 17.10.2013 by Braila County Emergency Hospital. By verifying the documents presented to the Commission members, the following were established:

- On 20.09.2013. during a match, the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela injured her right shoulder;
- On 23.09.2013 following an orthopedic consultation Doctor Procopie Jordan, an orthopedic specialist recommended to have the radiography of the right shoulder performed. The radiography result read by Doctor Tane Dorin, radiology-echography specialist is "TRAUMATIC BONE NEGATIVE", which means that a fracture or a luxation does not exist, only a strong contusion of soft tissues (muscles, tendons, aponeuroses). Following this diagnostic the athlete was recommended the treatment with Voltaren (diclofenac sodium, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory-NSAID) pills and local Diclofenac unguent, both pharmaceutical substances not included in the 2013 Prohibited List.
- In the period 23.09- 17.10.2013 the athlete still experienced pains in her right shoulder articulation, limitation of movements within the articulation, pain when lifting the right arm. In this period she undergoes several consultations performed by the Orthopedic Specialist Procopie Jordan, who recommends her a MRI on 17.10.2013. Following this examination, the Radiology and Medical Imaging Primary Doctor Dobre Mihai reads "Obvious signal changes in the humeral head, contusion

iterative late appearance, diameter 24/30 mm. The joint capsule thickened moderately, well-defined internally and without any excess of fluids in the joints. Tardive contusive elements are noted in the insertions of uprising muscles of the right arm",

- As a result of this interpretation, Doctor Ceteras Gheorghe, Orthopedist-Traumatology Specialist puts the diagnosis “Repeated strong contusion of right shoulder with humeral scapular periostitis” and recommends local and general NSAID treatment (the treatment does not involve substances included in 2013 Prohibited List), ice bags and if needed, if the pains persist Ketonal and Dexamethasone intravenously (a glucocorticosteroid which needs a Therapeutic Use Exemption – TUE when administrated in competition on a systemic route, in this case intravenously). If the athlete was not used in competition, the treatment did not need a Therapeutic Use Exemption, as the administrated substance did not affect the athlete’s performance out of competition;
- On the evening of 30.10.2013, before the match which was going to take place the following day - 01.11.2013, the athlete experienced pains again and the Team Doctor Tigirlas Victoria, a Primary Care Physician – Family Medicine, certified in “Prehospital Emergency Care” administrated her a vial of Ketonal and a vial of Dexamethasone intravenously, even if the athlete was going to participate to the match set for the following day, she claimed the fact that she did not know that the substance was prohibited and that she could use a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE).

**Deliberating on the case herein the Commission holds the followings:**

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 48, paragraph (1) of Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments, the athlete is strictly responsible for the presence in his / her biological sample of any prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers.

According to the strict liability principle, the athletes are directly responsible for the presence of any prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers, found in

the collected biological samples. Each athlete has the responsibility to ensure that no substance enters his/her body.

However, the Commission considers that the provisions of art. 39 of Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments are applicable in this case, respectively “Where the facts set forth in article 2, paragraph (2) letters a), b) and f) involve a specified substance and the athlete or the athlete’s support personnel can establish how the specified substance entered his or her body or came into his or her possession and that the use of such specified substance was not intended to enhance the sport performance or to mask the use of another prohibited substance, the period of ineligibility set forth in article 38 shall be replaced for the first violation, with at least a reprimand and no period of ineligibility, or at most two (2) years ineligibility.”

Taking into account the fact that the athlete submitted directly to the Team Doctor, an employee of Danube Braila Sport Club, where she was affiliated, as she stated in front of the Hearing Commission, the Commission considers that the athlete made all the efforts in this regard and she addressed to the relevant support personnel entitled to assist her from the medical point of view. By the fact that the doctor Tigirlas Victoria administrated the prohibited substance to her, although she had therapeutic alternatives allowed or administration routes of this substance, which were not been prohibited, it was clearly established the way the prohibited substance had entered in the athlete’s body.

With all these statements the athlete offered a substantial help to the Hearing Commission in order to establish the anti-doping rule violation committed by the support personnel, as it is set forth in article 48, paragraph (7) of Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments.

When pronouncing the decision, the Commission will take into account the sincere attitude of the athlete during the case settlement, the fact that the prohibited substance found in her sample is a specified substance included in class S9 of the Prohibited List published in 2013 and its use aimed to returning to her previous health state, as well as the fact that the athlete declared it during the doping control, at section “*Declaration of medication/supplements*”, and last but not least the

substantial support provided by her, by showing how the prohibited substance entered in her body and who has at fault for its' administration.

For all these reasons the Commission will establish a sanction of the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela, who committed the first time violation, for a period of one (1) month ineligibility from sport activity, taking into account that there are enough grounds to proceed this way.

Also the Commission considers appropriate to organize a hearing meeting session in order to decide if the doctor Tigirlas Victoria should be sanctioned for the violation of the provisions of art. 2, paragraph (2), letter h) (*“administration or Attempted administration to any of any prohibited method or prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method on any athlete”*) of Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments.

*The Hearing Commission for athletes and their support personnel who violated the anti-doping rules*, after reviewing the documents within the file, the analysis bulletin no. 788/08.11.2013 issued by Bucharest Doping Control Laboratory, the nature of the detected prohibited substance, the fact that the athlete stated that the doctor Tigirlas Victoria administrated her the prohibited substance found in her sample, which was recognized and proved by the doctor, the athlete and the doctor's collaboration with the Commission, the medical file, the fact that she did not request B sample analysis, as well as the national and international legal provisions:

## DECIDES

The ineligibility of the athlete Irimia Raluca Ionela, affiliated to Danube Braila Sport Club from sport activity, for a period of one (1) month, pursuant to the provisions of article 39 of Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments, as the athlete had violated the provisions of article 2, paragraph (2), letter a) of the mentioned law, as the prohibited substance **dexamethasone**, included in class S9– Glucocorticosteroids of the Prohibited List was found in her sample.

The ineligibility period begins to run from the date of athlete presence at the Commission meeting, on 02.12.2013, the athlete is suspended for the period 02.12.2013- 01.01.2014.

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 45 of the mentioned law, during the ineligibility period, the athlete has the obligation to submit her whereabouts information to the Agency. When the athlete firstly retires from sport activity during the ineligibility period and then he/she requests to be reintegrated in sport activity, he/she will not be reintegrated until he/she informs the Agency and no advance notice doping testing is performed during a period of time equal to the ineligibility period remained when he/she retired.

The decision shall be communicated to the athlete **IRIMIA RALUCA IONELA**, Danube Braila Sport Club where she is affiliated, Romanian Handball Federation, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Romanian Olympic and Sport Committee, the International Handball Federation and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

The decision may be appealed to the Appeal Commission beside National Anti-Doping Agency in 21 days since its notification.

Romanian Handball Federation has the obligation to apply the provisions of the current decision and to comply with the legal provisions in force, pursuant to the provisions of articles 37 and 71 of Law 227/2006.

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 36, paragraph (4) of the Law 227/2006 regarding prevention and fight against doping in sport, republished with subsequent amendments, the above-mentioned institutions are required to maintain confidentiality of the information communicated, until the public disclosure of the case.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE HEARING COMMISSION**

**Ioan DOBRESU**