

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

DECISION

(Rule 25.2.2.1 of the Olympic Charter)

1. In re Larissa LAZUTINA, born on 1st June 1965, athlete (Russian Federation), women's cross country skiing.
2. The athlete was requested on 21st February 2002, before the start of the 4x5 km women's relay cross country skiing event, to provide a blood sample and, subsequently, to provide a urine sample.
3. The acting Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission was informed about 17:00 hours on 23rd February 2002 of an adverse finding on an "A" sample collected on 21st February 2001 at the XIX Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City 2002.
4. Pursuant to Bye-Laws to the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code, the acting Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, Prof. Arne Ljungqvist, set up an Inquiry Commission consisting of the following persons:
  - Denis Oswald (Chairman)
  - Eduardo de Rose
  - Peter Hemmersbach.
5. The Inquiry Commission held an investigation hearing on 23rd February 2002 at 23:00 hours in the presence of a delegation (hereinafter "the Delegation (I)") comprised of:
  - Viktor Mamatov, Chef de Mission
  - Nikolai Durmanov, Chief, anti-doping inspection
6. The Delegation was informed of the results of the laboratory analysis which, according to the report of the Inquiry Commission, are the following:

The analyses of the two samples indicated the presence of darbepoetin in the athlete's urine. Prof. Catlin, Head of the laboratory, confirmed the results of his finding. He described the method used that is the one commonly used and recognised for the detection of EPO. This method also allows the detection of darbepoetin. The urine findings were supported by the analytical results of the blood samples.

According to Prof. Catlin, darbepoetin stimulates the production of red blood cells and therefore can enhance performance in endurance sports. It may also be harmful for the athlete's health because it increases the viscosity of the blood. It is a substance which can be easily differentiated from EPO. It is an artificial substance which is not produced naturally by the human body. Therefore, its presence in the urine can only have an exogenous source.

Prof Catlin indicated that the darbepoetin is not listed, as such, in the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code but is clearly a related substance to EPO and is therefore prohibited.

7. According to the Inquiry Commission, the presence of darbepoetin in the athlete's urine is confirmed without any doubt by the laboratory's report. The substance darbepoetin is an analogue/mimetic related substance to EPO. It has the same pharmacological action and similar chemical structure to EPO, which is a prohibited substance according to the Olympic Movement Anti-

Doping Code. The substance darbepoetin is capable of enhancing performance and is potentially harmful to athlete's health. It is therefore also prohibited in application of Chapter II Article 2.1 of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code. The Inquiry Commission has concluded that Larissa Lazutina has committed the doping offence of using a substance prohibited by Chapter II, Article 2.1 and 2.2 of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code (Appendix A I E of the current IOC list of prohibited substances).

8. The Delegation (I) denied that there was a doping offence.

9. The President of the IOC designated the following five members of the IOC Executive Board to act as members of the Disciplinary Commission:

- Thomas Bach (Chairman)
- Richard Kevan Gosper
- Marc Hodler
- Ottavio Cinquanta
- Gunilla Lindberg

10. The Disciplinary Commission subsequently held a hearing in the morning of 24th February 2002 in the presence of the delegation (hereinafter "the Delegation (D)) comprised of:

- Viktor Mamatov, Chef de Mission
- Nikolai Durmanov, Chief, anti-doping inspection

11. The International Ski Federation was represented at the Disciplinary Commission hearing by: Gianfranco Kasper, FIS President

12. WADA was represented at the Disciplinary Commission hearing by: David Howman, WADA observer

13. The Delegation (D) agreed to combine the hearing in the present case with the one in the case of Olga Danilova. The Delegation (D) asked a question relating to the signature of the report of the Inquiry Commission, requested to be provided with the copy signed by all three members of the Inquiry Commission, but agreed to discuss the merits. The Delegation (D) argued that the concerned substance darbepoetin (Aranesp=NESP) is not expressly mentioned in the list of the prohibited substances. The Delegation (D) acknowledged, however, that this substance is an analogue/mimetic related substance to EPO. The Delegation (D) challenged the validation of the test method. The Delegation (D) furthermore pointed out that the athlete was selected for testing upon request by the IOC Medical Commission. This was confirmed by the IOC Medical Director to have been carried out pursuant to Paragraph 1.5 of Appendix C of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code which reads *"the IOC Medical Commission shall have the right to request, without justifying the reason therefore, that any competitor undergo a doping control at any time during the Games"*.

14. After hearing the Delegation (D) and the arguments it put forward, as well as hearing the representative of the International Ski Federation, the Disciplinary Commission retired in order to deliberate. As soon as the Disciplinary Commission was informed about the result of the women's 30 km classical cross country skiing, Mr. Ottavio Cinquanta (Italy) absented himself from the Commission's deliberations.

15. The Disciplinary Commission concluded that the athlete has committed a doping offense according to Chapter II, Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code.

16. The Disciplinary Commission proposed that the IOC Executive Board, pursuant to the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Charter, pronounce the following sanctions:

- disqualification of the athlete from the women's 30 km classical cross country skiing event

- withdrawal of the medal and diploma
- exclusion from the XIX Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake 2002.

17. The IOC Executive Board upholds the facts as stated and reported by the Inquiry Commission.

18. The IOC Executive Board took note today of the conclusions of the Disciplinary Commission based among other elements on the report of the Inquiry Commission and its hearing.

CONSIDERING the above, pursuant to Rule 25, paragraph 2.2.1 of the Olympic Charter and the terms of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code,

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

DECIDES

1. The athlete Larissa Lazutina (Russian Federation), women's cross-country skiing, is:
  - (i) disqualified from the women's 30 km classical cross country skiing event
  - (ii) excluded from the XIX Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City 2002,according to Chapter II, Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code,
2. The International Ski Federation is requested to modify the results of the above-mentioned event accordingly and to consider any further action within its own competence.
3. The National Olympic Committee of the Russian Federation is hereby ordered to return to the IOC, not later than 17:00 hours today, the medal and diploma awarded to the athlete in relation to the above-mentioned event.
4. The decision shall enter into force immediately.

Salt Lake City, 24th February 2002

For the IOC Executive Board  
François CARRARD  
Director General