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Formal Decision

as of

15 July 2014

regarding the charge of a

violation of the WDSF Anti-Doping Code

by

Flora Bouchereau

(born 29 September 1995, French citizen, dancing under the authority of the World Rock'n'Roll Confederation)

		– <u>Athlete</u> –

- 1. The Athlete has been found guilty of a violation of the WDSF Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Code.
- 2. The Athlete is declared ineligible for competition for one year (12 months), starting from 6 September 2013 and ending on 5 September 2014.
- 3. All results obtained by the Athlete in competitions on and since 17 August 2013 until the end of the ineligibility period shall be invalidated.
- 4. The present formal decision is rendered without cost. The expenses of the procedure incurred by the WDSF Disciplinary Council shall be borne by the WDSF. The Athlete shall bear her own cost and expenses of the present procedure.





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Reasons for the decision

1. Formal facts

- 1.1 On 29 March 2014, Flora Bouchereau, born on 29 September 1995, French citizen, at that time dancing for BC Swing Rock'n'Roll Acrobatique Club, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland (hereinafter referred to as: "the Athlete") addressed an "appeal against a doping sanction" to the WDSF Disciplinary Council (WDSF DC) by e-mail.
- 1.2 On 31 March 2014, the Chairman of the WDSF Disciplinary Council acknowledged reception of the mentioned e-mail and asked the Athlete to submit a copy of the formal decision or notification of her suspension to the WDSF DC. The same day, the Athlete forwarded a copy of an e-mail of the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair to the WDSF DC, dating 15 October 2013.
- 1.3 On 17 May 2014, the WDSF DC received the files of the case from the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair.
- 1.4 On 22 May 2014, the Chairman of the WDSF Disciplinary Council appointed the undersigning Chamber in Charge for this case and asked the Athlete if she had any objections against one of these DC Members. The Athlete replied the same day, stating that she had no objections against the appointed Chamber in Charge.
- 1.5 On 9 June 2014, the Chair of the Chamber in Charge sent copies of the files of the case to the Athlete, asking her to comment these files and to submit her own evidence within a period of two weeks. In the same e-mail, the Athlete was informed that she has the right to appear in person in front of the Chamber in Charge. The Athlete was asked to declare if she requested a personal hearing and was informed that the Chamber in Charge would decide based on her submissions and the mentioned files in case the Athlete waived a personal hearing.
- 1.6 On 19 June 2014, the Athlete stated that until 9 June 2014, she did not have access to some of the files sent to her by the WDSF DC, including the report on her case, prepared by the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair and including the analysis result record. In the same e-mail, the Athlete waived her right to appear personally in front of the panel of the Disciplinary Council.
- 1.7 On 22 June 2014, the Chair of the Chamber in Charge asked the Athlete by e-mail at which exact time she was notified for the first time about the start and end dates of her suspension. The Athlete answered the same day that she had not been informed about the dates of her suspension. She therefore contacted the World Rock'n'Roll Confederation (WRRC) and on 12 March 2014, she was informed by her federation that her suspension had been fixed until 2 October 2014.
- 1.8 On 23 June 2014, the Chair of the Chamber in Charge closed the exchange of submissions.





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2. Summary of the facts of the case and history of the formal complaint, established by the Chamber in Charge

- 2.1 On 17 August 2013, the Athlete competed in the World Championships in Boogie Woogie Main Class, held in Stuttgart, Germany. The Athlete was selected for a doping control and was asked to refer to the check-in-desk immediately after finishing the competition. Nevertheless, the Athlete presented herself to the WDSF Anti-Doping representative more than 30 minutes after she had completed her last competition. During the test, the Athlete stated that she had health problems and therefore had used phloroglucinol the week before the competition. The Athlete did not request a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) for this or other medications.
- 2.2 On 4 September 2013, the laboratory results of the A-sample of the Athlete showed traces of morphine in a concentration of 2.95 μ g/ml. The analysis was conducted by the Laboratory for Doping Analysis of the German Sports University in Cologne, Germany, a laboratory accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)¹. The laboratory sent its report to the WDSF, as well as to the WRRC and to WADA.
- 2.3 On 6 September 2013, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair was informed by the WRRC that the Athlete renounced her right to have the B-sample analyzed. The representative of the WRRC added that the Athlete stated to have taken a medication called "Dafalgan Codeine" against sore throat, common cold and headaches. The Athlete assured to the WRRC representative that she had not known that the substances contained in her medication were not allowed.
- 2.4 On 19 September 2013, the Athlete participated in the WDSF world DanceSport games in Kaohsiung.
- 2.5 On 29 September 2013, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair finished her report on the current case and advised to impose a sanction of one year of ineligibility. In her report, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair stated that codeine is a weak opiate, which would explain the traces of morphine in the urine sample of the Athlete. The WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair added that she could exclude that codeine had been taken by the Athlete to enhance her performance in the competition.
- 2.6 On 3 October 2013, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair sent her report concerning the current case to the WRRC.
- 2.7 On 15 October 2013, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair was informed by the WRRC that the Athlete had not yet been informed about a sanction in her case. The WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair therefore sent an e-mail to the Athlete the same day and informed her that it had been decided that she would be suspended for one year.
- 2.8 On 13 November 2013, the Athlete asked the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair for some clarifications in her case. On 24 November 2013, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair forwarded a copy of the positive test result to the Athlete.
- 2.9 On 12 March 2014, the Athlete was informed by the WRRC that her suspension was set from 3 October 2013 until 2 October 2014 and not from 17 August 2013 until 16 August 2014, as she thought initially.

http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Science-Medicine/Anti-Doping-Laboratories/Accredited-Lab-Locations/ Europe/





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3. Request for legal relief

- 3.1 In her submission of 29 March 2014, the Athlete did not dispute the positive test result and her violation of the WDSF Anti-Doping Code (WDSF ADC). She also accepted the suspension of one year, but in her eyes, her suspension in fact lasts 14.5 months. The Athlete asked the WDSF Disciplinary Council to determine that the suspension should end one year after the positive test, which would mean up to and including 16 August 2014.
- 3.2 The Athlete also criticized that the decision of the suspension was not given to her by the WADA or WDSF directly, but through her federation, that she had no possibility to decide on the start time of her sanction and that she was not informed about her rights and about the time-limit for bringing an action against the decision of ineligibility. In her e-mail of 19 June 2014, the Athlete extended her complaint to the fact that the documents mentioned in paragraph 1.6 above were not disclosed to her prior to the procedure at the Disciplinary Council. The Athlete did not chain any specific request to the complaints listed in this paragraph.

4. Procedural considerations of the Chamber in Charge

- 4.1 The World Championships in Boogie Woogie Main Class, held on 17 August 2013 in Stuttgart were governed by the WRRC and therefore have to be regarded as an international event². The WRRC is an Associate Member of the WDSF³. As any other Member of WDSF, the WRRC implemented the WDSF Anti-Doping Code in its legal framework⁴ and acknowledged the jurisdiction of the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission and its representatives⁵ as well as the jurisdiction of the WDSF Disciplinary Council⁶. According to the WDSF Statutes, the WDSF Disciplinary Council is the judicial body of the whole Federation⁷ and renders decisions in cases of violations of the WDSF Anti-Coping Code, including the imposition of sanctions⁸. Therefore, the present case falls under the cognizance of the WDSF DC.
- 4.2 As mentioned before, the WDSF DC became involved in this case when the Athlete directed her "appeal against a doping sanction" to the DC. The Athlete did not specify her complaint as provided in the WDSF Disciplinary Council Code (WDSF DCC)⁹. She neither wired an advanced payment which is a mandatory requirement of each complaint to the WDSF DC¹⁰. But from the content of her e-mail, it is clear that the Athlete targets the above mentioned decision of the WDSF and WRRC Officials, who imposed an ineligibility period of one year from 3 October 2013 on. Therefore, the Athlete addressed the WDSF DC as second instance¹¹.

WDSF Anti-Doping Code (WDSF ADC), article 2 I 19 and World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), appendix 1.

WRRC Statutes, §1 subparagraph 2.

WRRC Statutes, §2 subparagraph 5.

WRRC Statutes, §7 subparagraph 3 and §9 letter e, WDSF ADC article 3 I 1, and WADC, article 15.1.

⁶ WRRC Statutes, §9 letter f.

WDSF Statutes, article 8 letter d and article 19 paragraph 1.

⁸ WDSF ADC, article 9 paragraphs I and III.

⁹ WDSF DCC, article 12.

WDSF DCC, article 12.

¹¹ WDSF DCC, article 10.





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- 4.3 Athletes who are suspected to have committed a doping violation do have the right that their case is decided by an impartial body¹². That is why the WDSF legal framework defines that doping cases have to be treated by the WDSF Disciplinary Council as first instance¹³. Therefore, the current case could not have been decided by a member of the executive authorities of the WDSF or WRRC. Based on the documents submitted by the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair it is not even possible to say who decided on the sanction that had been communicated to the Athlete in the present case. For that reason, and because neither the WRRC administration nor the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair is authorized to pass sentences in doping cases, the WDSF Disciplinary Council declares that no valid decision concerning a doping rule violation or a sanction has been made in this case so far.
- 4.4 As a consequence of the findings in paragraph 4.3 above, the WDSF DC acts as first instance in the present case *ex officio* and it does not matter that the Athlete did not comply with the formal requirements of a complaint to the WDSF DC. In particular, the fact that the Athlete missed the time limit defined in the WDSF DC Code¹⁴ may not bar her from obtaining a decision of a hearing panel as provided in the WADA-Code. The WDSF DC therefore enters into the facts of the case, what gives the Athlete access to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in case she decides to file an appeal against the present decision¹⁵.
- 4.5 Because the WDSF Disciplinary Council acts as first instance in this procedure, the DC is not bound by the requests for legal relief brought up by the Athlete. In the present case, that does not make a difference, as the Athlete did not connect her different complaints to specific requests for legal consequences other than the reduction of the period of ineligibility. The length of the suspension is a question the WDSF DC has to answer by rights anyhow.
- 4.6 As the Athlete waived her right for an oral hearing¹⁶, this decision is based on the written submissions of the parties alone¹⁷.

WADC, article 8.1.

WDSF ADC, article 9, paragraphs I and II 1, WDSF DCC, article 9.

¹⁴ WDSF DCC, article 13.

WDSF DCC, article 11.

See paragraph 1.6 above.

WDSF ADC, article 9, paragraph III 4 and WADC, article 8.3.





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5. Considerations of the Chamber in Charge on the merits of the case

- As mentioned above¹⁸, the laboratory results of the A-sample of the Athlete showed traces of morphine in a concentration of 2.95 μ g/ml. The combined standard uncertainty estimated by the laboratory at the threshold was 0.065 μ g/ml. Morphine is contained in the Prohibited List of the WADA in the chapter "substances and methods in-competition"¹⁹. The traces of morphine have been present in the urine of the Athlete at the time of the competition in which she participated²⁰. WADA determines that the decision limit (DL) in cases of morphine is 1.3 μ g/ml²¹. The Athlete does not dispute the results of the laboratory analysis, therefore the main fact of this case, the presence of a prohibited substance in the Athlete's A-Sample, is established.
- 5.2 The presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites and markers in the athlete's A-Sample constitutes a violation of the anti-doping rules²². The Athlete did not declare that she had taken the medication that led to the detection of traces of morphine in the present case, although she would have been obliged to do so²³ and it is undisputed that no applicable Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)²⁴ had been granted to the Athlete for the use of Morphine²⁵. As it is the athlete's personal duty to ensure that no prohibited substance enters his or her body, it is not necessary that the athlete took the prohibited substance intentionally²⁶.
- 5.3 An anti-doping rule violation in connection with an in-competition test leads to the disqualification of the individual result obtained in the regarding competition²⁷ and the invalidation of all other competitive results obtained from the date the positive sample was collected²⁸. As the Athlete has not been found guilty of a breach of an anti-doping rule so far, the violation of the WDSF Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Code is considered as a first violation in this case, which generally leads to a period of ineligibility of two years²⁹.
- 5.4 In cases in which the athlete establishes how a specified substance has entered his or her body and that this substance was not intended to enhance the athlete's sport performance or mask the use of a performance-enhancing substance, the sanction for the presence of a *specified substance* in the A-sample may be reduced to a reprimand up to a period of two years of ineligibility³⁰, as long as a first violation of anti-doping rules is concerned. Morphine falls into the category of "specified substances"³¹.

See paragraph 2.2.

¹⁹ WADA Prohibited List, article S7, "narcotics".

²⁰ WDSF ADC, Article 2, paragraph I 15 and WADC, appendix 1 (definition of "in-competition").

²¹ WADA Technical Document TD2013DL, as of 12 September 2012.

WDSF ADC, articles 1 paragraph VII 1 and 7 paragraphs II 2 and WADC, article 2.1.2.

WDSF ADC, article 4 paragraph II 3.

WDSF ADC, article 3 paragraph III 1 and WADC, article 4.4.

WDSF ADC, article 5 paragraph II and WADC, article 7.1.

²⁶ WDSF ADC, articles 3 paragraph I 6 and 7 paragraph I and WADC, article 2.1.1.

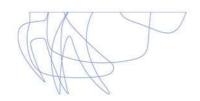
WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph I 1 and WADC, article 9.

²⁸ WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph I 4 and WADC, article 10.8.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph II and WADC, article 10.2.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph IV and WADC, article 10.4.

WDSF ADC, article 2 paragraph I 45, WADC, article 4.2.2 and WADA Prohibited List, preamble (Morphine is listed in section S7 of the WADA Prohibited List).





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- 5.5 The Athlete was able to explain how the specified substance possibly entered her body in the present case. She stated that it may have been contained in a medication called "Dafalgan Codeine"32. The WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair stated that codeine could explain the traces of morphine in this case and that this substance had not been taken to enhance the Athlete's performance³³. Therefore, the conditions for a reduction of the period of ineligibility are given³⁴. On the other hand, athletes dancing on a level as the Athlete in this case must know that the Prohibited List of the WADA must be consulted before taking any medication and that they must ask for a TUE if they need to take such a medication. There is a sense behind the Prohibited List of the WADA and it cannot be excluded that in the end of a long tournament, taking a medicine against pain may influence the result of the competition. As the Athlete did not provide information at all why she had reasons to believe that she was allowed to take the prohibited substance mentioned above except that she just did not think of committing a violation of an anti-doping rule by taking the medication, it still must be considered at least as significant negligence that the Athlete did not remember consulting the Prohibited List and asking for a TUE in the present case. Based on the degree of fault of the Athlete and the fact that no exceptional circumstances are evident in this case³⁵, a sanction of one year of ineligibility and the invalidation of all results obtained in competitions on and since the date of the sample collection is appropriate and related to the seriousness of the misconduct of the Athlete in the present case.
- 5.6 The period of ineligibility generally starts on the date ineligibility is imposed³⁶. It is obvious that in the present case, the application of this rule would lead to an unreasonable result, as the Athlete may have had confidence that her case was decided by the body in charge. Consequently, she stopped competing after she had been informed that a period of ineligibility of one year had been imposed on her. If the rules concerning the start of an ineligibility period were applied without any modifications in this case, the Athlete would face a suspension of almost 21 months in total, which would no longer correspond with her degree of responsibility.
- 5.7 As a compensation, the WDSF Anti-Doping Code³⁷ and the World Anti-Doping Code³⁸ allow to credit the period of a provisional suspension against the total period of ineligibility imposed in such cases. But the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair did not impose a provisional suspension in the present procedure.

See paragraph 2.3 above.

³³ See paragraph 2.5 above.

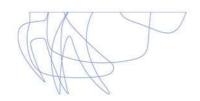
WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph IV and WADC, article 10.4.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraphs IV i.f. and 8 V and WADC, articles 10.4 i.f. and 10.5.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII and WADC, article 10.9.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII.

³⁸ WADC, article 10.9.





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- 5.8 If there have been substantial delays in the hearing process or other aspects of doping control not attributable to the Athlete or other persons, the body imposing the sanction may start the period of ineligibility at an earlier date as declared in paragraph 5.6 above, commencing as early as the date of the sample collection³⁹. But no credit against a period of ineligibility shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the provisional suspension or voluntary provisional suspension⁴⁰. Again, the fact that no provisional suspension was imposed in this case results in a detrimental situation for the Athlete.
- 5.9 Provisional suspensions are mandatory in cases in which an Adverse Analytical Finding identifies the presence of a prohibited substance in the A-Sample of an athlete and no TUE has been granted for this substance, but provisional suspensions may not be imposed unless the athlete is given the opportunity for a provisional hearing⁴¹. As mentioned above, the Athlete has not been given the opportunity to testify in a provisional hearing in this case.
- The files of this case show that the analysis result record was submitted to the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair on 4 September 2013 and that the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair printed it on 5 September 2013. This is the date on which she gained knowledge of the Adverse Analytical Finding in this case. During the test, the Athlete told the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair that she had taken phloroglucinol, which is not the substance later detected in her urine. But because of this discussion and the fact that requests for a TUE have to be directed to the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair⁴², the latter knew that the Athlete did not ask for a TUE at all⁴³. We do not know if the Athlete had asked for a provisional hearing at the time of the disclosure of the Adverse Analytical Finding if she had been asked for, but any assumptions taken by the Disciplinary Council may not be disadvantageous for the Athlete. As provisional hearings may also be realized on a timely basis after the imposition of a provisional suspension⁴⁴ and Athletes can be heard in written form in provisional hearings⁴⁵, from an *ex post* point of view, the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair could have imposed the provisional suspension on the day she was informed that the Athlete waived her right to have her B-Sample analyzed⁴⁶, which was on 6 September 2013⁴⁷. That in fact the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair did not impose a provisional period of ineligibility may not be detrimental to the Athlete. Therefore, the legal consequences in this decision are determined by the Disciplinary Council in the following as if a provisional suspension had been properly imposed on 6 September 2013.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII 1 and WADC, article 10.9.1.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII 5 and WADC, article 10.9.5.

WDSF ADC, article 6 paragraphs I 1 and 3 and WADC, article 7.5.1.

WDSF ADC, article 3 paragraph III 1.

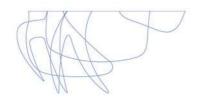
WDSF ADC, article 5 paragraph I 3 a and WADC, article 7.1.

WDSF ADC, article 6 paragraph I 3 and WADC, article 7.5.1.

WDSF ADC, article 2 paragraph I 39 and WADC, appendix 1.

As on that date, the information listed in WDSF ADC, article 5 paragraph II 1 and WDAC, article 7.2 had been given to the Athlete, which is a requirement for a provisional suspension (WDSF ADC, article 6 paragraph I 1 and WADC, article 7.5.1.

See paragraph 2.3 above.





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- Paragraphs 1 and 2 above show that the Athlete was not given the opportunity to testify in a provisional hearing by WDSF and has not been informed about her sanction in a proper way. She did not receive copies of all relevant files, including the result of the Adverse Analytical Finding⁴⁸, she was not informed about the time-limit for bringing an action against her suspension and in particular, she was instructed about the start and end time of the period of ineligibility not earlier than five months after she had been advised about the sanction itself. Together, all these neglects of the WDSF administration have to be considered as substantial delays in the hearing process unquestionably and these delays have not been caused by the Athlete. The WDSF Disciplinary Council therefore determines that the sanction imposed on the Athlete starts on 6 September 2013, the day on which the provisional suspension should have been imposed⁴⁹. Consequently, the period of ineligibility ends on 5 September 2014 and the Athlete may compete again from 6 September 2014 on.
- 5.12 If the Athlete obtained any medals, prizes or prize money since the day of the sample collection, she is obliged to give back all those rewards as a condition of regaining eligibility⁵⁰.
- 5.13 The Athlete is instructed that neither the WDSF Anti-Doping Code nor the World Anti-Doping Code know the possibility to let the athlete decide on the start date of a sanction⁵¹.
- 5.14 Concerning the complaint that the initial suspension lasted 14.5 months⁵² (which would mean, regarding the present decision, that also the period of ineligibility defined here lasted more than one year), the Athlete cannot be heard. It is not disputed that she competed in the WDSF world DanceSport games in Kaohsiung on 19 September 2013, around two weeks after she had been informed about the positive A-Sample by her federation⁵³. Obviously, she was aware that she had not been suspended so far. That she has been disqualified later for the results obtained in Kaohsiung is the normal consequence of any ineligibility imposed, irrespective of the start time of her suspension⁵⁴.

6. Cost

Due to the fact that the Athlete herself had to contact the Disciplinary Council in order to inform the DC about the decisions taken by the WDSF and WRRC administration in this case⁵⁵, the present formal decision is rendered without cost and the expenses of the procedure incurred by the WDSF Disciplinary Council shall be borne by the WDSF. Corresponding to the outcome of the proceedings, the Athlete shall bear her own cost and expenses of the present procedure.

WDSF ADC, article 5 paragraph II and WADC, article 14.1.1.

WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII 1 and WADC, article 10.9.1.

⁵⁰ WDSF ADC, articles 8 paragraphs I 5 and X 1 and WADC, articles 10.1 and 10.8.1.

See paragraph 3.2 above.

See paragraph 3.1 above.

Which also excludes the "timely admission"-provisions, WDSF ADC, article 8 paragraph VIII 2 and WADC, article 10.9.2.

See paragraph 5.3 above.

WDSF ADC, article 9 paragraph II 1 provides that the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission Chair immediately informs the WDSF Disciplinary Council in cases of Adverse Analytical Findings in the A-Sample.





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7. Pronouncement and publication of this decision

- 7.1 This decision is delivered to the Athlete, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF), the World Rock'n'Roll Confederation (WRRC), as well as to the National Anti-Doping Agencies of Norway and Switzerland⁵⁶.
- 7.2 This decision must be publicly disclosed within 20 days on the webpage of the WDSF and must be left there for at least one year⁵⁷.

8. Right of appeal

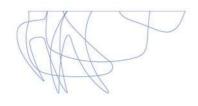
- 8.1 Within 60 days after receiving this decision, the following persons and organizations are entitled to file an appeal against this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland: the Athlete, the World DanceSport Federation and the Norwegian and Swiss Anti-Doping Organization. Filing an appeal does not suspend or affect this decision, which remains in effect unless the CAS orders otherwise⁵⁸.
- 8.2 The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is entitled to file an appeal against this decision within 21 days after the last day on which the persons and organizations listed in paragraph 8.1 above could have submitted an appeal, or 21 days after WADA received the complete file relating to this decision, whatever is later⁵⁹.

WDSF ADC, articles 5 paragraph II 2 and 10 paragraphs II 1 and III 1 and WADC, articles 7.2, 14.1.2 and 14.2.2.

WDSF ADC, articles 10 paragraphs III 1, 2 and 4 and WADC, articles 14.2.1, 14.2.2 and 14.2.4.

WDSF DCC, article 11, WDSF ADC, article 9 paragraphs VI 1, 2 letters a, c, d, 3 and 5 and WADC, articles 13.1, 13.2.1 and 13.2.3.

WDSF ADC, article 9 paragraph VI 4 and WADC, article 13.2.3.





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WDSF Disciplinary Council Chamber in Charge

Daniel Stehlin, Chairman

Karina Geerts

Hermann Goetz