

30th January 2020

Athlete: Melissa Jansen van Vuuren
Sport Code: Athletics

Address: [...]
[...]
[...]

Dear Ms. Jansen van Vuuren

CHARGES AND CONSEQUENCES: ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION

Introduction

1. The South African Institute for Drug Free Sport (SAIDS) and all participants in sport are required to act in accordance with the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport Anti-Doping Rules.
2. You have been notified (27th May 2019) of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation in terms of Article 2.1 of the Rules for the presence of Phentermine, **“A” sample (sample number 4415891)**.
3. You did not request for your B sample to be analysed. We received correspondence from you dated 22 July 2019 where you do not dispute the adverse analytical finding.
4. SAIDS is required, in circumstances where there is no further dispute as to the adverse analytical finding¹:-
 - a. To issue a written decision confirming the commission of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation and the Consequences that will be imposed should you not elect a hearing.
 - b. To set out the reasons for the period of Ineligibility imposed and (if applicable) a justification as to why the maximum period of Ineligibility was not imposed.
 - c. To send copies of the decision to Anti-Doping Organisations, viz. Athletics South African (ASA), International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) with a right of appeal and to make Public Disclosure.

¹ Article Rule 7.10.3 of the Rules

5. SAIDS has assessed the facts of your case, has arrived at a decision, and this letter sets out that decision and the reasons it has been arrived at.

The Anti-Doping Rule Violation

6. You have committed and are guilty of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation referred to above. In other words of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation set out in point 2.

Consequences

7. The Consequences that the Rules contemplate distinguish between Prohibited Substances that are Specified Substances and those that are not. The Consequences for the use of Prohibited Substances that are not Specified will in most instances include a four (4) year period of ineligibility. Where a substance is Specified the athlete can also be ineligible for such a period if SAIDS demonstrates that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was intentional.
8. Where SAIDS does not demonstrate intentional use then the period of ineligibility under the Rules provided for is two (2) years. The period of two (2) years can be reduced in certain specified circumstances which require you to show that you bore no significant fault or negligence here.
9. In these circumstances the appropriate Consequences without any reduction is a period of *Ineligibility* of four (4) Years for prohibited substances that are not Specified Substances. Taking into consideration your case and the facts before SAIDS, you were notified by SAIDS of your Adverse Analytical Finding on the 27th May 2019 in which you responded.
10. In the aforementioned correspondence you have, *inter alia*, confirmed the following:
 - 10.1 That you do not dispute the adverse analytical findings to the A sample.;
 - 10.2 That you provided SAIDS with a prompt admission, immediately co-operated with SAIDS through your attorneys;
 - 10.3 You are a recreational level athlete with no anti-doping education;
 - 10.4 That you had supplements tested but returned as negative finding;
 - 10.5 You have shown remorse and requested leniency from the maximum sanction that could be imposed;
 - 10.6 Despite all your attempts, you could not provide SAIDS with the origin of the substances and the route of administration;
 - 10.7 You have waived your right to a hearing.
11. In this respect, you are eligible for a reduction in terms of Art. 10.6.3 and your total period of ineligibility is three (3) year nine (9) months.

12. You were provisionally suspended from 27th May 2019, due to your co-operation your sanction will be effective as from date of Notification, being the 27th of May 2019.
13. The reasons for the imposition of these Consequences are that: -
- The substances in question in your A sample is a Prohibited Non-Specified Substances.
 - SAIDS is not required, in the circumstances, to prove anything more than presence and no factors have been advanced by you that would suggest there is a basis for reducing the period of ineligibility and doing so would be unfairly discriminatory towards other athletes.
 - There is no basis for SAIDS to conclude that you were not negligent in these circumstances.

Sanction Period

14. The period of ineligibility will be applicable as of 27th May 2019 until and 27th February 2023.
15. You have a right to appeal this matter as per the below mentioned and the process is as follows:
- You must give notice of your appeal in writing to SAIDS to the SAIDS Legal Manager, Wafeekah Begg at e-mail address wafeekah@saisd.org.za within **21 (twenty-one) days i.e. 21 calendar days as of the date of this notice, therefore should you want to appeal, your Notice of Appeal is due by the 17:00 on the 20 February 2020;**
 - Your notice must incorporate or be accompanied by your grounds of appeal and must include an address (email, fax number, and/or street address) for SAIDS to provide you with an invoice in respect of appeals **(the appeal fee is R1000.00);**
 - Upon receipt of the notice and grounds SAIDS will provide you an invoice in respect of the appeal and the appeal fee must be paid and proof of payment provided to SAIDS within **seven (7) days** of the date of the invoice;
 - The failure to comply with these procedural rules will mean the appeal will not proceed.
16. The appeal hearings may be heard in Johannesburg or Cape Town or Durban. You need to confirm with us which of the regions will be suitable for you should the appeal proceed.
17. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

BOARD MEMBERS: JUDGE L. MPATI (CHAIRPERSON), MR. G. ABRAHAMS, DR. H. ADAMS, MR. D. BAYEVER, DR. S. MANJRA, DR. M. PEENZE, DR. M. QOBOSE, MR. M. QUINN, PROF. L. SKAAL, DR. P. ZONDI, MR. K. GALANT (CEO)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wafeekah Begg', written in a cursive style.

Wafeekah Begg
(Legal Manager)