

DECISION OF THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT IN THE CASE OF MR KAROKH SALIH MOHAMMED

INTRODUCTION

1. World Athletics has established the Athletics Integrity Unit ("**AIU**") whose role is to protect the integrity of the sport of Athletics, including fulfilling World Athletics' obligations as a Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code ("the "**Code**"). World Athletics has delegated implementation of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules ("**ADR**") to the AIU, including but not limited to the following activities in relation to International-Level Athletes: Testing, Investigations, Results Management, Hearings, Sanctions and Appeals.
2. Mr Karokh Salih Mohammed ("the **Coach**") is an Athletics coach from Iraq.
3. This decision is issued by the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR, which provides as follows:

"8.5.6 In the event that the Athlete or other Person either (i) admits the violation and accepts the proposed Consequences or (ii) is deemed to have admitted the violation and accepted the Consequences as per Rule 8.5.2(f), the Integrity Unit will promptly:

- (a) issue a decision confirming the commission of the violation(s) and the imposition of the specified Consequences (including, if applicable, a justification for why the maximum potential sanction was not imposed);*
- (b) Publicly Report that decision in accordance with Rule 14;*
- (c) send a copy of the decision to the Athlete or other Person and to any other party that has a right, further to Rule 13, to appeal the decision (and any such party may, within 15 days of receipt, request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision)."*

THE COMMISSION OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

4. Rule 2 ADR sets out that the following shall constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation:
 - 2.6 Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by an Athlete or Athlete Support Person.*
 - 2.7 Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited method by an Athlete or other Person.*
 - 2.8 Administration or Attempted Administration by an Athlete or other Person to any Athlete In-Competition of any Prohibited Method or Prohibited Substance, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Athlete Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Method or any Prohibited Substance that is prohibited Out-of-Competition.*
 - 2.9 Complicity or Attempted Complicity by an Athlete or other Person."*
5. This matter concerns multiple Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed by the Coach in connection with Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed by Iraqi Athlete, Ms Dana Hussein ("the **Athlete**").

6. The factual background is set out below.
7. On 17 June 2021, the Athlete provided a urine Sample In-Competition in Rades, Tunisia (the “**Sample**”). Analysis of the Sample revealed the presence of Stanozolol and its Metabolites 16β-hydroxy-stanozolol, 3'-hydroxy-stanozolol, 4β-hydroxy-stanozolol and Clenbuterol (the “**Adverse Analytical Finding**”).
8. Stanozolol and Clenbuterol are Prohibited Substances under the WADA 2021 Prohibited List. Stanozolol is listed under the category S1.1: Anabolic Androgenic Steroids and Clenbuterol is listed under the category S2: Other Anabolic Steroids. They are both Non-Specified Substances prohibited at all times.
9. On 16 July 2021, the AIU issued the Athlete with a Notice of Allegation of Anti-Doping Rule Violations based on the Adverse Analytical Finding in the Sample and invited the Athlete to provide her explanation for how the Adverse Analytical Finding had occurred in accordance with the Rules. The Notice of Allegation also confirmed the Athlete’s Provisional Suspension pending the outcome of her case.
10. On 23 July 2021, the AIU received via the Iraqi Athletics Federation (“the **Federation**”) documents confirming that the Athlete and the Coach had been invited to appear before authorised representatives of the Federation on 22 July 2021 and had answered questions concerning the circumstances of the Adverse Analytical Finding.
11. In particular, those documents confirmed that the Athlete stated that she had no knowledge as to how the Adverse Analytical Finding had occurred and confirmed that the Coach was responsible for her nutrition, including supplements, medications and vitamins, and her training.
12. The Coach also confirmed that he was responsible for the Athlete’s training and nutritional supplements, vitamins and mineral salts “*without her [the Athlete’s] knowledge of the contents of these substances*”. The Coach also confirmed that he was responsible for the Adverse Analytical Finding, in the following terms:

“I confirm that the player [i.e., the Athlete] is not aware of the materials that I gave her and she is not responsible. I am responsible, but I do not know that they contain international [prohibited] materials.”
13. Based on the above, the AIU opened an investigation into the circumstances of the Adverse Analytical Finding against both the Athlete and the Coach.
14. Following further investigation of the Athlete, on 10 May 2022, the AIU wrote to the Coach referring to the answers that he had given to the Iraqi Athletics Federation in relation to the Adverse Analytical Finding as set out above, and issued a Demand for the Coach to provide a written statement, setting out in full his knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances relating to the Adverse Analytical Finding, in accordance with Rule 5.7.5 ADR, by no later than 20 May 2022 (“the **Demand**”).
15. On 14 May 2022 (and further on 17 May 2022), the AIU received written replies in response to the Demand. The Coach confirmed that he was responsible for the Adverse Analytical Finding and that he had taken the opportunity of the Athlete experiencing a painful medical condition to deliberately give her two types of pills (which he maintained he did not know were Prohibited

- Substances) to ensure that the Athlete obtained a favourable result and to enhance his profile as a coach¹.
16. On 22 June 2022, the Coach attended an interview with AIU representatives. The Coach confirmed the details of his written explanations, but also clarified that he had been advised by a friend of the benefits of using stanozolol and clenbuterol in combination to enhance performance/weight loss, and that he purchased those substances on that advice.
 17. The Coach also confirmed, contrary to what he had stated in his written explanations, that he was fully aware that both stanozolol and clenbuterol were Prohibited Substances when he purchased them and gave them to the Athlete on 17 June 2021.
 18. Pursuant to the foregoing, the AIU therefore concluded that the Coach had committed the following Anti-Doping Rule Violations (together “the ADRVs”):
 - 18.1. Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by an Athlete Support Person pursuant to Rule 2.6 ADR;
 - 18.2. Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by an Athlete or other Person pursuant to Rule 2.7 ADR;
 - 18.3. Administration by an Athlete or other Person to any Athlete In-Competition of any Prohibited Method or Prohibited Substance pursuant to Rule 2.8 ADR; and
 - 18.4. Complicity by an Athlete or other Person pursuant to Rule 2.9 ADR.
 19. On 16 November 2022, the AIU issued the Coach with a Notice of Allegation of Anti-Doping Rule Violations imposing a Provisional Suspension (effective immediately) and invited him to provide a detailed written explanation for the ADRVs by no later than 23 November 2022. The Coach was also informed that he could admit the ADRVs by the same date and that, if he failed to provide a (sufficient) response, the AIU would proceed by issuing him with a Notice of Charge in accordance with Article 7 of the International Standard for Results Management (“ISRM”).
 20. The Coach failed to respond to the Notice of Allegation by 23 November 2022, or by an extended deadline of 28 November 2022 that had been notified to him by the AIU on 24 November 2022.
 21. Therefore, on 2 December 2022, the AIU issued the Coach with a Notice of Charge in accordance with Article 7 ISRM, which charged him with the ADRVs and invited him to confirm how he wished to proceed with the Charge by no later than 16 December 2022.
 22. On 4 December 2022, the AIU received via e-mail and via WhatsApp an Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form signed by the Coach.

¹ The Coach confirmed that he had presented the pills to the Athlete in a vitamin C container/bottle and given them to her immediately prior to her race on 17 June 2021, having represented the pills to the Athlete as something that would relax her and assist with her pain.

CONSEQUENCES

23. Rule 10.9.3(a) ADR confirms that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations pursuant to Rule 2.6 ADR, Rule 2.7 ADR, Rule 2.8 ADR and Rule 2.9 ADR shall be treated together as one single first Anti-Doping Rule Violation and the sanction shall be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction.

24. Rule 10.3.3 ADR provides that the period of Ineligibility to be imposed for violations of Rule 2.7 ADR and Rule 2.8 ADR will be up to a lifetime period of Ineligibility²:

“10.3.3 For violations of Rule 2.7 or Rule 2.8, the period of Ineligibility will be a minimum of four (4) years up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation. [...]”

25. The AIU notes that the severity of the ADRVs in this case are significant and egregious. The Coach has fundamentally abused his trusted position as an Athlete Support Person and admitted to deliberately opportunistic behaviour aimed specifically at doping an Athlete, In-Competition, without her knowledge, so as to enhance her performance and thereby his own reputation. That conduct, in the view of the AIU, is so serious as to justify a lifetime period of Ineligibility from the sport of Athletics.

26. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore a lifetime period of Ineligibility based on the seriousness of the ADRVs.

27. The Coach was charged with the ADRVs in a Notice of Charge issued to him on 2 December 2022³. On 4 December 2022, the Coach returned a signed Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form confirming that he admitted the ADRVs and accepted the asserted lifetime period of Ineligibility.

28. On the basis that the Coach has admitted the ADRVs under Rule 2.6 ADR, Rule 2.7 ADR, Rule 2.8 ADR and Rule 2.9 ADR, and in accordance with Rule 10.3.3 ADR and Rule 10.3.4 ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for a first Anti-Doping Rule Violation:

28.1. a **lifetime period of Ineligibility** commencing on 16 November 2022⁴.

29. The Coach has accepted the above Consequences for the ADRVs and has expressly waived his right to have those Consequences determined by the Disciplinary Tribunal at a hearing.

² Rule 10.3.4 ADR also provides for up to a lifetime period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation pursuant to Rule 2.9 ADR.

³ The Notice of Charge was issued in accordance with Article 7 of the ISRM and informed the Coach that the ADRVs may result in a lifetime period of Ineligibility.

⁴ The date of the Provisional Suspension imposed on the Coach in the Notice of Allegation.

PUBLICATION

30. In accordance with Rule 8.5.6(b) ADR, the AIU shall publicly report this decision on the AIU's website.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL

31. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR.

32. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, WADA and the National Olympic Committee of Iraq (“the **NOC**”) have a right of appeal against this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the procedure set out at Rule 13.6.1 ADR.

33. If an appeal is filed against this decision by WADA or the NOC, the Coach will be entitled to exercise his right of cross-appeal in accordance with Rule 13.2.4 ADR.

Monaco, 20 February 2023