

**In the matter of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program;**

**And in the matter of an anti-doping rule violation by Laurie Francis asserted by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport;**

File Outcome Summary

**Summary**

1. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) conducted an In-Competition Sample collection on September 16, 2022, at the 2022 North American Series 2 event (the “Event”) in Tsuut’ina Nation, Alberta. This Testing was conducted on behalf of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), who was the Testing Authority for the Event.
2. Ms. Laurie Francis (“the Athlete”) was selected for Doping Control. The Sample provided by the Athlete returned an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) for Higenamine, a Specified Substance.
3. Following receipt of the CCES’s Notice of Charge asserting an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) for the Presence and Use of the Specified Substance, Higenamine, the Athlete waived her right to a hearing, admitted the violation and accepted the proposed period of Ineligibility and all other applicable Consequences by signing an Agreement on Consequences.

**Jurisdiction**

4. The CCES is an independent not-for-profit organization incorporated under the federal laws of Canada that promotes ethical conduct in all aspects of sport in Canada. The CCES also maintains and implements the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP), including providing anti-doping services to national sport organizations and their members.
5. As Canada’s national anti-doping organization, the CCES is in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) and its mandatory International Standards. The CCES has implemented the Code and the International Standards through the CADP, the domestic rules which govern this proceeding. The purpose of the Code and of the CADP is to protect the rights of athletes to fair competition.
6. The Athlete is a member of and participates in the activities of Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie (WCH). According to CADP Rule 1.3, the CADP Rules apply to all members of, and participants in activities of sport organizations adopting it. The CADP was issued for adoption by Canadian sport organizations on October 26, 2020, to be operational on January 1, 2021. WCH adopted the CADP on November 27, 2020. Therefore, as a participant in WCH activities prior to the date that her Sample was collected on September 16, 2022, the Athlete is subject to the CADP.

**Doping Control**

7. On September 16, 2022, the CCES, conducted an In-Competition Sample collection session at the Event in Tsuut’ina Nation, AB. Testing at this Event was conducted on behalf of USADA, who was the Testing authority for the Event.

8. The Athlete was notified that she had been selected for Doping Control and, together with the doping control officer (DCO) from the CCES, completed the Sample collection process. The Athlete's Sample code was 4624819.
9. Following the completion of the Sample collection session on September 16, 2022, the Athlete's urine Sample, bearing Sample code 4624819, was sent by courier to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Laval, Quebec, the INRS Centre Armand-Frappier Santé Biotechnologie (the INRS). Following the preliminary detection of Higenamine by the INRS, the Athlete's urine Sample was sent to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory (SMRTL) for confirmatory analysis on December 7, 2022.

### **Results Management**

10. On December 13, 2022, following the confirmation analysis conducted by SMRTL, the INRS reported the AAF. The Certificate of Analysis indicated the presence of Higenamine.
11. Higenamine is classified as a Specified Substance (S3 - Beta-2-agonists) on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2022 Prohibited List.
12. As the Athlete in question is Canadian, USADA referred the file to the CCES to conduct Results Management in accordance with the CADP.
13. On January 10, 2023, the CCES commenced the Results Management process, and initiated an initial review into the Athlete's AAF.
14. On January 12, 2023, the Athlete submitted an explanation through which she indicated she had used a supplement that contained Higenamine that she had purchased on the advice of a friend through a supplement retailer.
15. The CCES issued a notification of a potential ADRV on February 7, 2023.
16. On February 12, 2023, in response to the CCES' Notification letter, the Athlete accepted a voluntary Provisional Suspension.
17. On February 15, 2023, the Athlete further communicated to the CCES and indicated that she had ingested a supplement based on the advice from the supplement retailer and that she now understands contained Higenamine.
18. On March 14, 2023, the CCES formally issued a Notice of Charge, asserting an ADRV against the Athlete for the Presence and Use of Higenamine.
19. Having assessed all information provided by the Athlete, the CCES proposed a twelve (12) month period of Ineligibility in accordance with CADP Rules 8.4.1, 10.2.2, and 10.6.2.

### **Confirmation of Violation and Sanction**

20. On May 1, 2023, and in accordance with CADP Rule 8.4.1, the Athlete signed an Agreement on Consequences and waived her right to a hearing, thereby admitting the ADRV and accepting both the asserted violation and the proposed period of Ineligibility plus all other applicable Consequences.
21. Therefore, the sanction for this violation is a twelve (12) month period of Ineligibility which commenced on February 12, 2023, (the date the Athlete accepted a Provisional Suspension) and concludes on February 11, 2024. Further, in accordance with CADP Rules 10.1 and 10.10, any competitive results obtained by the Athlete during and subsequent to the Event at which her Sample was collected, must be Disqualified.
22. The CCES now considers this case closed.

Dated at Ottawa, Ontario this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2023.



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Kevin Bean  
Executive Director, Sport Integrity  
CCES