

## **FISA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **IN THE MATTER OF:**

#### **The Russian Rowing Federation**

#### **Preliminary Matters**

On 26 January 2008, the FISA Executive Committee convened a Hearing to consider the status of the Russian Rowing Federation after seven of their rowers had been convicted of having committed anti-doping rule violations during a twelve month period. The Executive Committee is empowered to consider sanctions against a member federation under Article 12 of the FISA Anti-Doping Bye-Laws.

#### **Hearing**

The Executive Committee convened in Lausanne, Switzerland on 26 January 2008 in the presence of Mrs Ludmila SARAeva, Secretary of the Russian Rowing Federation and Mr. Victor BEREZOV, Lawyer from the Russian National Olympic Committee.

The President advised them that:

1. seven Anti-Doping Code violations had taken place during a twelve month period, and can be summarised in the following sequence of events:
  - 23 July 2006 – the date on which Olga Samulenkova was tested and she was subsequently found to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule violation;
  - 15 July 2007 – the date a bag of infusion equipment was found in Lucerne
  - 27 August 2007 – the date of the start of the ban on two male rowers and disqualification of Russian Lightweight Men's double;
  - 28 August 2007 – the date of the start of the ban on one female rower and disqualification of the Russian Women's eight;
  - 27 January 2008 – the date of the hearing which led to the ban of three additional male rowers with a disqualification period starting retroactively on 27 August 2008 and disqualification of the Russian Men's eight.
2. the hearing was to assess the application of sanctions against the Russian Rowing Federation in accordance with Article 12 of the FISA Anti-Doping Bye-Laws.
3. the Executive Committee considered that the following articles applied in this situation:

*12.2 National Federations shall be obligated to reimburse FISA for all costs (including but not limited to laboratory fees, hearing expenses and travel) related to a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules committed by an Athlete or other Person affiliated with that National Federation.*

*12.3.1 Four or more violations of these Anti-Doping Rules (other than violations involving Articles 2.4 and 10.3) are committed by Athletes or other Persons affiliated with a National Federation within a 12-month period in testing conducted by FISA or Anti-Doping Organizations other than the National Federation or its National Anti-Doping Organization. In such event the FISA may in its discretion elect to :*

*(a) ban all officials from that National Federation for participation in any FISA activities for a period of up to two years and/or  
(b) fine the National Federation in an amount up to CHF 100 000.  
(For purposes of this Rule, any fine paid pursuant to Rule 12.3.2 shall be credited against any fine assessed.)*

4. the Executive Committee would apply the provisions of Article 62 of the FISA Statutes and offered the Russian Rowing Federation the opportunity to produce any evidence and to make any submissions.

### **Russian Rowing Federation's Evidence and Submissions**

No new evidence was produced.

Mrs. Saraeva made submissions that included:

- a. The Federation agreed that reimbursement under Article 12.2 was a reasonable sanction;
- b. That the Federation had taken action since the offenses – the Team Doctor had been dismissed and the Head Coach had been demoted (but not dismissed). No other coaches or other personnel had been punished.

### **Motivation**

The Executive Committee considered these submissions and focused the following factors:

- the gravity of the offenses;
- the lack of cooperation by the federation;
- their refusal to accept responsibility, and;
- their provision of contradictory, inconsistent and deceptive explanations.

## **Decision**

Based on the above considerations, the Executive Committee decided:

1. to apply the sanction defined in paragraph 12.2 of Article 12 of the Anti-doping Rules, namely, to obligate the Russian Rowing Federation to reimburse FISA for all costs (including but not limited to laboratory fees, hearing expenses and travel) related to these seven violations of these Anti-Doping Rules committed by Russian athletes. This amount is approximately CHF 50'000.00 (currently being calculated);
2. to apply the sanction defined in paragraph 12.3.1 a of Article 12 of the FISA Anti-Doping Rules, namely, ban all officials of the Russian Rowing Federation from participation in any FISA activities including, but not limited to, the current office bearers and Board of Directors of the Russian Rowing Federation and all coaches, team support staff and medical staff for a period of one year commencing on 27 January 2008.
3. to apply the sanction defined in paragraph 12.3.1. b of Article 12 of the Anti-doping Rules, namely, to fine the Russian Rowing Federation in an amount of CHF 75'000.00. This fine will be directed to augment FISA's 2008 Anti-Doping Programme.

on 27 January 2008 in Lausanne, Switzerland

On behalf of the FISA Executive Committee



Denis Oswald  
President



Matt Smith  
Executive Director