

**JUDICIAL AWARD DELIVERED  
BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FISA**

**sitting in the following composition**

**President**

**Denis Oswald**

**Members**

**Michael Williams  
Borge Kaas-Andersen  
Mike Sweeney  
Tricia Smith**

**in the case regarding Miss Natalia Lavrenenko and Miss Natalia Stasiok,  
members of the Belarus Rowing Federation**

**I. The Facts**

1. Miss Natalia Lavrenenko and Miss Natalia Stasiok are members of the Belarus National Rowing Team.
2. They participated in a training camp in Brest, Belarus as announced to FISA by the National Federation.
3. On 8 April 2000, Miss Lavrenenko and Miss Stasiok were selected for an unannounced out-of-competition doping test. This test was conducted by IDTM, the anti-doping testing agency appointed by FISA.
4. Miss Lavrenenko and Miss Stasiok completed the tests, completed the Doping Control Forms and signed them. They declared various medications which were known to the Doctors, members of the commission, as not containing any banned substances.
5. The "A" samples were analysed by the IOC accredited laboratory in Barcelona, which found that the sample 350901 (Miss Lavrenenko) contained metabolites of the banned substance EPIMETHENDIOL (methandienone metabolite) and the sample 350932 (Miss Stasiok) showed the presence of  $17\alpha$ -methyl- $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ - $17\beta$ -diol (methyltestosterone metabolite), also a banned substance.

6. On 3 July 2000, Mr. Matt Smith, Executive Director of FISA, informed the Belarus Rowing Federation about the result of the analyses of the A samples and offered them the possibility to have control analyses of the B sample. The next day, the Belarus Rowing Federation asked for the B samples to be analysed.
7. FISA informed the IOC accredited laboratory of Barcelona that they should carry out the analysis of the B sample. FISA invited the athletes and/or their representatives to witness the analysis. This invitation was declined.
8. These analyses took place on 10 July 2000. The B samples confirmed the presence of Epimethendiol and  $17\alpha$ -methyl- $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ - $17\beta$ -diol in the two samples.
9. In accordance with Bye-Law 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 to Rules 80 to 83, Miss Lavrenenko, Miss Stasiok and the Belarus Rowing Federation were invited to attend a hearing of the Commission of Enquiry of FISA, which was to take place in Lucerne on 14 July 2000.
10. The Commission of Enquiry of FISA was composed of Mr. Matt Smith, Executive Director, Dr. Axel Urhausen and Dr. Bill Webb, both medical doctors and members of the FISA Sport Medicine Commission.
11. The hearing of the Commission of Enquiry took place on 14 July 2000 in Lucerne as planned. Dr. Rafael Davidov and Igor Chtehourko of the Belarus Rowing Federation had been given written authority to represent Miss Lavrenenko and Miss Stasiok.
12. The Belarus delegation produced statements from each of the two rowers regarding that case in which they deny having used any banned substances.

13. The Belarus delegation had no objections and no questions regarding the procedure followed and they recognised that the analysis of the samples made by an IOC accredited laboratories had reached the same conclusions. They, therefore, agreed with the results and stated that they respected the professionalism of the laboratories.
14. The Belarus delegation made the following statement :
  1. The Athletes, Miss Lavrenenko and Miss Stasiok, mentioned in their statements that they did take other medicines than those declared on their doping control forms.
  2. The Doctor, Dr. Davidov, denied prescribing any medicine which might have contained a banned substance.
  3. At the training camp in Seville in February and March, both Miss Lavrenenko and Miss Stasiok had back and shoulder pain and, with approval of Dr. Davidov, sought assistance from the Russian masseur who started injections of Ortophen (a form of Diklofanak) and Diprospan (a cortisosteroid) for pain relief to both. These medicines do not contain banned substances, according to Dr. Davidov.
  4. After returning to Brest they continued using injections of Diklofanak for back and shoulder pain, under the direction of Dr. Davidov.

## **Conclusions of the Commission of Enquiry**

- 1. Analyses** – Metabolite of the banned substance Epimethendiol (metabolite of metandienone) was found in the “a” sample of the urine of Miss Lavrenenko by the IOC accredited laboratory in Barcelona and confirmed in the “b” sample. Metabolite of the banned substance 17 $\alpha$ -methyl-5 $\beta$ -androstane-3 $\alpha$ -17 $\beta$ -diol (metabolite of methyltestosterone) was found in the “a” sample of the urine of Miss Stasiok by the IOC accredited laboratory in Barcelona and confirmed in the “b” sample. No one contested the validity of the analyses.
- 2. Procedure** - The Commission concluded that the procedure was correctly followed for the testing and the subsequent transporting and analyses as well as the communications about the case. No one contested the validity of the procedure.
- 3. Other Details** - There was no evidence presented which could possibly exonerate the athletes. They claimed to have received these pain relief injections but the banned substances present in the urine are different and could not have come from the pain injections.

**Therefore**, the Commission of Enquiry, according to Bye-Law 8.2 to Rules 80 to 83 on page 128 of the FISA Anti-Doping Rules, concluded that there was no element which would prevent the application of the penalty prescribed for such an offence in the rules.

## **II. Competence of the Executive Committee of FISA and Proceedings**

1. According to Bye-Law 9.1 to Rules 80 to 83, the Commission of Enquiry has forwarded a detailed and objective report to the Chairman of the Anti-Doping Committee, who has informed the Executive Committee of FISA.
2. The Executive Committee of FISA is competent to decide any penalty to impose in such a case according to Bye-Law 9.2 to Rules 80 to 83 and Art. 45 g of the FISA Statutes.
3. The Executive Committee of FISA organised a hearing on 15 July 2000 at 9.00. a.m. at Hotel Richemont in Lucerne and invited the rowers and the Belarus Rowing Federation to attend.
4. FISA's Vice-President Anita DeFrantz could not attend the hearing and FISA's Executive Director Matt Smith having been part of the Commission of Enquiry

did not participate in the hearing. With these two exceptions, the Executive Committee of FISA was complete.

5. The following people attended the hearing on the Belarus side : Mr. Valeri Gaiduk, Secretary General of the Belarus Rowing Federation, and Mr. Igor Chtchourko, Translator.

6. The Belarus delegation recognised that the report of the Commission of Enquiry described accurately the hearing which took place in Lucerne on 14 July 2000. They confirmed their position expressed on that occasion. They again appeared as the authorised representatives of the athletes and recognise that their right to be heard had been therefore fully respected.

7. The Belarus delegation then left the room and FISA's Executive Committee immediately started its deliberation.

### **III. The Executive Committee's Assessments**

1. Epimethendiol and  $17\alpha$ -methyl- $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ - $17\beta$ -diol are anabolic agents listed as prohibited substances by the IOC list of prohibited classes of substances valid from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000. According to Rule 80 of the FISA Rules of Racing in rowing, "doping consists of the presence, above the permitted concentration, in an athlete's body, whether intentional or negligent or even innocently or inadvertently, of one or more prohibited therapeutic substances appearing on the International Olympic Committee's list of prohibited substances valid at the time at which the sample was taken."
2. As Epimethendiol and  $17\alpha$ -methyl- $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ - $17\beta$ -diol were found in the athletes' urine, the case has to be considered as positive.
3. The procedure which led to the positive results was correct in every respect, which is also recognised by the athletes concerned and their Federation.
4. According to Rule 80 of the FISA Rules of Racing, "the presence of such a substance in the urine or in the blood of a rower or of a coxswain shall constitute a rebuttable presumption of voluntary use". The athletes have not given any explanation about how the substance may have come into their body fluids and, therefore, have not even tried to rebut the presumption of guilt. The Executive Committee has, therefore, no basis upon which to exonerate the athletes.

5. According to Bye-Law 9.3.1 to Rules 80 to 83, the use of an anabolic agent or its metabolites such as Epimethendiol or  $17\alpha$ -methyl- $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ - $17\beta$ -diol shall be punished by a life ban already for the first offence.

This clause does not give the Executive Committee any flexibility or discretion, and therefore, it has to impose this penalty on the rowers Natalia Lavrenenko and Natalia Stasiok from Belarus.

6. The decision shall take effect immediately.

#### **IV. Decision**

On these grounds, the Executive Committee of FISA hereby rules :

1. The rowers Natalia Lavrenenko and Natalia Stasiok, members of the Belarus Rowing Federation, are banned for life effective immediately from any competition organised under FISA's or any FISA affiliated Federation authority.
2. This Award is rendered without cost.

Lucerne, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2000

For FISA Executive Committee :

Denis Oswald, President

Michael Williams, Treasurer

The only appeal from this decision may be made by written notice to the President of FISA within 10 days from the written notification of the penalty by fax to the Federation concerned for consideration by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.