

DECISION

rendered by the

**INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION
INDEPENDENT MONITORING GROUP**

sitting in the following composition

Philippe Vladimir Boss (Chair), from Switzerland (Chair) ; Davide Delfini, from Italy (Member) ; Francisco Lima, from Spain (Member) ; Sarah Shibutse, from Kenya (Member)

In the dispute involving

International Weightlifting Federation, avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

Represented by the International Testing Agency, avenue de Rhodanie 40B, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

and

Egyptian Weightlifting Federation, National Federations Complex, Nasr City, Cairo p.o. box, 422/11794, Egypt

I. Parties

1. The International Weightlifting Federation (“**IWF**”) is the international governing body for the sport of weightlifting. The IWF has delegated the implementation and management of its anti-doping programme to the International Testing Agency (“**ITA**”). Hence, ITA acts in representation of the IWF in these proceedings.
2. The Egyptian Weightlifting Federation (“**EWF**”) is a member federation of the IWF.

II. Factual background

3. On 2 December 2022, the Independent Member Federations Sanctioning Panel (“**IMFSP**”) issued a decision (“**IMFSP Decision**”) with the following ruling:
 1. The Egyptian Weightlifting Federation has committed a breach of Article 12.5 of the IWF Anti-Doping Policy (“**ADP**”).
 2. The Egyptian Weightlifting Federation shall pay a fine in the amount of USD 150,000, payable as follows:
 - a. USD 75,000 is to be paid within 6 months from receipt of the present decision.
 - b. The remaining USD 75,000:
 - i. shall be provisionally lifted on the condition that the Egyptian Weightlifting Federation organises one anti-doping education seminar (with a particular emphasis on the risks of supplement use) under IWF’s supervision on a national level every six months over the next two years.
 - ii. shall become immediately payable in the event of a decision from the Independent Monitoring Group ruling that the Egyptian Weightlifting Federation has not complied with the above condition.
4. The IMFSP Decision is final.

III. Proceedings before the Independent Monitoring Group

5. On 13 January 2025, the IWF Secretariat referred the case to the Independent Monitoring Group (“**IMG**”).
6. On 20 January and 24 February 2025, the IMG issued procedural directions. The EWF filed a submission with exhibits on 10 February 2025 and the ITA filed a submission on behalf of IWF on 21 February 2025.

IV. Summary of the Parties’ Submission and Evidence

7. EWF submitted that it had organized four anti-doping seminars under the supervision of the Egyptian National Anti-Doping Agency (“**EGY-NADO**”), including a letter from that entity confirming their oversight and involvement. EWF submitted that it has complied with the IMFSP Decision, and that the remaining suspended sanction shall be lifted.
8. IWF submitted that it was regularly informed of the organization of the seminars by EWF and left it to the discretion of the IMG whether the education provided by EWF complies with the IMFSP decision. IWF also confirmed that the USD 75’000 were paid by EWF to IWF.

V. Preliminary Matters

9. The IMG has jurisdiction to decide this case in accordance with Article 12.6.2 of the 2024 IWF Anti-Doping Rules ("**2024 IWF ADR**"). The applicable provisions are the IMFSP Decision, the IWF Constitution and Swiss law on a subsidiary basis. On similar grounds as those held on §31 of the IMFSP Decision, the 2019 IWF Anti-Doping Policy ("**2019 IWF ADP**") shall apply as far as the substantive provisions are concerned and that the 2024 IWF ADR shall apply as far as the procedure is concerned. The Parties did not object to the jurisdiction or on the applicable provisions.
10. The scope of the IMG's review is limited to the compliance of EWF with the terms of the IMFSP Decision, specifically where that sanction sets out conditions for suspending, lifting or eliminating an imposed sanction based on the fulfilment by EWF of such conditions.
11. According to the IMFSP Decision, the burden of proof lies with EWF.

VI. Merits

12. According to the IMFSP Decision, EWF shall "*organise one antidoping education seminar (with a particular emphasis on the risks of supplement use) under IWF's supervision on a national level every six months over the next two years*". The decision is dated 2 December 2022.
13. The dates of the seminars were as follows:
 - 7th February 2023
 - 19th June 2023
 - 9th January 2024
 - 12th November 2024
14. The seminars were staged within the timeline, and they all had a specific section on the risks of supplement use. All the seminars were held under the supervision of the EGY-NADO, who provided several experts in the field of anti-doping to present the topics. This was also confirmed in a 10 February 2025 letter sent by EGY-NADO provided by EWF to the IMG. Based on the documentation and photos of the seminars provided by EWF, the IMG is satisfied that 4 seminars were held in accordance with the IMFSP Decision.
15. The payment of the 75,000 USD was performed on 1st June 2023 and should have been received by IWF on 2nd June 2023.
16. Consequently, the IMG is satisfied that EWF complied with the IMFSP Decision and that the sanction shall be lifted.
17. The IMG observes that the IMFSP Decision specifically directed that the seminars shall be organized "under the IWF's supervision". The scope and depth of supervision was not specified. A similar duty to supervise is enshrined under art. 19.2.1 2019 IWF ADP in the case of an IWF Member Federation hosting an IWF World Championship. In the present matter, IWF was regularly informed of the Anti-Doping education seminars conducted by the EWF which also asked IWF for its "comments or recommendations" in relation to the seminars, which prompted no reaction from IWF. The IMG has been provided with no element (and IWF does not allege) that IWF monitored such seminars. This appears to be a failure by IWF of the supervision duty imposed by the IMFSP Decision. This shall have no negative impact on EWF, which has entirely discharged its duties. However, the IMG recommends that, in the future, the IWF takes all necessary measures to adequately supervise such education or, where the 2024 IWF ADR applies, clarifies that it considers the course performed by the National Anti-Doping Organisation as equivalent (see art. 17.2.1).

VII. Decision

The Independent Monitoring Group rules that:

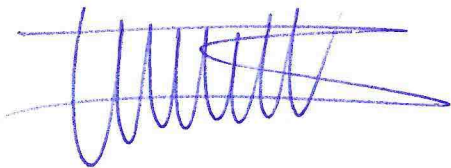
1. EWF has fully complied with and is in compliance with the conditions set out by the 2 December 2022 decision of the IWF's Independent Member Federations Sanctioning Panel

Lausanne, Switzerland

Date: 17 March 2025

The Independent Monitoring Group

Philippe Vladimir Boss (Chair)



Sarah Shibutse (Member)



Davide Delfini (Member)



Francisco Lima (Member)

