

**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)

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

**Iraqi Weightlifting Federation**, Baghdad c/o NOC Palestine Street, POB 441, Iraq

## **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 Iraqi Weightlifting Federation ("**IRWF**") 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 Iraqi Weightlifting Federation has committed a breach of Article 12.5 of the IWF Anti-Doping Policy ("**ADP**").
  2. The Iraqi Weightlifting Federation shall pay a fine in the amount of USD 50'000.-- payable as follows:
    - a. USD 25'000.-- is to be paid within 6 months from receipt of the present decision.
    - b. The remaining USD 25'000.--:
      - i. shall be provisionally lifted on the condition that the Iraqi 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 Iraqi Weightlifting Federation has not complied with the above condition.
4. The IMG is unaware of a reasoning part of the IMFSP decision.
5. The IMFSP Decision is final.

## **III. Proceedings before the Independent Monitoring Group**

6. On 13 January 2025, the IWF Secretariat referred the case to the Independent Monitoring Group ("**IMG**") ("**Notice of Referral**"). The Notice of Referral included a set of documents including 1 video and 21 pictures of seminars, 2 documents related to the payment of the first instalment of the fine (USD 25'000.--) and 4 emails related to the organisation of the seminars. Due to an informatic error, the Notice of Referral only came to the IMG's knowledge on 4 September 2025.
7. On 17 September 2025, the IMG shared the Notice of Referral and its attachments with the Parties and issued procedural directions ("**IMG Directions**"). The Parties were invited to specifically comment on the interpretation and the compliance with the conditions. The IRWF was required to provide the following information:
  - (a) Timeline of the Seminars held and for each of those Seminars the following information and related documents, where applicable, should also be provided:
  - (b) Agenda of the Seminars,
  - (c) Documents presented at the Seminar, i.e. flyers, documents, power point presentation used for the gathering, including specific information about how the emphasis on the risk of use of supplements was tackled,
  - (d) List of Speakers,

(e) List of Attendees (Athletes, Coaches etc.),

(g) Information about the attendees of IWF or ITA or Iraqi NADO at the seminar (invitation, list of attendees from these organization) and

(f) reasons for which seminars have not been held within a two-year period after the IMFSP Decision and every six months.

IWF and ITA were specifically required to provide their statement about whether or not the Seminars held were supervised by IWF.

8. It was specified to the Parties that documents already attached to the Notice of Referral did not have to be produced again.
9. IWRF was set a deadline expiring on 9 October 2025 to provide its Statement.
10. On 17 September 2025, IWRF acknowledged good receipt of the IMG Directions. The IWRF stated to the IMG the following: " We have previously sent the files and photos related to the educational seminars held within Iraq to raise awareness among athletes, coaches, and officials about anti-doping, in addition to our participation in online seminars. We have also sent the seminar photos and details to the International Federation and the concerned authorities. Therefore, we were surprised to receive your email regarding this matter, especially as it was sent late. We kindly ask you to review the emails previously sent concerning the seminar files and attached photos. Please inform us if there are any missing documents so that we can promptly take the necessary actions and resend the required materials. »
11. On 19 September 2025, the IMG replied to the IWRF as follows: "As stated under § 17 of the [IMG Directions] that you received, all documents that were already provided do not have to be provided again. As detailed under § 16, the IWRF is invited to provide the IMG with specific allegations about the facts of the matter. » That same day, IWRF replied as follows to IMG: "Your email has received, thanks for your attention. If you have any questions please contact us . »
12. On 23 October 2025, the IMG sent the following email to the IWRF: "I note that the IWRF has not filed a Statement of appeal within the deadline set under § 14 of [the IMG Directions] (attached). A final deadline, expiring on Monday 27 October at noon CET, is set for WRF (sic! IWRF) to eventually provide the IMG with a Statement on this matter. No extension will be granted. In absence of such Statement, the IMG will render a decision. »
13. On 23 October 2025, the IWRF replied as follows: "We have fulfilled our duties on time and submitted all the documents related to the seminars on anti-doping and other procedures. Therefore, we, as the Iraqi Weightlifting Federation, have no comments regarding this matter, as it remains between you, the International Weightlifting Federation, and the concerned individuals. »
14. No further submissions were received by the IMG or IWF/ITA.

#### **IV. Summary of the Parties' Submission and Evidence**

15. As stated above, the IWRF did not provide for a detailed submission. The IWRF however supports that it has fulfilled its duties and that all documents related to the seminars have been provided.
16. In its 13 January 2025 Notice of Referral, the IWF made no specific prayer. It however confirmed that the first instalment of the fine (USD 25'000.--) had been paid.

#### **V. Preliminary Matters**

17. The IMG has jurisdiction to decide this case in accordance with Article 12.6.2 of the 2025 IWF Anti-Doping Rules ("2025 IWF ADR"). The applicable provisions are the IMFSP Decision, the IWF Constitution

and Swiss law on a subsidiary basis. The Parties did not object to the jurisdiction or on the applicable provisions as stated in the IMG Directions.

18. The scope of the IMG's review is limited to the compliance of IWRF 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 IWRF of such conditions.
19. According to the IMFSP Decision, the burden of proof lies with IWRF.

#### VI. Merits

20. The IWF confirmed the payment of the first installment of the fine. This condition is met.
21. According to the IMFSP Decision, IWRF 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.
22. The dates of the seminars were as follows:
  - 2 May 2023
  - 13 November 2023
  - 17 April 2024
  - 29 December 2024
23. The seminars were staged within the timeline, i.e. once each semester following the IMFSP Decision. This condition is met.
24. The seminars should focus on the risk of supplement use. In order to assess if this condition is met, the IMG asked the IWRF to provide for the following information: (b) Agenda of the Seminars, (c) Documents presented at the Seminar, i.e. flyers, documents, power point presentation used for the gathering, including specific information about how the emphasis on the risk of use of supplements was tackled, (d) List of Speakers, (e) List of Attendees (Athletes, Coaches etc.), (g) Information about the attendees of IWF or ITA or Iraqi NADO at the seminar (invitation, list of attendees from these organization).

None of this information has been provided, despite the IMG reiterating its invitation to provide the documents twice on 19 September and 23 October 2025. The IWRF also confirmed on 17 September and 23 October 2025 that it had sent all relevant documents to the IWF, after the IMG had shared the documents that it had received.

Based on the above, the IMG is satisfied that all documents relevant to the case and shared by IWRF prior to these proceedings are 1 video and 21 pictures of a seminar, 2 documents related to the payment of the first instalment of the fine and 4 emails related to the organisation of the seminars. None of these documents include an Agenda of the Seminars, Documents presented at the Seminar, (i.e. flyers, documents, power point presentation used for the gathering, including specific information about how the emphasis on the risk of use of supplements was tackled), List of Speakers, List of Attendees (Athletes, Coaches etc.), and Information about the attendees of IWF or ITA or Iraqi NADO at the seminar (invitation, list of attendees from these organization). Despite the banners used during the seminars appearing on the pictures that provide some information, it is too scarce and far too limited to enable the IMG to assess the quality of the education seminars and its emphasis on the risk related to the use of supplement. The IMG finds that it has given the IWRF sufficient opportunity to provide the requested information.

Furthermore, the IWRF informed the IWF about the seminars after they were held (information on the 2 May 2023 seminar provided on 8 May; information on the 13 November 2023 seminar provided on 13 November; information on the 17 April 2024 seminar provided on 17 April 2024; information on the 29



December 2024 seminar provided on 29 December 2024). The IWF was therefore unable to perform any supervision on the seminars, even eventually upon delegation to the Iraqi National Anti-Doping Organization under art. 17.2.1 IWF-ADR. The IMG nonetheless observes that the IWF did not request more information about the seminars, nor stated its intention to supervise them. However, this does not alter the IMG's finding that IWRF did not allow for its seminars to be supervised.

Hence, this condition is not met.

25. Consequently, the IMG is not satisfied that IWRF complied with the IMFSP Decision. The outstanding part of the fine may not be lifted. In accordance with the IMFSP Decision, USD 25'000.-- shall become immediately payable.

## VII. Decision

The Independent Monitoring Group rules that:

1. The IRWF has not complied with the conditions set out under para. 2 (b) of the 2 December 2022 decision of the IWF's IMFSP.
2. The IRWF shall immediately pay the International Weightlifting Federation a fine in the amount of USD 25'000.— (twenty-five thousand American dollars).

Lausanne, Switzerland

Date: 5 December 2025

The Independent Monitoring Group

Philippe Vladimir Boss (Chair)

Davide Delfini (Member)

Francisco Lima (Member)

## Appeal

According to art. 12.6.3 of the International Weightlifting Federation Anti-Doping Rules, this decision of the Independent Monitoring Group may be appealed exclusively to CAS within twenty-one days from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing part.