

**IWF INDEPENDENT MEMBER FEDERATIONS SANCTIONING
PANEL**

in the matter

Weightlifting Federation of the Republic of Uzbekistan (“WFRU”)

Final Decision

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present Decision is issued by the International Weightlifting Federation's (the "IWF") Independent Member Federation Sanctioning Panel (the "IWF Panel" or the "Panel") in order to decide whether the Weightlifting Federation of the Republic of Uzbekistan (the "WFRU") has committed a breach of Article 12.3.2 of the 2024 IWF Anti-Doping Rules (the "IWF ADR"), *i.e. Multiple Anti-Doping Rule Violations by Athletes or Other Persons affiliated to a Member Federation* – and if so, the consequences of such breach.

II. PARTIES

A. THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

2. The IWF is the international governing body for the Olympic sport of weightlifting. It has its registered seat in Lausanne, Switzerland.

B. THE WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

3. The WFRU is the national governing body for the Olympic sport of weightlifting in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The WFRU is a Member Federation of the IWF. It has its seat in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan.
4. The IWF and the WFRU are hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties".

III. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

5. Below is a summary of the relevant facts and allegations based on the Parties' written submissions and evidence adduced during these proceedings. Additional facts and allegations found in the Parties' written submissions and evidence may be set out, where relevant, in connection with the legal discussion that follows. While the Panel has considered all the facts, allegations, legal arguments and evidence submitted by the Parties in the present proceedings, it refers in its Decision only to the submissions and evidence it considers necessary to explain its reasoning.

A. THE ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS OF THE WFRU'S ATHLETES IN 2024

6. Between 5 January 2024 and 23 May 2024, three athletes affiliated with the WFRU committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations ("ADRVs") under Article 2.1 and/or 2.2 of the IWF ADR related to the presence and/or use of a prohibited substance. The athletes provided both Out-of-Competition and In-Competition samples conducted by the

International Testing Agency (“ITA”) under the authority of the IWF. The samples were subsequently analysed by WADA-accredited laboratories (in Cologne - Germany, in Bangkok - Thailand and in Havana - Cuba), which reported Adverse Analytical Findings (“AAFs”) for all analysed samples.

7. In summary, the ADRVs were as follows:

- **Mr Rustam Djangabaev’s** Out-of-Competition sample from 22 February 2024 revealed the presence of Ostarine, an anabolic agent, which is classified as a *non-Specified Substance* prohibited at all times under S1.2. of WADA’s Prohibited List 2024.

On 11 March 2024, the ITA, on behalf of the IWF, notified Mr Djangabaev of a potential ADRV and the mandatory provisional suspension imposed upon him, and requested him to provide an explanation for the AAF. On 18 March 2024, Mr Djangabaev requested analysis of the B-sample, which subsequently confirmed the presence of Ostarine in his urine. On 10 April 2024, following the athlete’s formal request for a Provisional Hearing before the CAS anti-doping division (the “CAS ADD”) to address the Provisional Suspension imposed upon him, the ITA, on behalf of the IWF, filed an application before the CAS ADD to rule on that matter. On 11 April 2024, the CAS ADD issued the provisional part of Order 2024/ADD/89 which confirmed the provisional suspension imposed by the IWF against Mr Djangabaev. On 24 April 2024, the CAS ADD issued its reasoned Order.

On 17 June 2024, the ITA charged Mr Djangabaev with an ADRV pursuant to Section 2.1 and/or 2.2 of the IWF ADR. On 4 July 2024, Mr Djangabaev provided additional explanations for the presence of Ostarine found in his sample, alleging that the AAF was caused by intimate contact with his wife, attaching several exhibits. On 12 November, the ITA requested Mr Djangabaev to provide further information and supporting documents for his explanations, which he failed to respond to. On 3 March 2025, Mr Djangabaev was deemed to have accepted the consequences of the ADRV and waived his right to a hearing. Consequently, he was charged with a period of ineligibility of eight (8) years, to conclude on 10 March 2032.

- **Mr Doston Yokubov** provided: (i) an Out-Of-Competition sample on 5 January 2024, and (ii) an In-Competition Test during the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand, on 4 April 2024, which both revealed the presence of human growth hormone (“hGH”), a *non-Specified Substance* prohibited at all times under S2.2. of WADA’s Prohibited List 2024.

The ITA charged Mr Yokubov with an ADRV pursuant to Section 2.1 and/or 2.2 of the IWF ADR, noting aggravating circumstances for the use of prohibited

substances on multiple occasions. On 16 November 2024, Mr Yokubov accepted the consequences of the ADRV and was sanctioned with a five (5) year period of ineligibility, to conclude on 26 June 2029.

- **Ms Lyudmila Elefteriadi's** In-Competition sample from 23 May 2024, collected during the IWF World Youth Championships in Havana, Cuba, revealed the presence of Furosemide, a diuretic classified as a *Specified Substance* prohibited at all times under S5 of WADA's Prohibited List 2024.

On 2 August 2024, Ms Elefteriadi accepted a voluntary provisional suspension. On 21 November 2024, the ITA charged Ms Elefteriadi with an ADRV pursuant to Articles 2.1 and/or 2.2 of the IWD ADR and sanctioned her with a four (4) year period of ineligibility, to conclude on 1 August 2028.

B. THE IWF'S ANTI-DOPING PROCEDURE

8. On 7 April 2025, the IWF notified the WFRU of the alleged breach under Article 12.3.2 of the 2024 IWF ADR and granted the WFRU a deadline until 14 April 2025 to file written observations with respect to such alleged breaches.
9. On 19 April 2024, the WFRU provided an official statement noting that it does not dispute that three doping offences have been committed by its affiliated athletes in 2024. Additionally, it made the following observations:
 - The three cases have nothing in common;
 - Different substances are involved;
 - The substances were taken in different contexts; and
 - There is no sign of any doping scheme.
10. With regard to the imposition of sanctions, the WFRU requested leniency and asked that only a fine be imposed, without any further consequences, and that, pursuant to article 12.6.1 IWF ADR, half of the fine be lifted on the following grounds:
 - Due to the limited availability of resources in the Uzbek language from the IWF, WADA, or ITA, a language barrier prevents athletes from receiving adequate education on the risks of using doping substances.
 - The WFRU is committed to taking all necessary steps to better educate its athletes and limit the risk of doping. It intends to organize antidoping education in collaboration with the ITA and/or IWF and requests the IWF Panel and/or the IWF and/or the ITA to further liaise with the WFRU to concretely prepare such an education program.

C. THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE IWF PANEL

11. On 29 April 2025, the IWF referred the matter of the WFRU to the Chairman of the IWF Panel for adjudication (the “Referral”), reiterating that the WFRU had breached article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR and requested the IWF Panel to confirm the breach and decide upon the applicable consequences.
12. On 19 June 2025, the Chairman of the IWF Panel acknowledged the IWF’s Referral and invited the WFRU to submit an answer to the Referral by 27 June 2025. In this same communication, the Chairman noted that he will take the necessary steps to constitute the Panel in the meantime.
13. On 01 July 2025, the Parties were informed of the composition of the IWF Panel as follows:
 - Mr Antonio Rigozzi (Chairman);
 - Mr David Lech; and
 - Ms Marjolaine Viret.
14. In the same communication, the Panel pointed out that no response was received from the WFRU within the given time limit and set a final deadline to submit an answer to the IWF’s Referral by 11 July 2025.
15. The WFRU failed to submit a response to the IWF’s Referral within the relevant deadline.
16. On 16 July 2025, the IWF Panel provided the Parties with the Acceptance and Statement of Independence forms duly signed by the members of the Panel. It further requested the Parties to inform the Panel without delay in the event they had any issue with its composition. The same communication also stated that, as the WFRU failed to submit an answer by the extended time limit, the matter would be decided on the basis of the existing case file.

IV. THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS

A. SUBSTANTIVE RULES

17. The IWF ADR provide in Article 12.2 some general principles applicable to Member Federations Sanctioning:

Member Federations shall take all measures within the scope of their powers to implement these Anti-Doping Rules and ensure that their affiliated *Athletes* and other *Persons* comply with them. As a matter of principle, the *Member Federations* are liable for the conduct of their affiliated *Athletes* or other *Persons*. However, the Independent Panel should take into account the degree

of fault or negligence of the *Member Federation* when determining the *Member Consequences* to be imposed in each case of a violation of this Article 12. [footnote omitted]

18. The Comment to Article 12.2 IWF ADR further states:

[W]hilst this Article 12 is based on the principle of “strict liability” whereby it is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or other culpable oversight of the Member Federation be demonstrated by IWF in order to establish a violation, the Member Federation may, as part of the proceedings before the Independent Panel, submit evidences to establish that the Member Federation’s degree of fault or negligence was not significant in relation to the circumstances surrounding the underlying anti-doping rule violations. In such case, the Independent Panel should consider and appreciate any such attenuated degree of fault or negligence as a mitigating factor when determining the applicable Member Consequences. For the avoidance of doubt, the Member Federation shall bear the burden of establishing any attenuating circumstance in relation to the Member Federation’s degree of fault or negligence. [...]

19. Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR provides relevantly as follows:

Should three (3) or more violations of these Anti-Doping Rules sanctioned by IWF or *Anti-Doping Organizations* other than the *Member Federation* or its *National Anti-Doping Organization* have been committed by *Athletes* or other *Persons* affiliated to the *Member Federation* within a 12-month period [footnote omitted], the Independent Panel may, after taking into account both the seriousness of the underlying anti-doping rule violations and the gravity of the circumstances surrounding the case:

- a) impose *Member Consequences* on the *Member Federation* of a period of up to (4) years [footnote omitted]; and/or
- b) fine the *Member Federation* up to \$500,000 USD to be paid within 6 months from the receipt of the Independent Panel’s decision. If the *Member Federation* fails to pay the fine within such deadline, further *Member Consequences* for an additional period of up to two years, or, if earlier, until the fine is settled in full, may be imposed by the Independent Panel on the *Member Federation* concerned. For the avoidance of doubt, the fine remains due to IWF after the further *Member Consequences* have been fully served.

20. According to the comment to Article 12.2.2 IWF ADR:

[I]f the Independent Panel considers that a violation of this Article 12.3.2 is severe (due to the number of violations, the substances involved, the level of fault of the perpetrators, the fact that the violations were committed by Athlete Support Personnel, etc.), then appropriate Member Consequences (including the exclusion of the Member Federation’s Athletes and Officials from participation in any IWF Events, or the possibility for the Athletes to participate exclusively in a neutral capacity) and/or a fine should be imposed, in order to promote behavioural change within the sanctioned Member Federation’s sphere of influence, and to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the sport and that of IWF’s Events.

B. PROCEDURAL RULES

21. Article 12.7 of the IWF ADR governs the procedure in this case and provides relevantly as follows:

- 12.7.1 If IWF is satisfied that a breach of Article 12 has occurred, it shall promptly notify the *Member Federation*.
- 12.7.2 The notice shall include details of the alleged breach and shall give the *Member Federation* a reasonable deadline to respond. IWF will then transfer the file to the Independent Panel for adjudication. The Independent Panel will render a decision on the basis of the written file, unless it considers in its entire discretion that exceptional circumstances require the holding of a hearing. [footnote omitted]
- 12.7.3 The Independent Panel may at any time and at its own discretion decide to impose provisional *Member Consequences* on the *Member Federation* pending a decision on the alleged breach, provided, however, that provisional *Member Consequences* may not be imposed unless the *Member Federation* is given an opportunity to provide written explanations either before the imposition of the provisional *Member Consequences* or on a timely basis after the imposition of the provisional *Member Consequences*.
- 12.7.4 The decisions of the Independent Panel made in application of Article 12 may be appealed exclusively to CAS within twenty-one days from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing party.
- 12.7.5 For violations of Article 12.3.3 and for the automatic fines under Article 12.5.1, the procedure set out under this Article 12.7 shall not apply and the sanction shall be notified as soon as practicable to the *Member Federation* by IWF.
- 12.7.6 Any decision rendered by the Independent Panel against a *Member Federation* shall be publicly disclosed by IWF unless exceptional circumstances warrant otherwise.

V. THE PARTIES' POSITIONS

22. The IWF Panel has taken into consideration all of the Parties' written submissions and has weighed the arguments made by the Parties in light of all the evidence presented. In the following, the Panel summarises the positions of the Parties relevant to this decision.

A. THE IWF'S POSITION

23. In its Referral, the IWF submitted that it was satisfied that the WFRU had breached Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR. More specifically, the IWF argued that the conditions of Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR were met insofar as:

- i. *“three (3) or more violations of these Anti-Doping Rules [...] committed by Athletes or other Persons affiliated to the Member Federation” - three ADRVs under Article 2.1 and/or 2.2 of the IWF ADR have been committed by athletes affiliated to the WFRU;*

- ii. *“sanctioned by IWF or Anti-Doping Organizations other than the Member Federation or its National Anti-Doping Organization” - all three ADRVs stem from Doping Control missions conducted under the Testing Authority and Results Management Authority of the IWF and all three athletes were indeed sanctioned by the ITA on behalf of the IWF;*
 - iii. *“within a 12-month period” - the three ADRVs occurred between 5 January 2024 and 23 May 2024.*
24. The IWF noted the following specific factors relevant to the Panel’s assessment:
 - One athlete was a minor at the time of her ADRV, necessitating additional care and oversight by the WFRU.
 - All three athletes received sanctions of four years or more.
 - One of the three athletes previously committed an ADRV and another was found to have used a prohibited substance on multiple occasions.
25. With respect to the consequences for the WFRU’s breach, the IWF highlighted the following potential sanctions as set out in the relevant rules, *i.e.* article 12.3.2 IWF ADR:
 - Imposing Member Consequences for a period of up to four years; and
 - A fine of up to \$500,000.
26. The IWF emphasized that the level of consequences should take into account the seriousness of the underlying ADRVs and the gravity of the circumstances, citing Article 12.2 of the IWF ADR, which holds Member Federations liable for the conduct of their affiliated athletes or other persons. As per the cited Article, the Panel should consider the degree of fault or negligence of the Member Federation when determining Member Consequences. The principle of strict liability applies, but mitigating factors, such as attenuated degrees of fault or negligence, should be considered.
27. The IWF did not propose any particular consequences to be applied as a result of WFRU’s alleged breach of the IWF ADR but emphasized that the individual ADRVs committed by the athletes were serious, and that special regard should be given to the fact that there was a multiplicity of offences involving potent non-specified substances from two athletes and that the third athlete, being a minor, received a four-year sanction. In view of the IWF, such circumstances do not “warrant a light sanction”.

B. THE WFRU’S POSITION

28. As noted above, the WFRU did not provide any detailed submissions in these proceedings. The only submission made was on 19 April 2024, responding to the IWF’s

notice of breach dated 7 April 2025. In its response, the WFRU admitted that three doping offences have been committed by its affiliated athletes within one year, *i.e.* 2024 but did not comment further on the requirements for sanctioning under Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR.

29. In its April observations, the WFRU requested that it be sanctioned with a fine only. Specifically, the WFRU requested the following:
 - No further consequences shall be imposed on the WFRU;
 - Half of the fine shall be lifted as per article 12.6.1 IWF ADR.
30. The WFRU further stated that it would seek to implement measures in collaboration with the ITA and/or IWF to implement anti-doping education for its affiliated athletes.
31. The WFRU failed to respond to the IWF's Referral dated 29 April 2025 – despite being invited to do so and having been granted an extended deadline by the Panel. Therefore, the Panel will consider the WFRU's letter of 19 April 2025 only.

VI. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

32. At the outset, the Panel notes that the WFRU does not dispute that the IWF Panel has jurisdiction over the present matter.
33. In view of the above, and pursuant to article 12.7.2 IWF ADR, the IWF Panel has jurisdiction to decide on the present dispute.
34. With respect to the applicable rules of law, the IWF has alleged that the IWF ADR apply to the case at hand. The WFRU has not disputed this position and has also argued within the framework of these provisions. Therefore, the Panel holds that the present proceedings will be adjudicated in application of the IWF ADR 2024, in accordance with the principle *lex mitior*.

VII. MERITS

35. The questions that the IWF Panel needs to rule on in the present proceedings are the following:
 - Has the WFRU breached Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR?
 - If so, what sanction(s) should be imposed on the WFRU?

A. HAS THE WFRU BREACHED ARTICLE 12.3.2 OF THE IWF ADR?

36. As a reminder, Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR provides that a Member Federation may be subject to sanctions if three or more of its affiliated athletes have committed ADRVs within a 12-month period and were consequently sanctioned by the IWF.
37. Based on the evidence on file and WFRU's admission regarding the commission of three doping offences by its athletes within the same year, *i.e.* 2024, the IWF Panel is satisfied that the conditions for imposing consequences under Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR are met.
38. Accordingly, the WFRU committed a breach of Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR. The IWF Panel thus needs to determine the relevant sanction(s) for this breach.

B. WHAT SANCTION SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON THE WFRU?

1. Sanction(s) under the IWF ADR

39. As mentioned above, the IWF Panel finds that the WFRU has committed a breach of Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR.
40. The consequences of such a breach are expressly set out in Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR, which provides that the IWF Panel may:
- a) impose Member Consequences on the Member Federation of a period of up to (4) years; and/or
 - b) fine the Member Federation up to \$500,000 USD to be paid within 6 months from the receipt of the Independent Panel's decision. [...]
41. Pursuant to Article 12.2 IWF ADR, the Panel "should take into account the degree of fault or negligence of the Member Federation" when determining consequences. In deciding on any sanction, the comment to Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR indicates that the Panel should take into account "the number of violations, the substances involved, the level of fault of the perpetrators, the fact that the violations were committed by Athlete Support Personnel, etc."
42. Moreover, Comment to Article 12.2 of the IWF ADR provides that the Member Federations "bear the burden of establishing any attenuating circumstance" and "submit evidences" to establish its position.
43. Therefore, prior to determining the appropriate sanction for WFRU's breaches, the IWF Panel will address WFRU's position regarding the circumstances that, in its opinion, should be considered.

2. Applicable Sanction(s) in the Present Case

44. In essence, the WFRU, in its letter dated 19 April 2025, submitted that due to limited resources in the Uzbek language, it could not educate its athletes. The WFRU did not elaborate further on these circumstances during the present proceedings.
45. However, the Panel agrees that sanctions under Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR are not automatic but grant a certain amount of discretion to the IWF to sanction its Member Federations.
46. Applying these criteria to the case at hand, the Panel notes the following with respect to the seriousness of the underlying ADRVs and the gravity of the circumstances surrounding the case:
 - Number of ADRVs: The number of ADRVs (three) is at the lowest end of the scale set out in the IWF ADR (which starts from “three or more”).
 - The substances involved: all substances involved in the athletes’ ADRVs are prohibited at all times (i.e. both in- and out of competition) according to WADA’s Prohibited List. Furthermore, two of the substances, namely Ostarine and hGH are *non-specified* substances, which are highly potent and known to have performance-enhancing effects.
 - The level of fault of the athletes: two of the three athletes concerned admitted the intentional use of a prohibited substance for the purpose of enhancing performance in competition.

In the explanations submitted to the ITA, one of the athletes admitted having arbitrarily taken the highly potent prohibited substance hGH on two occasions and “[...] in order to achieve high results and qualify for the Olympic Games during the preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympics.” One of the two occasions was the day before the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand, on 4 April 2024. The athlete therefore received a period of ineligibility of five (5) years, since aggravating circumstances for the use of prohibited substances on multiple occasions existed. Notably, such sanction is greater than the standard sanction.

The second athlete, being a minor at the time of the ADRV, stated that she “did not know the name of the drug and that it was a prohibited drug” but that she intentionally consumed it to reduce her weight in preparation for the 2024 World Junior Championships. In support of her explanations, the Athlete provided a statement from her mother, who stated that she was the one who recommended the drug to her daughter.

The third athlete in question denied having intentionally used a prohibited substance. However, he had previously been sanctioned by the ITA (on behalf of the IWF) with a period of ineligibility of four (4) years, (i.e. from 24 February 2019 to 23 February 2023), for the presence of hGH in a sample collected from him in 2019, as well as for sample substitution committed in 2018. The athlete claimed that the latest presence of hGH was due to intimate contact with his wife but failed to respond to ITA to provide additional supporting evidence. As a result, he received an eight (8) year period of ineligibility, which is double the standard sanction.

- The athlete's backgrounds: one of the athletes was a minor at the time of the AAF, thereby placing a greater duty of care on the WFRU. Another athlete committed multiple ADRVs through repeated and intentional use of a prohibited substance both in and out of competition and lastly, one of the athletes was a repeat offender, having previously been sanctioned with an ADRV under the IWF ADR.
47. The Panel is of the view that the three doping cases are directly attributable to deficiencies on the part of the WFRU. Since the principle of strict liability applies, a Member Federation is liable for the conduct of its affiliated athletes and “shall take all measures within the scope of their powers to implement [the IWD ADR] and ensure that their affiliated Athletes and other Persons comply with them.”
 48. While the Panel takes into account the WFRU’s argument that language barriers may complicate the education of athletes, this does not exempt a Member Federation or its athletes from complying with anti-doping rules.
 49. The Panel further notes that on each occasion, the WFRU was duly notified about the commission of an ADRV of its affiliated athlete. Despite this, there is no indication that the WFRU took any meaningful action to prevent further violations or to monitor and educate its athletes. This is particularly concerning in the case of one athlete who intentionally doped on multiple occasions to qualify for the Olympic Games.
 50. The WFRU’s attitude strongly suggests that it failed to exercise its duty of oversight and failed to implement any effective preventive or corrective measures, which would have even been possible in Uzbek language. Therefore, it can only be concluded that such inaction reflects a significant degree of negligence and demonstrates that the WFRU has failed to uphold its anti-doping responsibilities as required under the IWF ADR.
 51. Given the above considerations, the IWF Panel must balance the need for sanctions that promote behavioural change and maintain public confidence in the integrity of the sport of weightlifting with the operational realities faced by the WFRU.

52. The Panel considers both the wide discretion it enjoys under Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR as well as the fact that the IWF did not request any specific sanction be applied.
53. The Panel is mindful of the severity of the violations in the present case, including the intentional commission of multiple ADRVs by one athlete, the involvement of non-specified and performance-enhancing substances in two of the violations, and the fact that one ADRV was committed by a minor. These factors weigh heavily in the Panel's assessment. However, the Panel also notes certain mitigating factors: (i) this is the WFRU's first violation of Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR and (ii) it has not been submitted that a WFRU official was involved in the commission of doping offences related to WFRU's affiliated athletes. Moreover, while the threshold for application of this provision has been met, it is based on exactly three affiliated athletes who committed ADRVs, which is the minimum number required for a violation under Article 12.3.2.
54. As noted above, the IWF did not make any specific request on the consequences that it considers appropriate for WFRU's breach of Article 12.3.2 IWF ADR, nor on any conditions that might be applied to provisionally lift part of such consequences.
55. The WFRU, on the other hand, requested that: (i) only a fine should be imposed on it and; (ii) half of such fine should be lifted as per Article 12.6.1 IWF ADR, which provides:
- At the discretion of the Independent Panel, an appropriate portion up to a maximum of fifty percent of the Member Consequences (including any fine) imposed upon the Member Federation may be conditionally lifted provided that the Member Federation undertakes to satisfy certain criteria aimed at assisting IWF in the fight against doping in sport defined at its discretion by the Independent Panel and meets them throughout the period of application of the Member Consequences imposed, or an appropriate period should a fine only have been imposed. For the avoidance of doubt, any lifted period of Member Consequences or ban on team officials shall be applied to the end of the relevant period of Member Consequences or ban on team officials.
56. Additionally, Article 12.6.2 IWF ADR specifies that:
- IWF shall appoint an Independent Monitoring Group, composed of no less than 4 members from outside of the organization of IWF, to monitor and rule on the compliance of a sanctioned Member Federation with the terms stipulated by the Independent Panel, where any decision thereof sets out conditions for suspending, lifting or eliminating a period of Member Consequences or other sanction based on the fulfilment of specific conditions by the sanctioned Member Federation.
57. Applying all of the above to the present proceedings, the Panel finds that the imposition of a sufficiently substantial fine constitutes an effective and proportionate sanction in this case.
58. Moreover, the IWF Panel also considers it appropriate, in line with Article 12.6.1 IWF ADR, to conditionally lift 40% of the fine, provided that the WFRU organizes one anti-doping education seminar (with particular emphasis on (i) the various risks associated

with the intentional use on Non-Specified Substances and (ii) the risk of unintentional ADRVs arising from supplement use), under IWF's supervision, on a national level every six months over the next two years. Such education is crucial to avoid intentional ADRVs, and Member Federations must place particular emphasis on educating their athletes about the risks of supplement use. Therefore, the IWF Panel deems this an appropriate and proportionate sanction.

59. As per Article 12.6.2 IWF ADR, compliance with these criteria is to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring Group defined by the IWF. In view of this provision, the IWF Panel holds that the WFRU's compliance with the above-mentioned criteria is to be monitored by such Independent Monitoring Group appointed by the IWF.

* * * * *

VIII. DECISION

60. In light of the above the Panel rules as follows:

- 1. The Weightlifting Federation of the Republic of Uzbekistan committed a breach of Article 12.3.2 of the IWF ADR.**
- 2. The Weightlifting Federation of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall pay a fine in the amount of USD 125,000 (in words: one hundred twenty-five thousand US Dollars) to be paid as follows:**
 - a. USD 75,000 is to be paid within 6 months from receipt of the present decision.**
 - b. The remaining USD 50,000:**
 - i. Shall be provisionally lifted on the condition that the WFRU organises one (1) anti-doping education seminar (with a particular emphasis on the risks of Non-Specified Substances and 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 WFRU has not complied with the above condition.**
- 3. Each party bears its own costs.**

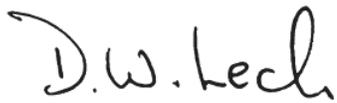
Date: 01 October 2025

The IWF Panel:



Antonio Rigozzi

Chair



David Lech



Marjolaine Viret