

ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

of the INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

25 July 2025

EDC 2022/07

DECISION

delivered by the **Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC)** of the International
Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
sitting in the following composition:

Charles Quagliata (AUS), - EDC Member

Ana Maria Nathaly Montoya Ruales (PER), – EDC Member

Valérie Horyna (SUI), - EDC Member

between

Trainers of Weightlifting Federation of Kazakhstan

Complainant

and

Ms Alina Koliushko

Respondent

I PARTIES

1. The Complainants

- 1 The Complainants are coaches and trainers of athletes in the Weightlifting Federation of Kazakhstan (WFK). In addition, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) of the International Weightlifting Federation has jurisdiction under Rule 20 of the EDC Procedural Rules to open complaints against individuals 'ex officio'.

II FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 2 The EDC received from the coaches and trainers of WFK, by notification dated 15th June, 2022 a complaint alleging that at World Youth Championships held in Mexico in 2022 the Respondent took part in this event when she was overage and therefor not eligible to compete.
- 3 It should be stated that the World Youth Championships are open to athletes who or will be not older than 17 years of age in the year in which they are held. This is clearly stated in the competition documents issued by the IWF and the host country and on the IWF web page months prior to competition entries being accepted by the host country.
- 4 So that in the year 2022 an athlete was eligible to compete if born on the year 2005 or later. There is also a minimum age which is not relevant for the purposes of the complaint.
- 5 Therefore, if the Respondent turned 18 years of age in the year 2022 she was ineligible to compete.

III SUBMISSIONS BY PARTIES

A. THE COMPLAINANT

- 6 The Complainants case is that the Respondent competed in the Youth World Championships in Mexico whilst overage and therefore not eligible to compete.
- 7 In support of the accusations the Complainant has provided the following documents:

- a. birth certificate of the Respondent showing she was born on 12/3/2004 (annexure “A” hereto) and therefor was to be 18 years of age in 2022
 - b. summary of competitions (stamped by officials) in which the Respondent has competed showing her birth date as 12/3/2004 (annexure “B” hereto)
- 8 It should be noted that the Respondent produced to the IWF officials at the World Youth Championships a passport in her name showing her birth date as 12/3/2005 (annexure “C” hereto).
- 9 The Complainants allege the documents to obtain the passport have been forged.

B. THE RESPONDENT

- 10 The Respondent was provided by the EDC with an opening order dated 30/10/2024 seeking her comments and or submissions on the complaint against her.
- 11 To date the Respondent has not replied to the opening order and has made no comment or submission refuting (denying) or clarifying the complaint.

IV. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

- 12 According to Section 3 – Code of Conduct Part A, B Rule 5 of the IWF By Laws.
- 13 Schedule 3, Rule 19 and 21 of the Ethics and Disciplinary Code
- 14 The standard of proof required for a complaint to be sustained is “on the balance of probabilities with a degree of comfort” this being the principal in the decision of “Briginshaw” and other cases. It has also been said the greater the issue the greater the degree of comfort that is required.

V. FINDINGS

- 15 Firstly, as to how and when a false passport may or may not have been procured. This not a matter for the EDC to comment upon but a matter for the authorities in the Respondents home country.
- 16 Having regard to:
- i. the stamped official birth certificate annexure “A” hereto showing she would be 18 years of age in the year 2022;

- ii. the stamped official documents of her competition results annexure “B” showing her birth date coinciding with the birth certificate (annexure A);
- iii. together with the lack of any denial, explanation or submissions from the Respondent after 30 October 2024 it is concluded that the Respondent was ineligible to compete at the World Youth Championships in Mexico in 2022 and as such her results should be stricken from the Results Book.
- 17 The Respondent placed 7th overall and did not win any medals at the World Youth Championships in Mexico in 2022.
- 18 The IWF is to be informed of these proceedings so that a reallocation of places can be made.
- 19 It is noted that the Respondent was of a young age when these events occurred and may or may not have been the subject of external pressure.
- 20 However, clean and fair sport is the cornerstone of international competitions and as such the penalty for the Respondent is a ban from all IWF events for a period of four years commencing on 30 October 2024 the date when the Respondent was notified of the complaint against her.
- 21 It is noted that the complaint against the Respondent (competing whilst overage) at the Mexico World Youth Championships in 2022 was also made and found against fellow Kazakhstan athlete Denis Poluboyarinov. As such it appears that these events are the result of conduct by unnamed officials within the Kazakhstan Weightlifting Federation.
- 22 Given the finding in paragraph 21 above, the Respondent's young age when the offences occurred and her prior seemingly good character the EDC would entertain a reduction of the penalty imposed should the Respondent express her remorse for what has occurred by a notarized letter to the EDC within 30 days of notification of these findings.

ON THESE GROUNDS

The Panel of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission decides as follows:

1. The complaint is upheld.
2. The decision is pronounced with no order as to costs.
3. The Respondent is banned from all IWF events for a period of four (4) years commencing on 30 October 2024.
4. If within 30 days the Respondent provides a notarized letter to the EDC expressing her remorse for what has occurred the penalty imposed will be reduced to two (2) years but not otherwise.

Remedies: In accordance with Rule 43 of the IWF Constitution (2021 version) (which corresponds to the version of 12 September 2023), the decision of the EDC may only be appealed by a party before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (the CAS). The Code of Sports- related Arbitration (CAS Code) shall apply to the appeal proceedings (Rule 71 Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Procedural Rules 01/04/22).

On behalf of the EDC Panel

Charles Quagliata (AUS), - EDC Member
Ana Maria Montoya Ruales (PER), - EDC Member
Valérie Horyna (SUI), - EDC Member

Annexure A: birth certificate of the Respondent
Annexure B: summary of competitions (stamped by officials)
Annexure C: copy of the passport