
INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

President
Dr. Tamás Aján (HUN)
IOC Member



General Secretary
Ma Wenguang (CHN)

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Budapest, 29th September 2009

Weightlifting Federation of the United States of America
President
General Secretary

Dear Sirs,

Referring to our previous correspondence it is with great regret that we have to inform you on the Adverse Analytical Finding (positive case) in connection with your weightlifter

Mr. Norik Vardanian (code no. 243 4579)

on the occasion of the 2009 Pan-American Championships, Chicago USA on the 6th June 2009, on In-competition doping control carried out by IWF.

On the analysis of her “A” sample, the laboratory reports that it has detected *58. Cannabinoids* in his bodily specimen, which constitutes an anti-doping rule violation under the IWF Anti Doping Policy. IWF has acknowledged that the athlete or any authorized representative of his did not request the analysis of the “B” sample.

When deciding on the applicable sanction on the athlete the IWF has taken into consideration:

- The age and experience of the athlete;
- That he ingested what he must have known to be a prescribed substance;
- His confession of the ADRV;
- That this is the first ADRV committed by the athlete;
- That the sanction range is between admonition and two years disqualification;
- That there is a need to impose a sanction that acts as a general deterrence to other athletes who might be minded to ingest this prescribed substance and records the anti-doping stance of the IWF
- All the relevant circumstances including the letter from the athlete.

In compliance with the relevant rules Mr. Vardanian is suspended from weightlifting activity for 6 month, until

29th March 2010.

In accordance with IWF Anti Doping Policy your Federation is called to pay a fine of USD 5000 for the positive doping case and for the cost of the analyses of the “A” sample.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Mónica Ungár
IWF Legal Counsel

Copy to:

Mr. Norik Vardanian, the Athlete

Mr. Dragomir Cioroslan, IWF Executive Board Member

Mr. Stephen Starks, USADA Director of Legal Affairs