
Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the Case of Mr Dominic Lokolong Atiol

Introduction

1. World Athletics has established the Athletics Integrity Unit ("**AIU**") whose role is to protect the integrity of the sport of Athletics, including fulfilling World Athletics' obligations as a Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (the "**Code**"). World Athletics has delegated implementation of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules ("**ADR**") to the AIU, including but not limited to the following activities in relation to International-Level Athletes: Testing, Investigations, Results Management, Hearings, Sanctions and Appeals.
2. Mr Dominic Lokolong Atiol ("the **Athlete**") is a 26-year-old Athlete, originally from South Sudan, but who competes as a member of the World Athletics Athlete Refugee Team¹.
3. This decision is issued by the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR, which provides as follows:

"8.5.6 In the event that the Athlete or other Person either (i) admits the violation and accepts the proposed Consequences or (ii) is deemed to have admitted the violation and accepted the Consequences as per Rule 8.5.2(f), the Integrity Unit will promptly:

- (a) issue a decision confirming the commission of the violation(s) and the imposition of the specified Consequences (including, if applicable, a justification for why the maximum potential sanction was not imposed);*
- (b) Publicly Report that decision in accordance with Rule 14;*
- (c) send a copy of the decision to the Athlete or other Person and to any other party that has a right, further to Rule 13, to appeal the decision (and any such party may, within 15 days of receipt, request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision)."*

The Athlete's Commission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations

4. Rule 2 ADR sets out that the following shall constitute the Anti-Doping Rule Violations:

"2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample

[...]

¹ <https://worldathletics.org/athletes/athlete-refugee-team/dominic-lokolong-atiol-14849483>

2.2 *Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method*

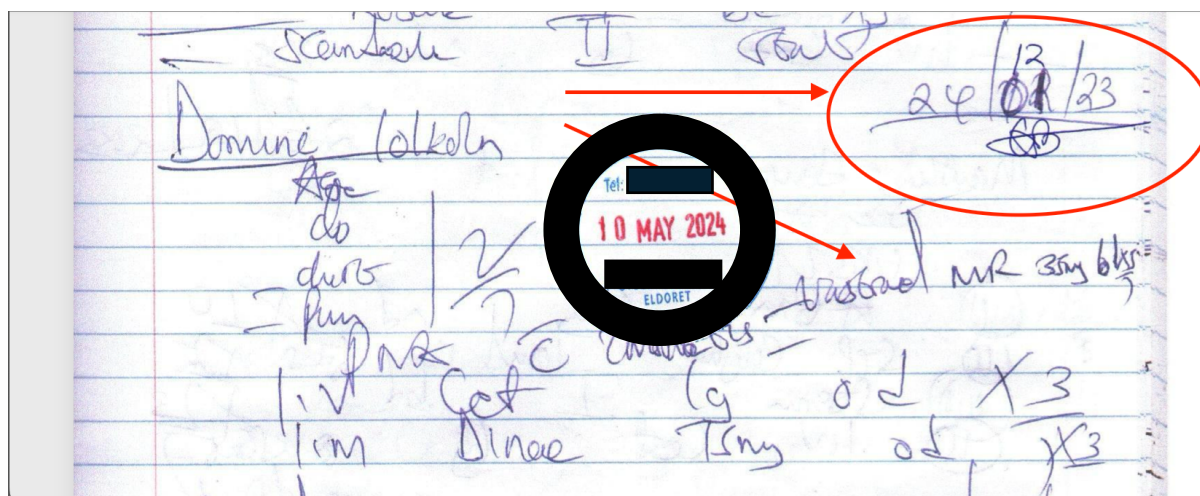
[...]

2.5 *Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by an Athlete or other Person*

5. On 9 February 2024, the Athlete provided a urine Sample Out-of-Competition in Eldoret, Kenya, which was given code 1194320 (the "**Sample**").
6. Analysis of the Sample revealed the presence of Trimetazidine (the "**Adverse Analytical Finding**").
7. Trimetazidine is a Metabolic Modulator under the WADA 2024 Prohibited List under the category *S4 Hormone and Metabolic Modulators*. It is a Non-Specified Substance prohibited at all times.
8. The AIU reviewed the Adverse Analytical Finding in accordance with Article 5 of the International Standard for Results Management ("**ISRM**") and determined that:
 - 8.1. the Athlete did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ("**TUE**") that had been granted (or that would be granted) for the Trimetazidine found in the Sample; and
 - 8.2. there was no apparent departure from the International Standard for Testing and Investigations ("**ISTI**") or from the International Standard for Laboratories ("**ISL**") that could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding.
9. Therefore, in accordance with Article 5.1.2.1 ISRM, the AIU issued the Athlete with a Notice of Allegation of Anti-Doping Rule Violations on 19 March 2024 imposing a Provisional Suspension (effective immediately) and invited the Athlete to provide his detailed written explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding by no later than 26 March 2024.
10. On 20 March 2024, the Athlete provided his explanation by e-mail stating that he had been sick and taking medication before the Sample was collected. The Athlete attached two images of prescriptions, one dated 26 December 2023 and the other dated 24 January 2024, which included Vastarel MR (Trimetazidine) as a prescribed medication.
11. The AIU asked the Athlete to confirm the name of the doctor that had treated him and issued the prescription and the name of the relevant medical facility/clinic and to provide further pictures of the prescription documents.
12. On 22 March 2024, the Athlete confirmed the name of the doctor that treated him and the name of the pharmacy where he had been treated.
13. On 24 April 2024, the Athlete attended an interview with AIU representatives. In summary, the Athlete explained that he had:

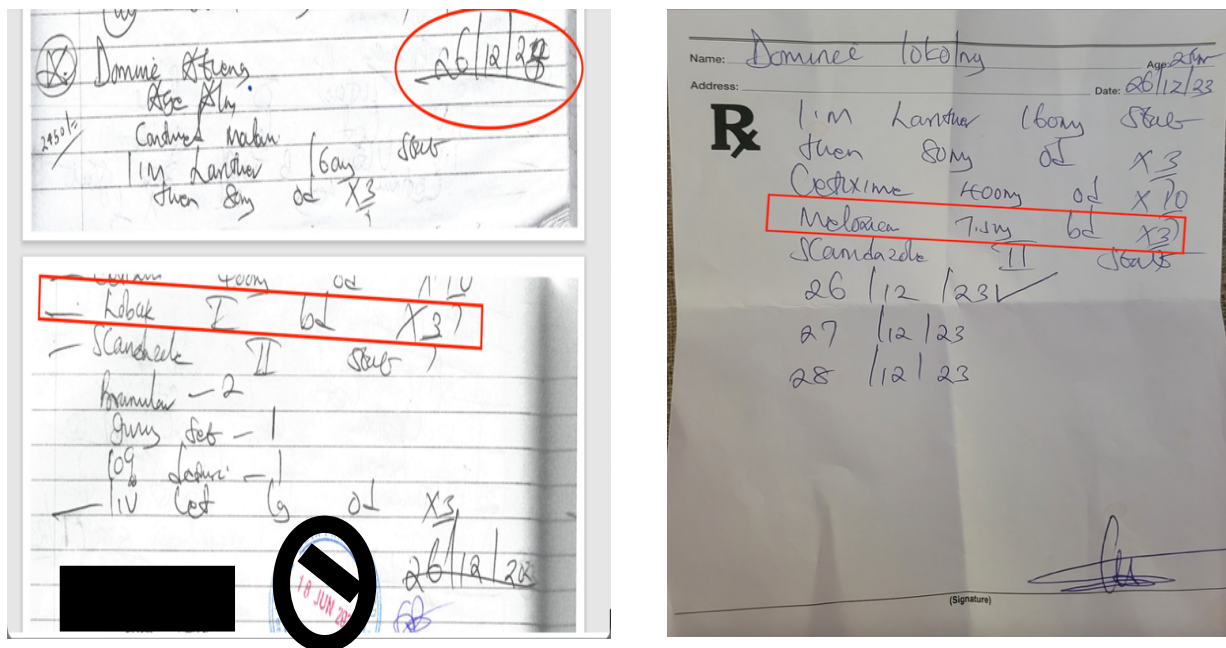
- 13.1. visited the pharmacy on 26 December 2023 because he was feeling sick and received two (2) injections on that date, another single injection on 27 December 2023 and a further single injection on 28 December 2023;
- 13.2. returned to the pharmacy on 24 January 2024 where he received an injection and was prescribed (Vastarel MR) tablets which he took for approximately the next two (2) weeks; and
- 13.3. received further injections at the pharmacy on 25 January 2024 and 26 January 2024.
14. On 30 April 2024, the AIU requested assistance from the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya ("ADAK") in conducting follow up investigations in Kenya to verify the details of the Athlete's asserted treatment at the pharmacy in December 2023 and January 2024 and the authenticity/veracity of the prescription documents that he had submitted to the AIU in support of his explanation on 20 March 2024.
15. On 14 May 2024, the AIU received via ADAK a response from the doctor at the pharmacy that treated the Athlete dated 10 May 2024 which, in summary, confirmed that the Athlete had attended the pharmacy on 26 December 2023 and 24 January 2024 and that the prescriptions he had submitted to the AIU on 20 March 2024 had been issued by him.
16. The response from the doctor also included selected limited extracts of the outpatient records and laboratory registers/records from the pharmacy related to the Athlete's treatment.
17. The AIU reviewed these records and noted that a date on the outpatient records appeared to have been doctored/manipulated to support the doctor's statement that the Athlete had attended the pharmacy on 24 January 2024. The AIU also considered that the configuration of the document indicated that the Vastarel MR medication may have been added to it later (Figure 1):

Figure 1: Outpatient records indicating possible manipulation of date and medication



18. Based on the above, on 11 June 2024, the AIU asked ADAK to conduct follow up investigations by obtaining further records from the pharmacy, specifically, full copies of the outpatient records and laboratory registers for the period October 2023 to January 2024 and full pharmacy records.
19. On 18 June 2024, ADAK received fully certified copies of the requested documents which were provided to the AIU.
20. From review of the full records, the AIU noted that there were no entries in the outpatient registers for any outpatients seen at the pharmacy in the period 22 January 2024 to 24 January 2024, contrary to the Athlete's claim that he had attended the pharmacy and been prescribed Vastarel MR on 24 January 2024.
21. The AIU also noted an apparent manipulation of the date on the outpatient record for December 2023 (altered to 2024) as well as inconsistency in the medications that were prescribed between the outpatient record for 26 December 2023 and the prescription dated 26 December 2023 that the Athlete submitted (**Figure 2**):

Figure 2: Apparent date change and inconsistency between outpatient record (L) and prescription (R) for 26 December 2023



22. On 8 November 2024, the AIU requested further assistance from ADAK by way of follow up investigations into the records provided. In particular, the AIU requested clarification for why there were no records of any outpatient visits in the pharmacy outpatient registers for the period 22 January 2024 to 24 January 2024.
23. By letter dated 12 November 2024, the doctor confirmed that the gap in the pharmacy outpatient registers in January 2024 was due to the absence of any patients received in the period 22 January 2024 to 24 January 2024 (inclusive).

24. Following further investigation, on 7 April 2025, ADAK wrote to the AIU including a written statement from the doctor dated 4 April 2025 in which the doctor admitted that the Athlete did not receive any treatment at the pharmacy on 24 January 2024 and that the Athlete had not been prescribed Vastarel MR (Trimetazidine) on that date.
25. The AIU therefore considered that the prescription documents that the Athlete had submitted on 20 March 2024 in support of his explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding (i.e., that he was prescribed Vastarel MR on 24 January 2024 which he took for approximately the next two (2) weeks before he was tested on 9 February 2024) to be forged/manipulated documents.
26. Following review of the above information from the AIU investigation, the AIU remained satisfied that the Athlete had committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Rule 2.1 ADR and Rule 2.2 ADR. The AIU also concluded that the evidence obtained during the investigation was sufficient to demonstrate that the Athlete had committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Rule 2.5 ADR (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by an Athlete).
27. Therefore, on 3 June 2026, the AIU issued the Athlete with a Notice of Charge in accordance with Rule 8.5.1 ADR and Article 7.1 ISRM confirming that he was being charged with Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Rule 2.1 ADR, Rule 2.2 ADR and Rule 2.5 ADR (“the **Charge**”) and that those Anti-Doping Rule Violations warranted a total period of Ineligibility of eight (8) years pursuant to Rule 10.3.1 ADR and Rule 10.9.3(c) ADR (i.e., four (4) years for the Presence and Use of Trimetazidine and four (4) years for Tampering or Attempted Tampering to be served consecutively).
28. The Athlete was informed *inter alia* of his right to request a hearing and given the opportunity to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violations to potentially benefit from a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility pursuant to Rule 10.8.1 ADR. The AIU invited the Athlete to respond to the Charge confirming how he wished to proceed by 17 June 2026 (and strictly by no later than 23 June 2026 for the purpose of Rule 10.8.1 ADR).
29. The Athlete was informed that if he failed to respond, failed to challenge the AIU’s assertion of the Anti-Doping Rule Violations or the Consequences being sought, or request a hearing, then the AIU would be entitled to deem that he had waived his right to a hearing, admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the Consequences set out in the Charge.
30. The Athlete failed to respond to the Charge by 17 June 2026 (or at all).
31. In accordance with Rule 8.5.2(f) ADR, the Athlete is therefore deemed to have waived his right to a hearing, admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the Consequences set out in the Charge.

Consequences

32. Collectively, the Anti-Doping Rule Violations pursuant to Rule 2.1 ADR, Rule 2.2 ADR and Rule 2.5 ADR constitute the Athlete’s first Anti-Doping Rule Violation pursuant to Rule 10.9.3 ADR.

33. Rule 10.2 ADR specifies that the period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Rule 2.1 ADR or Rule 2.2 ADR shall be as follows:

“10.2.1 Save where Rule 10.2.4 applies, the period of Ineligibility will be four years where:

- (a) The anti-doping rule violation does not involve a Specified Substance or a Specified Method, unless the Athlete or other Person can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional.*
- (b) The anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance or a Specified Method and the Integrity Unit can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was intentional...”*

34. Trimetazidine is a Prohibited Substance under the WADA 2024 Prohibited List under the category *S4 Hormone and Metabolic Modulators*. It is a Non-Specified Substance prohibited at all times.
35. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore a period of four (4) years, unless the Athlete demonstrates that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were not intentional.
36. The Athlete has not demonstrated that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were not intentional. Therefore, the mandatory period of Ineligibility to be imposed is a period of four (4) years.
37. In addition, Rule 10.9.3(c) ADR provides for an additional period of Ineligibility to be imposed where an athlete commits Tampering or Attempted Tampering in connection with the Dopnig Control process for an underlying asserted Anti-Doping Rule Violation as follows:

“10.9.3 Additional rules for certain potential multiple violations

[...]

- (c) If the Integrity Unit establishes that an Athlete or other Person committed a violation of Rule 2.5 in connection with the Doping Control process for an underlying asserted anti-doping rule violation, the violation of Rule 2.5 will be treated as a stand-alone first violation and the period of Ineligibility for such violation must be served consecutively (rather than concurrently) with the period of Ineligibility, if any, imposed for the underlying anti-doping rule violation. Where this Rule 10.9.3(c) is applied, the violations taken together will constitute a single violation for purposes of Rule 10.9.1.”*

38. Rule 10.3.1 ADR specifies that the period of Ineligibility for Tampering or Attempted Tampering shall be four (4) years, subject to potential reduction to between two (2) and four (4) years if there are exceptional circumstances and depending on the degree of Fault (emphasis added):

“10.3.1 For violations of Rule 2.3 or Rule 2.5, the period of Ineligibility will be four (4) years except: (i) in the case of failing to submit to Sample collection, if the Athlete can establish that the commission of the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional,

the period of Ineligibility will be two (2) years; (ii) in all other cases, if the Athlete or other Person can establish exceptional circumstances that justify a reduction of the period of Ineligibility, the period of Ineligibility will be in a range from two (2) years to four (4) years depending on the Athlete's or other Person's degree of Fault; [...]"

39. The Athlete has not established any exceptional circumstances that exist to justify any reduction in the period of Ineligibility of four (4) years to be imposed for the Anti-Doping Rule Violation committed pursuant to Rule 2.5 ADR.

40. The Athlete committed the violation of Rule 2.5 ADR in connection with the Doping Control process (specifically, during Results Management of the Rule 2.1 ADR and Rule 2.2 ADR violations). Pursuant to the foregoing, the violation of Rule 2.5 ADR shall therefore be treated as a stand-alone first violation and the four (4)-year period of Ineligibility must be served consecutively to the four (4)-year period of Ineligibility to be imposed for the Rule 2.1 ADR and Rule 2.2 ADR violations (i.e., a total period of Ineligibility of eight (8) years).

41. Rule 10.8.1 ADR provides that an athlete potentially subject to an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years or more may benefit from a one (1)-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an early admission and acceptance of sanction:

"10.8.1 One year reduction for certain anti-doping rule violations based on early admission and acceptance of sanction.

Where the Integrity Unit notifies an Athlete or other Person of an anti-doping rule violation charge that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Rule 10.4), if the Athlete or other Person admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than 20 days after receiving the Notice of Charge, the Athlete or other Person may receive a one (1) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by the Integrity Unit. Where the Athlete or other Person receives the one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Rule 10.8.1, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility will be allowed under any other Rule."

42. The Charge was issued to the Athlete on 3 June 2026. The deadline for the Athlete to respond for the purpose of Rule 10.8.1 ADR was therefore no later than 23 June 2026.

43. The Athlete failed to respond by 23 June 2026 (or at all).

44. The Athlete is therefore not entitled to receive a one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility pursuant to Rule 10.8.1 ADR based on an early admission and acceptance of sanction.

45. On the basis that the Athlete is deemed to have admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Rule 2.1 ADR, Rule 2.2 ADR and Rule 2.5 ADR in accordance with Rule 8.5.2(f) ADR, and in accordance with Rule 10.2.1 ADR, Rule 10.3.1 ADR and Rule 10.9.3(c) ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for a first Anti-Doping Rule Violation:

- 45.1. a period of Ineligibility of eight (8) years, starting on 19 March 2024 (the date of Provisional Suspension) and expiring on 18 March 2032; and
- 45.2. disqualification of the Athlete's result on and since 9 February 2024 with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any medals, titles, awards, points, prizes, prize money and appearance money.

Publication

- 46. In accordance with Rule 8.5.6(b) ADR, the AIU shall publicly report this decision on the AIU's website.

Rights of Appeal

- 47. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR.
- 48. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, the Athlete and WADA have a right of appeal against this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the procedure set out at Rule 13.6.1 ADR.
- 49. If an appeal is filed against this decision by WADA, the Athlete will be entitled to exercise his right of cross-appeal in accordance with Rule 13.2.4 ADR.

Monaco, 26 June 2026