
Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the Case of Mr Felix Kirui

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 Felix Kirui ("the **Athlete**") is a 39-year-old road runner from Kenya¹.
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 an Anti-Doping Rule Violation:

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

¹ <https://worldathletics.org/athletes/kenya/felix-kirui-14615168>

[...]

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

5. On 4 May 2025, the Athlete provided a urine Sample, In-Competition at the Durban International Marathon, held in Durban, South Africa, which was given code 275515V (the "**Sample**").
6. On 21 June 2025, the World Anti-Doping Agency ("**WADA**") accredited laboratory in Doha, Qatar (the "**Laboratory**") reported an Adverse Analytical Finding in the Sample based on the presence of Triamcinolone acetonide (the "**Adverse Analytical Finding**").
7. The AIU reviewed the Adverse Analytical Finding in accordance with Article 5 of the International Standard for Results Management ("**ISRM**") and determined that:
 - 7.1. the Athlete did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ("**TUE**") that had been granted (or that would be granted) for the Triamcinolone acetonide found in the Sample; and
 - 7.2. 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.
8. Therefore, on 26 June 2025, the AIU notified the Athlete of the Adverse Analytical Finding in accordance with Article 5.1.2.1 of the ISRM, including that the Adverse Analytical Finding may result in Anti-Doping Rule Violations pursuant to Rule 2.1 ADR and/or Rule 2.2 ADR. The Athlete was also informed of his rights, inter alia, to request the B Sample analysis, to request copies of the laboratory documentation supporting the Adverse Analytical Finding and to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violations.
9. On 4 July 2025, the Athlete wrote to the AIU and admitted to the Use of Triamcinolone acetonide and accepted the Adverse Analytical Finding in his Sample. He stated that he did not know that the medicine that he had used contained a prohibited substance.
10. On the same day, 4 July 2025, the AIU acknowledged receipt of the Athlete's reply and asked him to provide additional details regarding his use of Triamcinolone acetonide by 10 July 2025². The Athlete was also reminded that he could already admit that he had committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accept the Consequences set out in the Notice of Allegation (i.e. a period of Ineligibility of two (2) years and disqualification of his results since 4 May 2025).
11. On 8 July 2025, the Athlete provided written confirmation that he accepted the judgement of the AIU (i.e., he admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the Consequences set out in the Notice of Allegation).

² The Athlete was asked *inter alia* to (i) provide the name of the medication containing Triamcinolone acetonide that he used (the "**Medication**"), (ii) clarify whether the Medication was prescribed to him and (iii) confirm when and where he bought the Medication and how he used it.

Consequences

12. This is the Athlete's first Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
13. 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."*

14. Triamcinolone acetonide is a Prohibited Substance under the WADA 2025 Prohibited List under the category S9. *Glucocorticoids*. It is a Specified Substance prohibited In-Competition when administered by any injectable, oral³ or rectal route.
15. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore a period of two (2) years, unless the AIU demonstrates that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were intentional.
16. The AIU has no evidence that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were intentional and the mandatory period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore a period of two (2) years.
17. On the basis that the Athlete has admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Rule 2.1 ADR and Rule 2.2 ADR, in accordance with Rule 10.2.1 ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for a first Anti-Doping Rule Violation:
 - 17.1. a period of Ineligibility of two (2) years commencing on 8 July 2025; and
 - 17.2. disqualification of the Athlete's results on and since 4 May 2025, with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any titles, awards, medals, points, prizes and appearance money.

Publication

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

³ Including oromucosal (e.g., buccal, gingival, sublingual).

Rights of Appeal

19. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR.
20. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, the Athlete, WADA and the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (“**ADAK**”) 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.
21. If an appeal is filed against this decision by WADA or ADAK, the Athlete will be entitled to exercise his right of cross-appeal in accordance with Rule 13.2.4 ADR.

Monaco, 14 July 2025