
Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the Case of Ms Belinda Chemutai

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. Ms Belinda Chemutai ("the **Athlete**") is a 25-year-old road runner from Uganda¹.
3. This matter concerns Anti-Doping Rule Violations discovered in a Sample collected from the Athlete on 28 February 2025, more than 12 months after a first-noticed violation which occurred in connection with a Sample collected from the Athlete on 1 October 2023 (notified on 11 April 2025) for which the Athlete is presently serving a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years from 11 April 2025 to 10 April 2028.
4. 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)."*

¹ <https://worldathletics.org/athletes/uganda/belinda-chemutai-14758385>

The Athlete's Commission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations

5. 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

[...]

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

A. Prior Anti-Doping Rule Violations Arising from Sample Collected on 1 October 2023

6. On 1 October 2023, the Athlete provided a urine Sample In-Competition at the World Athletics Road Running Championships in Riga, Latvia, which was given code 7117466 and was divided into bottle A and B (respectively the “A Sample” and the “B Sample”) in accordance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (“**ISTI**”).
7. On 26 October 2023, following initial analysis conducted on the A Sample, the results were reported as negative for the presence of Prohibited Substances.
8. However, on 13 March 2025, the AIU informed the Athlete that it had decided that the B Sample would be split for additional analysis to be conducted. The B sample splitting and resealing process took place on 26 March 2025 in accordance with Articles 5.3.3.2 of the International Standard for Laboratories (“**ISL**”).
9. On 10 April 2025, the World Anti-Doping Agency (“**WADA**”) accredited laboratory in Paris, France reported an Adverse Analytical Finding in the B1 Sample collected on 1 October 2023 for the presence of Testosterone and its Metabolites 5 α -androstane-3 α ,17 diol (“**5 α Adiol**”) and 5 β -androstane-3 α ,17 diol (“**5 β Adiol**”) consistent with exogenous origin.
10. The Athlete was notified and Provisionally Suspended on 11 April 2025.
11. On 29 April 2025, the Athlete admitted Anti-Doping Rule Violations pursuant to Rule 2.1 and Rule 2.2 based on the above and accepted a period of Ineligibility
12. On 30 April 2025, the AIU issued a Decision concerning the Athlete's admitted Anti-Doping Rule Violations (the “**First Violation**”) which imposed the following (accepted) Consequences:
 - 12.1. a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years commencing on 11 April 2025; and
 - 12.2. disqualification of the Athlete's results on and since 1 October 2023, with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any titles, awards, medals, points, prizes and appearance money.

B. Anti-Doping Rule Violations Arising from Sample Collected on 28 February 2025

13. On 28 February 2025, the Athlete provided a blood Sample Out-of-Competition in Iten, Kenya, which was given code 8161878 and was divided into bottle A and B (respectively the “**A Sample**” and the “**B Sample**”) in accordance with the ISTI.
14. On 13 March 2025, following initial analysis, the WADA accredited laboratory in Lausanne, Switzerland (the “**Laboratory**”), reported that the Sample was negative for the presence of any Prohibited Substances.
15. On 1 August 2025, the AIU informed the Athlete that it had decided that the B Sample would be split for Further Analysis² to be conducted and gave her the opportunity to attend and/or be represented at the opening and splitting of the B Sample in accordance with Article 5.3.3.2 of the ISL.
16. On the same day, 1 August 2025, the Athlete responded to the AIU as follows: “*Let the sample split be carried in my absence.*”
17. The B sample splitting and resealing process took place on 6 August 2025 in accordance with Articles 5.3.3.2 of the ISL. The B Sample was split into a B1 Sample and a B2 sample in the presence of an independent witness. The B1 Sample was analysed, and the B2 Sample was resealed and stored.
18. On 8 August 2025, the Laboratory confirmed that the analysis of the B1 Sample had revealed the presence of Testosterone decanoate (the “**Adverse Analytical Finding**”).
19. The AIU reviewed the Adverse Analytical Finding in accordance with Article 5 of the International Standard for Results Management (“**ISRM**”) and determined that:
 - 19.1. the Athlete did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (“**TUE**”) that had been granted (or that would be granted) for the Testosterone decanoate found in the B1 Sample; and
 - 19.2. there was no apparent departure from the ISTI or from the ISL that could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding.
20. Therefore, on 14 August 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 informed of her rights, inter alia, to request the B2 Sample analysis, to request copies of the laboratory documentation supporting the Adverse Analytical Finding and to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violations by no later than 21 August 2025. The Athlete was also requested to confirm her availability to attend an online interview with AIU representatives.
21. On 19 August 2025, the Athlete confirmed (via WhatsApp) to an AIU representative, that she had received the Notice of Allegation. However, despite several reminders, the Athlete failed

² See the definition of Further Analysis in the ISL.

to make herself available for interview and failed to address the substantive matters set out in the Notice of Allegation by the given deadline (21 August 2025) or at all.

22. Therefore, on 3 September 2025, the AIU informed the Athlete that:

22.1. since she had not requested the analysis of her B2 Sample within the given deadline (i.e., 21 August 2025), she was deemed to have waived her right to the B2 Sample analysis and accepted the finding in the B1 Sample;

22.2. she had failed to make herself available for an interview or to provide an explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding;

22.3. she had a last opportunity to provide an explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding (and any supporting documents she wished to rely upon) by no later than 10 September 2025; or

22.4. alternatively, she may admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation and accept the proposed Consequences (by returning a signed Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form) by no later than 10 September 2025, in which case, the mandatory period of Ineligibility of four (4) years would be automatically reduced by one (1) year under Rule 10.8.1.

23. The Athlete failed to respond within the given deadline.

24. Therefore, on 12 September 2025, 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 she was being charged with Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Rule 2.1 ADR and Rule 2.2 ADR (“the **Charge**”) and invited her to confirm how she would like to proceed with the Charge by no later than 26 September 2025.

25. The Athlete failed to respond to the Charge by the given deadline.

26. Therefore, on 29 September 2025, the AIU informed the Athlete that:

26.1. she had failed to respond to the Charge by the stipulated deadline, and, by operation of Rule 8.5.2(f) ADR, she was therefore deemed to have (i) waived her right to a hearing, (ii) admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and (iii) accepted the Consequences set out in the Notice of Charge; and

26.2. she had until no later than 2 October 2025 to return a completed Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form (enclosed with the Charge) to benefit from a one (1)-year reduction under Rule 10.8.1 ADR, and that, if she failed to do so, then the AIU would issue a final decision in her case, including imposing a four (4)-year period of Ineligibility.

27. On 1 October 2025, the AIU received an Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form signed by the Athlete.

Consequences

28. The Athlete's (admitted) First Violation occurred on 1 October 2023. The Anti-Doping Rule Violations which are the subject of this proceeding arise from the Adverse Analytical Finding in a Sample collected from the Athlete on 28 February 2025.
29. Rule 10.9.3(b) provides that *"If the Integrity Unit establishes that an Athlete or other Person committed an additional anti-doping rule violation prior to notification, and that the additional violation occurred 12 months or more before or after the first-noticed violation, then the period of Ineligibility for the additional violation will be calculated as if the additional violation were a stand-alone first violation and this period of Ineligibility must be served consecutively (rather than concurrently) with the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first-noticed violation. Where this Rule 10.9.3(b) applies, the violations taken together will constitute a single violation for purposes of Rule 10.9.1."*
30. The Athlete committed violations in the Sample collected on 28 February 2025, before she was notified of the First Violation on 11 April 2025. In addition, the violations of Rule 2.1 and/or Rule 2.2 connected to the Sample collected on 28 February 2025 occurred more than 12 months after the Athlete's (admitted) First Violation on 1 October 2023 (for which the Athlete is currently serving a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years, until 10 April 2028). The period of Ineligibility to be imposed for the violations connected to the Sample collected on 28 February 2025³, shall therefore be served consecutively to the period of Ineligibility for the First Violation (i.e., from 11 April 2028).
31. 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.*
- 10.2.2 If Rule 10.2.1 does not apply, then (subject to Rule 10.2.4(a)) the period of Ineligibility will be two years."*
32. Testosterone decanoate is a Prohibited Substance under the WADA 2025 Prohibited List under the category S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. It is a Non-Specified Substance prohibited at all times.

³ The violations shall however be treated together as a single violation for the purposes of Rule 10.9.1.

33. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore a period of Ineligibility of four (4) years, unless the Athlete demonstrates that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were not intentional.
34. The Athlete has not demonstrated that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were not intentional. Therefore, the mandatory period of Ineligibility is a period of Ineligibility of four (4) years.
35. However, 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.”

36. A Notice of Charge was issued to the Athlete on 12 September 2025. On 1 October 2025, the Athlete confirmed that she admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the asserted Consequences.
37. The Athlete shall therefore 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.
38. 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, Rule 10.9.3(b) ADR and the application of Rule 10.8.1 ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for the Anti-Doping Rule Violations:
- 38.1. a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years commencing on 11 April 2028⁴; and

⁴ As explained above, since the (admitted) First Violation (for which the Athlete is currently serving a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years until 10 April 2028) occurred more than 12 months before the Anti-Doping Rule Violations that are the subject of this decision, then the period of Ineligibility for the additional violation is to be served consecutively with the period of Ineligibility imposed for the First Violation (i.e. from 11 April 2028) in accordance with Rule 10.9.3(b).

38.2. disqualification of the Athlete's results since 28 February 2025, with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any titles, awards, medals, points, prizes and appearance money.

39. The Athlete has accepted the above Consequences for the Anti-Doping Rule Violations arising from the Sample collected on 28 February 2025 and has expressly waived her right to have those Consequences determined by the Disciplinary Tribunal at a hearing.

Publication

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

Rights of Appeal

41. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR.

42. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, WADA and the Uganda Olympic Committee ("UGA-NADO") 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.

43. If an appeal is filed against this decision by WADA, or UGA-NADO, the Athlete will be entitled to exercise her right of cross-appeal in accordance with Rule 13.2.4 ADR.

Monaco, 7 October 2025