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## Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the case of Non-Doping Violations by Mr Steven Richter

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### Introduction

1. World Athletics has established the Athletics Integrity Unit ("AIU") whose role is to protect the integrity of the sport of Athletics. This includes the investigation and prosecution of Non-Doping Violations<sup>1</sup> including breaches of the Integrity Standards set out in the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct ("Integrity Code") and violations of the World Athletics Manipulation of Competition Rules ("MSC Rules") in accordance with the Athletics Integrity Unit Reporting, Investigation and Prosecution Rules - Non-Doping ("RIP Rules").
2. This matter concerns violations of the Integrity Code and MSC Rules by Mr Steven Richter ("the Athlete"), a 22-year-old discus thrower from Germany<sup>2</sup>.
3. This decision is issued by the AIU pursuant to Rule 5.8 of the RIP Rules, which provides as follows:

*"5.8 In the event that [...] the Applicable Person admits the Non-Doping Violation(s) charged and accepts the consequences and sanctions specified [...], a hearing before the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal will not be required. If this occurs, the Integrity Unit:*

- 5.8.1. will promptly issue a decision confirming [...] the admission of the Non-Doping Violation(s) and the imposition of the specified consequences and sanctions;*
- 5.8.2. will Publicly Disclose any decision confirming the admission of the Non-Doping Violation(s) and the imposition of the specified consequences and sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules [...]; and*
- 5.8.3. will send a copy of the decision to the Applicable Person subject to the charge, and for any decision confirming the admission of the Non-Doping Violation(s) and the imposition of the specified consequences and sanctions, send a copy of that decision to*

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<sup>1</sup> A Non-Doping Violation is defined in the Integrity Code as a violation which is not a Doping Violation.

<sup>2</sup> [Steven RICHTER | Profile | World Athletics](#)

*their relevant Member Federation, and Area Association (if applicable)."*

## The Athlete's commission of Non-Doping Violations

4. On 2 August 2023, the Athlete signed a document entitled "Athlete's Agreement" (the "Athlete Agreement") whereby he agreed in writing to be bound by the World Athletics Rules and Regulations, including the Integrity Code and the MSC Rules.
5. In addition, the 2025 World Athletics Championships were held in Tokyo, Japan between 13 and 21 September 2025 (the "Championships"). The Athlete participated in the Discus throw event at the Championships on 20 September 2025<sup>3</sup>.
6. The Athlete is therefore an Applicable Person per Rules 1.1.6 and 1.1.7 of the Integrity Code and he is bound by the Integrity Code and the MSC Rules.
7. Rule 5.1 of the Integrity Code makes it clear that it shall be a violation of the Integrity Code for an Applicable Person<sup>4</sup> to violate or fail to comply with any one or more of the Integrity Standards set out in Rule 3, including any one or more of the Rules referred to in the Integrity Code<sup>5</sup>. This includes:

**Integrity Standard 3.3.4 :** "*Maintain Integrity of Competition: to ensure the integrity of, and not to improperly benefit from, Athletics Competitions, and in particular to comply with the Manipulation of Competition Rules*".

8. The MSC Rules further provide examples of conduct that constitute a violation of those rules:

***2. Violations***

***2.1 The following conduct shall constitute a violation of these Rules (in each case, whether effected directly or indirectly):***

***3. Betting***

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<sup>3</sup> Having signed the Athlete Agreement and not retired at the time of the Championships (in which he participated), the Athlete is an Applicable Person pursuant to Rules 1.1.6 and 1.1.7 of the Integrity Code, subject to the Integrity Code.

<sup>4</sup> The definition of Applicable Persons in the Integrity Code includes persons participating in Athletics in International Competitions and such other persons who agree in writing to be bound by the Integrity Code.

<sup>5</sup> More particularly, under Rule 3.4 of the Integrity Code : "*Non-compliance with (or causing any other person not to comply with) any of the Rules and Regulations may amount to a breach of the Integrity Standards or may be dealt with in accordance with any provisions of the applicable Rule or Regulation alleged to be breached or in accordance with the Disputes and Disciplinary Proceedings Rules. Any action taken under the applicable Rules or Regulations or the Disputes and Disciplinary Proceedings Rules does not limit or prejudice the Integrity Unit from pursuing the same conduct as a breach of this Integrity Code.*"

3.1. *Any form of Betting related to an Event or Competition In Athletics, including Betting with another Person on the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of such an Event or Competition;*

[...]

*This Rule applies to any form of Betting related to an Event or Competition in Athletics, whether or not the Applicable Person is directly participating in the Event or Competition in question [...].”*

9. Prior to the Championships, the AIU circulated an Integrity Guide to all Member Federations as a reminder to athletes of their responsibility to comply with the Integrity Code and with specific reference not to engage in any betting at the Championships. The Guide was issued to Member Federations with clear instructions for it to be passed onto their participating athletes.

10. On 16 September 2025, the AIU received information that:

10.1. while attending a Pre-Championships Holding Camp, in Myazaki, Japan in his capacity as a National Team athlete for the German Member Federation (the “Training Camp”), the Athlete and a fellow German discus thrower (together “the Athletes”) were overheard discussing bets that they had placed on the Championships;

10.2. the Athletes were informed by a third party that placing such bets was prohibited under World Athletics’ Rules;

10.3. the Athletes subsequently declared in front of their teammates and coaches at the Training Camp that they wanted to retract their bets.

11. On 20 September 2025, the Athlete attended an interview with an AIU representative in Tokyo, Japan during which he admitted the above conduct and provided the following further details:

11.1. On 16 September 2025, at 20:13 local Japanese time, the Athlete placed a bet of 40 euros on Championships<sup>6</sup> using the betting website Tipico (the “Bet”)<sup>7</sup>.

11.2. That was the first time that the Athlete had placed a bet on Athletics since being bound by the Integrity Code and he did so because he had heard other athletes talking about betting and odds and thought it would make watching the Championships more entertaining<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> One bet of 40 euros to win on Mr Merlin Hummel in the Hammer throw. The bet was not successful.

<sup>7</sup> The Athlete voluntarily provided screenshots of the Tipico website showing the details of the Bet to the AIU.

<sup>8</sup> The Athletes stated that they had no inside information which could have influenced their betting. Furthermore, in the context of the investigation, the AIU found no evidence to suggest that Mr Hummel was aware of the Athlete’s betting activities prior to his participation in the Championships.

- 11.3. The Athlete said that he knew that he could not bet on his own event (i.e., the Discus throw), but he was not aware of the restrictions under the MSC on betting on other events<sup>9</sup>, until one of his teammates alerted him to the fact that it was prohibited<sup>10</sup> following an open discussion in the Training Camp dining area.
- 11.4. Once he was informed that it was prohibited, he tried to cancel the Bet, but the option was not available on Tipico.
- 11.5. The Athlete did not place any other bets after 16 September 2025.
12. Following a review of the Athlete's explanation and the evidence available, the AIU remained satisfied that he had committed a violation of the Integrity Code and the MSC Rules. Therefore, on 1 December 2025, the AIU issued the Athlete with a Notice of Charge in accordance with Rule 5 of the RIP Rules, confirming that he was being charged with Non-Doping Violations for breaches of Integrity Standard 3.3.4 (Maintain Integrity of Competition) of the Integrity Code and Rules 2.1 and 3.1 (Betting) of the MSC Rules ("the **Charge**"), and invited him to confirm how he would like to proceed with the Charge.
13. On 9 December 2025, the AIU received an Admission of Non-Doping Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form signed by the Athlete.

## Consequences

14. The Integrity Code sets out essential behavioural standards (the Integrity Standards) which are critical to ensuring that those who participate in Athletics maintain the highest ethical standards to protect the integrity, authenticity and reputation of the sport.
15. Rule 14 of the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules ("Tribunal Rules") sets out a non-exhaustive list of consequences that may be imposed when a Non-Doping Violation has been committed (any of which may, where appropriate, be suspended):
  - 14.1.1 a caution, reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;*
  - 14.1.2 a fine of any amount (which, unless otherwise specified, will be payable within 30 days);*
  - 14.1.3 a compensation payment;*
  - 14.1.4 reparation to any victim or victims of the violation;*
  - 14.1.5 community service within Athletics;*
  - 14.1.6 suspension or removal from office;*

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<sup>9</sup> The Athlete stated that he had not read the Athlete Agreement that he signed in August 2023 carefully.

<sup>10</sup> A teammate also wrote on the Camp WhatsApp group, on 16 September 2025, that betting was not allowed. The Athlete voluntarily provided a screenshot of that message to the AIU.

- 14.1.7 removal of any award or other honour bestowed by World Athletics;*
- 14.1.8 disqualification of results, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any related medals, titles, points and/or prizes;*
- 14.1.9 disqualification/expulsion from competitions or events; and,*
- 14.1.10 a specified period of ineligibility, or life ban, from participating in any capacity in any aspect of Athletics and/or in any activities authorised, organised, controlled, recognised, sanctioned and/or supported in any way by World Athletics, Area Association or any Member Federation (other than authorised education or rehabilitation programs)."*

16. The appropriate consequences for a violation of the Integrity Code shall be determined based on an assessment of the relative seriousness of the violation(s), including a consideration of any aggravating and/or mitigating factors that are applicable (as set out in Rule 14.2 of the Tribunal Rules).

17. As stated above, it is essential that athletes comply with the Integrity Standards set out in the Integrity Code and the AIU treats the Athlete's breach of Integrity Standard 3.3.4 and the underlying MSC Rules as a serious matter, all the more so that the Athlete's conduct took place at a World Championships event. It is important that such conduct is uncovered and penalised, and that the sanction is publicly disclosed to deter others from committing the same or similar mistakes.

18. The AIU acknowledges on the other hand the following mitigating factors in the Athlete's case:

- 18.1. the Athlete made an admission at the earliest opportunity (being at the interview on 20 September 2025);
- 18.2. he placed only one bet, and his stake was relatively small;
- 18.3. he had not received any education on the Integrity Code or the MSC Rules (and his Member Federation had failed to circulate the Integrity Guide prior to the Championships as they were requested to do);
- 18.4. he demonstrated contrition and genuine remorse at interview; and
- 18.5. this is his first Non-Doping Violation and he has no other disciplinary record with World Athletics.

19. On the basis that the Athlete has admitted the Non-Doping Violations (breaches of Integrity Standard 3.3.4 and Rules 2.1 and 3.1 of the MSC Rules), the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for committing the Non-Doping Violations:

- 19.1. a period of Ineligibility of three (3) months suspended for three (3) years<sup>11</sup>;
- 19.2. completion of the International Olympic Committee's Prevention of Competition Manipulation eLearning training<sup>12</sup> within a period of no more than one (1) month from the date of his Acceptance<sup>13</sup>; and
- 19.3. Public Disclosure of the full details of this matter.

20. The Athlete has accepted the above Consequences for his Non-Doping Violations and has expressly waived his right to contest, challenge or dispute the Non-Doping Violations and/or the applicable Consequences before the Disciplinary Tribunal at a hearing.

## Publication

21. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 5.8 of the RIP Rules.
22. In accordance with Rule 5.8.2 of the RIP Rules and Rule 15.1 of the Tribunal Rules, and further to the Athlete's agreement to Public Disclosure, the AIU shall publicly report this decision on the AIU's website.

Monaco, 28 January 2026

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<sup>11</sup>For the avoidance of doubt, this means that, the Athlete will serve no period of Ineligibility provided he does not commit another Non-Doping Violation or other breach of the Integrity Code of Conduct within a three (3) year period starting from the date that he formally communicated his admission and acceptance to the AIU (i.e. 9 December 2025). If the Athlete commits another Non-Doping Violation or other breach of the Integrity Code of Conduct within that 3-year period, the suspended 3-months would be activated, and he would be required to serve a 3-month period of Ineligibility in addition and consecutive to any sanction imposed for the subsequent violation.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.olympics.com/athlete365/learning/preventing-competition-manipulation-2023>

<sup>13</sup> i.e. 9 December 2025.