
Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the Case of Ms Bone Cheluke

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 Bone Cheluke ("the **Athlete**") is a 27-year-old road runner from Ethiopia¹.

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/ethiopia/bone-cheluke-14800829>

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

5. On 15 October 2023, the Athlete provided a urine Sample In-Competition at the 33rd Dalian Marathon in Dalian, China (“the **Event**”), pursuant to Testing conducted under the Testing Authority of World Athletics-AIU which was given code 6531641 (the “**Sample**”).
6. The Sample was originally analysed and reported as negative for the presence of any Prohibited Substances on 25 October 2023 by the World Anti-Doping Agency (“**WADA**”) accredited laboratory in Beijing, China, (the “**Laboratory**”).
7. However, the AIU requested further analysis of the Sample by the Laboratory, and on 5 November 2025, the Laboratory confirmed that the further analysis of the Sample had revealed the presence of Metabolites of Testosterone, Androsterone, Etiocholanolone, 5 α Adiol and 5 β Adiol, consistent with exogenous origin (the “**Adverse Analytical Finding**”).
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 for the Metabolites of Testosterone consistent with exogenous origin 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. On 5 December 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 and the imposition of an immediate Provisional Suspension.
10. The Athlete was invited to provide an explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding by attending an interview with AIU representatives. She was also informed of her rights, *inter alia*, to request the analysis of the B Sample, to request copies of the laboratory documentation supporting the Adverse Analytical Finding, to provide a written explanation, and to admit the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and potentially benefit from a one-year reduction of the period of Ineligibility pursuant to Rule 10.8.1 ADR, by no later than 12 December 2025.
11. The Athlete attended an interview with an AIU representative on 19 December 2025 and provided her explanation for the Adverse Analytical Finding. In summary, the Athlete explained that she self-administered a vial labelled “testosterone” in an injection approximately two weeks prior to the Event. She further explained that she did not ask any questions about what she had ingested, did not pay for the vial or the syringe that she had used to self-administer the injection, and was unaware that testosterone was a Prohibited Substance.
12. Following the interview, on 9 January 2026, the AIU informed the Athlete that she was deemed to have irrevocably waived her right to the B Sample analysis (in accordance with Article

5.1.2.1(c) of the ISRM). The Athlete was also invited to submit any additional information for the Adverse Analytical Finding to the AIU by no later than 16 January 2026.

13. On 15 January 2026, the Athlete confirmed that she has been truthful during the interview, expressed regret and apologised.
14. Following a review of the Athlete's explanation, the AIU remained satisfied that she had committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations as set out in the Rules and, accordingly, issued a Notice of Charge on 16 February 2026 in accordance with Rule 8.5.1 ADR and Article 7.1 ISRM.
15. On 5 March 2026, the AIU received an Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance of Consequences Form signed by the Athlete confirming that she admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the Consequences specified in the Notice of Charge issued on 16 February 2026.

Consequences

16. This is the Athlete's first Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
17. 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..."*

18. Testosterone and its Metabolites are Prohibited Substances under the WADA 2023 Prohibited List under the category S1.1. Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. They are Non-Specified Substances prohibited at all times.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.”

22. A Notice of Charge was issued to the Athlete on 16 February 2026. On 5 March 2026, the Athlete confirmed that she admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years.
23. 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.
24. Furthermore, pursuant to Rule 10.7.1(a) ADR, the AIU may suspend a part of the period of Ineligibility where an Athlete has provided Substantial Assistance²:

“10.7.1 Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing violations.

(a) Prior to an appellate decision under Rule 13 or the expiration of the time to appeal, the Integrity Unit may suspend a part of the Consequences imposed in an individual case where the Athlete or other Person has provided Substantial Assistance to an Anti-Doping Organisation [...] which results in: (i) the Anti-Doping Organisation discovering or bringing forward an anti-doping rule violation by another Person;

[...]

The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended shall be based on the seriousness of the anti-doping rule violation committed by the Athlete or other Person and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Athlete or other Person to the effort to

² Substantial Assistance is defined in the ADR as follows:

*“**Substantial Assistance:** For purposes of Rule 10.7.1, a Person providing Substantial Assistance must: (1) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information they possess in relation to anti-doping rule violations or other proceeding described in Rule 10.7.1(a), and (2) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, presenting testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by an Anti-Doping Organisation or hearing panel. Further, the information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding that is initiated or, if no case or proceeding is initiated, must have provided a sufficient basis on which a case or proceeding could have been brought.”*

eliminate doping in sport [...] No more than three-quarters of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended. [...]"

25. The AIU accepts that the Athlete has provided Substantial Assistance in accordance with Rule 10.7.1(a) ADR, full details of which has been provided to WADA and the Ethiopian Anti-Doping Authority as the parties with a right of appeal.
26. Having regard to the seriousness of the Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed by the Athlete and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Athlete to the effort to eliminate doping in sport, the AIU considers that a suspension of twelve (12) months of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility of three (3) years is justified.
27. 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 and by application of Rule 10.8.1 ADR and Rule 10.7.1 ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for a first Anti-Doping Rule Violation:
 - 27.1. a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years, starting on 5 December 2025 (the date of Provisional Suspension) and expiring on 4 December 2028 with twelve (12) months suspended (the Athlete shall therefore be eligible to return to Athletics on 5 December 2027); and
 - 27.2. disqualification of the Athlete's results from 15 October 2023 until 5 December 2025, with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any medals, titles, awards, points, prizes, prize money and appearance money.
28. The Athlete has accepted the above Consequences for her Anti-Doping Rule Violations and has expressly waived her right to have those Consequences determined by the Disciplinary Tribunal at a hearing.

Publication

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

Rights of Appeal

30. This decision constitutes the final decision of the AIU pursuant to Rule 8.5.6 ADR.
31. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, WADA and the Ethiopian Anti-Doping Authority ("**ETH-ADA**") 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.
32. If an appeal is filed against this decision by WADA or ETH-ADA, the Athlete will be entitled to exercise her right of cross-appeal in accordance with Rule 13.2.4 ADR.

Monaco, 29 April 2026