Athletics Integrity Unit

1st Floor
6 Quai Antoine 1er
MC 98007, Monaco

# Decision of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the Case of

# Mr Mathew SAMPERU

## 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. Mathew Samperu ("the **Athlete**") is a 32-year-old road runner from Kenya[1].

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/kenya/mathew-samperu-14902721

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

5. On 23 November 2025, the Athlete provided a urine Sample In-Competition at the Pertamina ECO Runfest held in Jakarta, Indonesia ("the **Event**"), pursuant to Testing conducted under the Testing Authority of World Athletics-AIU which was given code 1507326 (the "**Sample**").

6. On 19 January 2026, the World Anti-Doping Agency ("**WADA**") accredited laboratory in Bangkok, Thailand ("the **Laboratory**"), reported the Adverse Analytical Finding in the Sample based on the presence of Testosterone and its Metabolites, Androsterone, Etiocholanolone, 5αAdiol and 5βAdiol consistent with exogenous origin (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 for the Testosterone and its Metabolites found in the Sample;

   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. On 23 January 2026, 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 of the imposition of an immediate Provisional Suspension.

9. The Athlete was also informed of his rights, *inter alia*, to request the analysis of the B Sample, to request copies of the laboratory documentation supporting, and to give a written explanation for, the Adverse Analytical Finding, 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 30 January 2026.

10. On 25 January 2026, the Athlete wrote to the AIU stating that he had used Methylprednisolone on 18 November 2025 in a therapeutic context after attending a clinic due to severe pain and swelling in his hip joint. The Athlete explained that Methylprednisolone had been prescribed to him by a doctor[2], that he was unaware it contained a Prohibited Substance, and that he had not taken any substance to enhance his performance in the Event.[3] The Athlete also requested analysis of the B Sample in the presence of his representative.

---

[2] In support of this explanation, the Athlete provided a medical receipt dated 18 November 2025 issued by a medical clinic, which indicated that the medication prescribed on 18 November 2025 consisted of a single intramuscular injection of Methylprednisolone administered by the doctor.

[3] The Athlete's admitted Use of Methylprednisolone does not explain the Adverse Analytical Finding. The AIU notes that Methylprednisolone is a Prohibited Substance prohibited In Competition according to the 2025 WADA Prohibited List. On this basis, the Athlete's admitted administration of Methylprednisolone on 18 November 2025 (Out of Competition) does not constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

1st Floor
6 Quai Antoine 1er
MC 98007, Monaco

11. Following the Athlete's request for the B Sample analysis, the AIU asked the Athlete to provide proof of payment for the costs of the analysis and on 13 February 2026, the Athlete requested further time to be able to make the necessary payment.

12. On 14 February 2026, the AIU received an Admission of Anti-Doping Rule Violations and Acceptance Consequences Form signed by the Athlete confirming that he admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the Consequences specified in the Notice of Allegation issued on 23 January 2026.[4]

## Consequences

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

14. 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..."*

15. Testosterone and its Metabolites are Prohibited Substances under the WADA 2025 Prohibited List under the category S1.1. Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. They are Non-Specified Substances prohibited at all times.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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*

[4] The AIU noted that the Athlete had also not paid for the B Sample analysis and considering the Athlete's formal admission, considered the Athlete to have withdrawn his request for the B Sample analysis.

*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."*

19. A Notice of Allegation was issued to the Athlete on 23 January 2026. On 14 February 2026, the Athlete confirmed that he admitted the Anti-Doping Rule Violations and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years[5].

20. 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.

21. 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 the application of Rule 10.8.1 ADR, the AIU confirms by this decision the following Consequences for a first Anti-Doping Rule Violation:

    21.1. a period of Ineligibility of three (3) years, starting on 23 January 2026 (the date of Provisional Suspension) and expiring on 22 January 2029; and

    21.2. disqualification of the Athlete's results on and since 23 November 2025, with all resulting Consequences, including the forfeiture of any medals, titles, awards, points, prizes, prize money and appearance money.

22. The Athlete has accepted the above Consequences for his Anti-Doping Rule Violations and has expressly waived his right to have those Consequences determined by the Disciplinary Tribunal at a hearing.

## Publication

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

## Rights of Appeal

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

[5] The Notice of Allegation of Anti-Doping Rule Violations was issued to the Athlete by the AIU in accordance with Article 5.1.2 of the ISRM, prior to a Notice of Charge issued in accordance with Article 7 of the ISRM. Considering the Athlete's admission and acceptance of Consequences on 14 February 2026, no Notice of Charge was ever issued.

1st Floor
6 Quai Antoine 1er
MC 98007, Monaco

25. Further to Rule 13.2.3 ADR, 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.

26. 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, 20 February 2026