

AIU Bans Suriname's Asinga For Four Years

27 MAY 2024, MONACO: Issamade Asinga – who contended his positive drug test was due to eating “recovery gummies” – will be stripped of his titles as South America’s double sprint champion and World Under-20 100-metre record-holder after being found guilty of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) and banned by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for four years.

The 19-year-old Surinamese was found to have breached the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules (ADR 2.1) relating to the “Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete’s Sample”. Asinga was provisionally suspended by the AIU last August after testing positive for metabolites of GW1516 in an out-of-competition test on 18 July.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has listed GW1516 as a Prohibited Substance under the category S4 – Hormone and Metabolic Modulators – and it is a non-specified substance which is prohibited at all times. GW1516 modifies how the body metabolises fat. It was originally synthesised and evaluated for the treatment of obesity, diabetes and other disorders caused by metabolic problems but is now not approved for human use. WADA has advised of its health risks for athletes.

Asinga, a US resident, argued the positive test resulted from a contaminated product, Gatorade Recovery Gummies for Athletes, which he was given at a ceremony in the USA on 10 July 2023 after winning the Gatorade National Boys Track and Field Player-of-the-Year. However, the Disciplinary Tribunal said Asinga “did not succeed in establishing, by a balance of probability, that the Gatorade Recovery Gummies were the source of the GW1516 metabolites detected in his Sample of 18 July 2023”.

Consequently, Asinga will have all competitive results since 18 July 2023 disqualified, while also surrendering all titles and prizes. This includes his double-sprint victories at last year’s South American Outdoor Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil. On 28 July 2023, he ran a record-breaking 9.89 seconds in the 100-metres final. Except for his ADRV, this performance would have eclipsed Botswana’s Letsile Tebogo’s mark of 9.91 seconds set at the World Under-20 Championships in Cali in 2022 and would have broken the 35-year-old South American 100-metres mark of 10 seconds set by Robson da Silva. Two days later, Asinga also won the 200-metres crown.

“This decision upholds an important principle in cases where contamination is argued. The requirement for the athlete to show how the Prohibited Substance got into their system must be enforced strictly. This proof must not be based on speculation, but on specific, persuasive and objective evidence. All explanations based on contamination must be thoroughly scrutinised and not just blindly accepted. This strict requirement is essential to protect clean athletes and ensure a level playing field,” stressed AIU Chair David Howman.

In support of his argument that the positive test resulted from a contaminated product, Asinga claimed he took the Gatorade Recovery Gummies the week before the positive test and that

subsequent testing of two unsealed containers of Gatorade Recovery Gummies, provided by the athlete, revealed the presence of GW1516 and GW1516 sulfoxide. However, the Disciplinary Tribunal found that Asinga did not satisfy his burden of proof to establish that the Gatorade Recovery Gummies were the source of the GW1516 metabolites detected in his Sample.

In making its decision, among other matters, the Disciplinary Tribunal took into account the fact that the Gatorade Recovery Gummies provided in unsealed containers by the athlete for testing contained significantly more GW1516 on the outside than on the inside, which practically excludes any contamination by raw ingredients during the manufacturing process; that the Gatorade Recovery Gummies were batch-tested by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and were credited with the NSF Certified for Sport certificate; and that a sealed jar of Gatorade Recovery Gummies, from the exact same batch taken by Asinga, tested negative by the Lausanne anti-doping laboratory.

The Disciplinary Tribunal's decision may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Asinga Decision: <https://bit.ly/WA-v-Issamade-Asinga-Decision>

ABOUT THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

Link: <HTTPS://WWW.ATHLETICSINTEGRITY.ORG>

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) is the independent body created by the World Athletics that manages all integrity issues – both doping and non-doping – for the sport of athletics. The remit of the AIU includes anti-doping, the pursuit of individuals engaged in age or competition results manipulation, investigating fraudulent behaviour with regards to transfers of allegiance, and detecting other misconduct including bribery and breaches of betting rules. It is the AIU's role to drive cheats out of our sport, and to do everything within its power to support honest athletes around the world who dedicate their lives to reaching their sporting goals through dedication and hard work.



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