CAS: Tampering Depends on 'Intent' Not 'Success'

10 NOVEMBER 2025, MONACO: The AIU is publishing today the Court of Arbitration for Sport's (CAS) decision in which it successfully defended an appeal brought by double World Championships medallist, Mohamed Katir, against his four-year Tampering ban.

Weighing the evidence in the appeal, the CAS panel was comfortably satisfied that Katir had intentionally altered multiple travel documents and submitted them to the AIU with the intent to subvert the results management process for a Whereabouts Failure.

Even though Katir's subversion attempt was unsuccessful - the AIU did not accept his explanation and concluded a Whereabouts Failure anyway – his conduct was still Tampering because the CAS panel found that it was not necessary that the results management process was actually subverted, as long as the conduct was capable of subverting the process, which it had been in this case. The CAS panel rejected Katir's arguments, noting that an athlete's culpability for Tampering is not dependent on the success of the conduct in question; it considered that, were that to be the case, there would be no disincentive for athletes not to "try" to tamper, thereby creating a loophole in the rules for athletes who were prepared to falsify, or attempt to falsify, documents.

On this basis, CAS dismissed Katir's appeal to have his four-year ban for Tampering with the results management process overturned.

The 27-year old Spanish middle-distance runner had altered three separate travel documents in response to an alleged Whereabouts Failure in February 2023 to make it look as if he had travelled abroad the same day the AIU attempted to test him at his home address when in fact he had travelled abroad two days earlier but had failed to update his Whereabouts information as soon as his circumstances changed, in breach of the Whereabouts rules.

The AIU did not accept Katir's explanation and confirmed the February 2023 Whereabouts Failure against him. Katir went on to commit two further Whereabouts Failures within a 12-month period and, in February 2024, he accepted a Whereabouts Failures violation and a two-year ban.

After Katir admitted at interview to having falsified the travel documents submitted as an explanation for his 2023 Whereabouts Failure, the AIU brought a separate Tampering charge against him and sought an extended period of ineligibility of four years. In December 2024, the Disciplinary Tribunal upheld the AIU's charge and imposed a four-year ban on Katir for Tampering with the results management process, a decision that he appealed to CAS.

The central argument in Katir's appeal was that he could not have committed Tampering as defined in the rules because the AIU had not accepted his explanation for the February 2023 Whereabouts Failure and he had not therefore 'subverted' the results management process. He contended that his conduct had been nothing more than a 'simple lie' which was insufficient to subvert the process and therefore insufficient to constitute Tampering.

In upholding the Disciplinary Tribunal's four-year sanction of Katir, the CAS panel treated the Whereabouts Failures violation and the Tampering violation as a single (first) violation with the Tampering violation giving rise to the more serious sanction of the two. Katir's four-year ban for Tampering therefore runs concurrently with the two years for his Whereabouts Failures violation and expires on 6 February 2028.

A cross appeal by the AIU, seeking a one-year increase in the period of Katir's ineligibility to five years based on Aggravating Circumstances was dismissed by the CAS panel, as was the AIU's request for disqualification of his competitive results from 9 March 2023 (the date he submitted the altered documents to the AIU).

ABOUT THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

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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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