

NATALYA ANTYUKH'S OLYMPIC VICTORY OFFICIALLY DISQUALIFIED

21 DECEMBER 2022, MONACO: Natalya Antyukh's victory in the women's 400-metre hurdles at the London 2012 Olympic Games has now been officially disqualified.

Last Friday (16 December), the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) notified the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of this action – taken by World Athletics' Competition Department – following no appeal by the Russian athlete of her ban, on 21 October this year, for the use of a Prohibited Substance/Method; an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (Article 2.2 of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules; ADR).

That sanction by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) stemmed from AIU charges based on historical data, showing evidence of doping in Russian athletics, from the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) at the former Moscow Laboratory. As Antyukh is already serving a maximum four-year sanction for a first violation under ADR (with her results from 30 June 2013 until 31 December 2015 previously disqualified), the main repercussion of this new sanction is that her results from 15 July 2012 until 29 June 2013 have also now been disqualified, including her gold-medal run at the Olympic Games on 8 August 2012.

Antyukh had 45 days to appeal RUSADA's decision but, as that deadline elapsed, the decision became binding and the AIU proceeded with the next steps: to send a sanction memo to World Athletics' Competition Department to disqualify the athlete's results and thereafter to notify the IOC that World Athletics has modified the relevant results and rankings on their website.

"The IOC may now proceed with the reallocation of medals and the update of the IOC database," noted the AIU's correspondence.

Despite the length of time which LIMS cases are taking to be resolved, AIU Head Brett Clothier stressed the importance of ensuring "clean and fair competition and results, even if a decade later".

"The AIU remains committed to investigating all cases of potential violations and securing the appropriate outcomes. The integrity of the sport of athletics is our utmost priority and we are pleased, in this instance, that athletes who competed fairly at the highest level will ultimately be acknowledged as the rightful medal winners."

About the Athletics Integrity Unit

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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