

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

**IOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION**

**REGARDING CRYSTAL COX  
BORN ON 28 MARCH 1979, ATHLETE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ATHLETICS**

1. At the 2004 Athens Olympic Games (the “**Athens Olympic Games**”), the United States of America Olympic Committee (the “**USOC**”) entered a relay team in the women’s 4 x 400m relay event (the “**US Relay Team**”), which placed 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Ms. Crystal Cox (hereafter the “**Athlete**”) competed (only) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heat of the 4 x 400m relay. She did not compete in any other heat or in the Final, in which the US Relay Team went on to place first.
3. In January 2010, the IOC received a document from the United States Anti-Doping Agency (“**USADA**”), entitled “*Acceptance of Sanction*,” which had been signed by the Athlete on 26 January 2010. Pursuant to such document, the Athlete, amongst other things:
  - (i) acknowledged that she used “*performance enhancing drugs, which are banned by the International Association of Athletics Federations (“IAAF”), including anabolic agents and hormones, which (she) received...between 2001 and 2004.*”
  - (ii) accepted a “[F]our-year period of ineligibility...beginning on [26 January 2010]”; and
  - (iii) accepted a “*disqualification of the competitive results obtained on and subsequent to November 3, 2001, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes*”.

A copy of this document is attached hereto as **Annex 1**.

4. By letter dated 26 October 2010, the IOC informed the Athlete, through the USOC, that an IOC Disciplinary Commission was convened to examine the case. In this letter, the IOC formally requested that the Athlete submit a written defence by 30 November 2010.
5. The Athlete did not provide any documentation or information to the IOC.

Consequences for the Athlete

6. The Executive Committee notes that the Athlete accepted “disqualification of the competitive results obtained on and subsequent to November 3, 2001,” which would include results obtained while competing in the Athens Olympic Games. As such, and based upon the Athlete’s *Acceptance of Sanction*, the Executive Board decides that the Athlete is disqualified from the women’s 4 x 400m relay at the Athens Olympic Games.

Consequences of the Athlete’s disqualification for the US Relay Team

7. Article 10.1 of the “*IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable to the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004*” states the following:

*“...In sports which are not Team Sports but where awards are given to teams disqualification or other disciplinary action against the team when one or more team members have committed an anti-doping rule violation shall be as provided in the applicable rules of the relevant International Federation.”*
8. The Executive Board notes that, prior to 1 March 2004, the IAAF’s competition rules (hereafter the “**Old Rules**”) contained no provisions allowing for the disqualification of an entire relay team if one member of such team was disqualified.

9. The IAAF Competition Rules 2004-2005, which came into effect on 1 March 2004 (hereafter the “**New Rules**”), contained new provisions regarding the disqualification of teams. These New Rules provided for the possible disqualification of an entire team if one member of such team was disqualified.
10. The Athlete’s *Acceptance of Sanction* indicates that she used banned performance enhancing drugs “between 2001 and 2004.” It is not clear whether the Athlete used such banned substances on or after 1 March 2004, the date upon which the New Rules came into effect.
11. There is no evidence that the Athlete had committed an anti-doping rule violation during the period of the Athens Olympic Games. Therefore, the IOC is not in a position to take a decision with respect to the US Relay Team.
12. However, USADA informed the IOC that there was some evidence, although not conclusive, to the effect that the Athlete may have committed an anti-doping rule violation outside the period of the Athens Olympic Games, namely, in May 2004. Therefore, it is within the remit of the IAAF to determine whether the Athlete did in fact commit an anti-doping rule violation in May 2004 (-i.e. after the New Rules came into effect). Should the IAAF determine that the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004, it is up to the IAAF to interpret its rules as to whether the disqualification of the Athlete would have any effect on the results of the US Relay Team.
13. In view of the above, the IOC Executive Board requests the IAAF to follow-up accordingly, in a timely manner:
  - (i) to determine whether the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004, and
  - (ii) if so, to interpret its own rules as to whether the Athlete’s disqualification has any effect on the results obtained by the US Relay Team at the Athens Olympic Games, of which the Athlete was a member.
14. In the event that,
  - (i) the IAAF does not determine that the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004; or
  - (ii) the IAAF does determine that the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004, but that the IAAF’s interpretation of its New Rules do not lead to the disqualification of the US Relay Team,

then the result of the US Relay Team shall stand.

CONSIDERING the above, and pursuant to the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the relevant anti-doping rules:

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
DECIDES**

- I. The Athlete, Crystal Cox, United States of America, Athletics, is disqualified from the women’s 4 x 400m relay event, where the team had placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.
- II. The IAAF is requested to follow-up accordingly, in a timely manner,
  - (i) to determine whether the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004, and

- (ii) if so, to interpret the IAAF Competition Rules 2004-2005, which came into effect on 1 March 2004, as to whether the Athlete's disqualification has any effect on the results obtained by the US women's 4 x 400m relay team at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, of which the Athlete was a member.

III. In the event that,

- (i) the IAAF does not determine that the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004; or
- (ii) the IAAF does determine that the Athlete committed an anti-doping rule violation on or after 1 March 2004, but that the IAAF's interpretation of its New Rules do not lead to the disqualification of the US Relay Team,

then the result of the US Relay Team shall stand.

IV. The USOC is ordered to return to the IOC, as soon as possible, the Medal and Diploma awarded to the Athlete in relation to the above-mentioned event.

London, 21 July 2012

On behalf of the IOC Executive Board

Dr Jacques ROGGE  
IOC President

Christophe DE KEPPEL  
IOC Director General