

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

**IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD
DECISION**

**REGARDING LIUDMYLA BLONSKA
BORN ON 9 NOVEMBER 1977, ATHLETE, UKRAINE, ATHLETICS**

UPON CONSIDERING the attached recommendation of the IOC Disciplinary Commission dated 22 August 2008, pursuant to the Olympic Charter and, in particular, Rule 23.2.1 thereof, and pursuant to the *IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008* (the "Rules") and, in particular, Articles 2.1 and 8 thereof:

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

- I. The athlete Liudmyla Blonska, Ukraine, Athletics:
 - (i) is disqualified from the Women's Heptathlon event, where she had placed second;
 - (ii) is excluded from the *Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008*;
 - (iii) shall have her medal and diploma in the above-noted event withdrawn;
 - (iv) shall have her Olympic identity and accreditation card immediately withdrawn and cancelled.
- II. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is requested to modify the results of the above-mentioned events accordingly and to consider any further action within its own competence.
- III. The NOC of Ukraine is ordered to return to the IOC, as soon as possible, the medal and diploma awarded to the Athlete in relation to the above-noted event.
- IV. The NOC of Ukraine and BOCOG shall ensure full implementation of this decision.
- V. The NOC of Ukraine is requested to inform promptly the IOC and the IAAF of the outcome of the meeting scheduled on 29 August 2008 by the Ukraine Athletic Federation regarding Sergii Blonskyi's case.
- VI. The IOC reserves its rights to take sanctions or measures in relation to the Athlete's coach, Sergii Blonskyi.
- VII. This decision shall enter into force immediately.

Beijing, 22 August 2008

On behalf of the IOC Executive Board

Dr Jacques ROGGE
IOC President

Urs LACOTTE
Director General

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
IOC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATIONS

**REGARDING LIUDMYLA BLONSKA
BORN ON 9 NOVEMBER 1977, ATHLETE, UKRAINE, ATHLETICS**

(Rule 23.2.1 of the Olympic Charter)

1. On 16 August 2008, Ms Liudmyla Blonska (hereinafter the "Athlete") competed in the Women's Heptathlon Final in Beijing, in which she placed 2nd.
2. The Athlete was requested, in the night from the 16 August 2008 to 17 August 2008 in Beijing, immediately following the completion of her participation in the Women's Heptathlon Final, to provide a urine sample and a blood sample for a doping control.
3. Pursuant to Article 7.2.1 of the *IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008* (the "*Rules*"), Patrick Schamasch, as representative of the Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, was informed at about 19:45 hours on 19 August 2008, by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Beijing, of an adverse analytical finding on the A sample of the above-noted urine.
4. Pursuant to Article 7.2.2 of the *Rules*, Patrick Schamasch determined that the above-noted A sample belonged to the Athlete, and verified that it did in fact give rise to an adverse analytical finding. He also determined that there was no apparent departure from the International Standards for Testing or the International Standards for Laboratories that undermined the validity of the adverse analytical finding.
5. Pursuant to Article 7.2.3 of the *Rules*, Patrick Schamasch immediately informed the IOC President, Dr Jacques Rogge, of the existence of the adverse analytical finding and the essential details available to him concerning the case.
6. Pursuant to Article 7.2.4 of the *Rules*, the IOC President, by letter dated 20 August 2008, immediately set up a Disciplinary Commission, consisting of:
 - Thomas Bach (Chairman)
 - Gunilla Lindberg
 - Denis Oswald

Pursuant to Article 7.1.4 of the *Rules*, the IOC President decided that the final decision in this case would be pronounced by the IOC Executive Board.

As per Article 7.1.7 of the *Rules*, the Disciplinary Commission is to provide to the IOC Executive Board a report on the procedure conducted under its authority, including a proposal to the IOC Executive Board as to the measures and/or sanctions to be decided upon by the IOC Executive Board.

The IOC President also decided that in this case the procedure may be extended beyond the 24 hour time limit as per Article 7.2.13 of the *Rules*.

7. Pursuant to Article 7.2.5 of the *Rules*, by letter dated 20 August 2008 notified to the Athlete, to the Chef de Mission of the NOC of Ukraine, Nina Umanets, to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and to the Head of the Independent Observers' Programme, the IOC President advised of, among other things, the above-

mentioned adverse analytical finding and of the time, date and place of the hearing of the Disciplinary Commission regarding this case.

The analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the A sample, prepared by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Beijing and attached to the above-mentioned letter dated 20 August 2008, indicated the presence of the prohibited substance Methyltestosterone.

8. The Athlete requested the analysis of the B sample and attended the B sample opening and analysis on Wednesday 20 August 2008 at about 17:00.
9. On 21 August 2008, at around 11:00, the analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the B sample, prepared by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Beijing, was communicated to the IOC. Such report indicated the presence of Methyltestosterone in the B sample, thus confirming the adverse analytical finding of the A sample.
10. The Disciplinary Commission held a hearing on 21 August 2008 at around 12:30 hours, at the Beijing Hotel, IOC Executive Board Meeting Room, 18th Floor, 33 East Chang An Avenue in Beijing, in the presence of a delegation of the NOC of Ukraine (hereinafter the "Delegation") comprised of:

Liudmyla Blonska, Athlete
Volodymyr Gerashchenko, NOC Secretary General
Nina Umanets, Chef de Mission
Valerii Aleksandrov, Team Leader
Yaroslav Kruchek, Official
11. The International Association of Athletics Federation was represented at the hearing by Gabriel Dolle, Director of the Medical and Anti-Doping Department of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and Huw Roberts, Legal Counsel to the IAAF.
12. Also attending the hearing were:

Patrick Schamasch, IOC Medical Director
Howard Stupp, IOC Director of Legal Affairs
Christian Thill, IOC Doping Control Administrative Coordinator

François Carrard, IOC Counsel

Travis Tygart, representative of the Independent Observers' Programme.
13. The Delegation had been informed of the results of the laboratory analysis of the A sample, which, according to the analysis report prepared by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory, indicated the presence of the prohibited substance Methyltestosterone. At the beginning of the hearing, the Delegation was informed that this finding was confirmed by the results of the laboratory analysis of the B sample and was handed out a copy of the analysis report of the B sample.
14. The Delegation did not have any objection as to the conduct of the disciplinary procedure with respect to the alleged anti-doping rule violation, in accordance with Article 7 of the *Rules*.
15. The Athlete explained that the result of the test came as a shock to her. The Athlete apologised to the Disciplinary Commission, the International Olympic Committee and to her fellow athletes for this situation. She also explained that she did not understand how the substance ended up in her body. She explained that her husband, Mr Sergii Blonskyi,

had also been her coach for the last five years. She expressed that she trusted him to take care of her training and diet. She indicated that they had expressly agreed that she would not take any prohibited substances. However, her relationship with her husband was currently conflictual.

Upon questioning from the Disciplinary Commission, the Athlete explained that the positive test result in 2003, which led to a two year suspension, had also come to her as a shock and that she had never found any explanation for the prohibited substance being found in her body at the time.

16. Valerii Aleksandrov informed the Disciplinary Commission that the NOC of Ukraine never had issues in relation to the test results regarding the Athlete.
17. Nina Umanets further indicated that this was an extraordinary case, in that the husband was at the same time the coach of the Athlete. She also added that a lot of efforts had been made in Ukraine to fight against doping, in particular by translating the relevant rules and regulations, holding seminars and workshops and providing information to doctors and athletes.
18. Volodymyr Gerashchenko expressed his regrets and apologised to the IOC and the Olympic Movement for this incident and indicated that the NOC of Ukraine fully supported the fight against doping and was committed to contribute to a clean sport.
19. The Athlete apologised for what happened and declared she felt ashamed, although she indicated she had no knowledge of having taken a prohibited substance. She hoped this would never happen again.
20. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission informed the Athlete that, based on Article 7.2.7 of the *Rules*, she was being provisionally suspended from all competitions with immediate effect and that her Olympic identity and accreditation card was being provisionally cancelled, until the final decision was pronounced by the IOC Executive Board.
21. After hearing the Delegation and the arguments it put forward, the Disciplinary Commission retired in order to deliberate.
22. The Disciplinary Commission unanimously concluded that the Athlete had committed an anti-doping rule violation pursuant to Article 2.1 of the *Rules* in that there was the presence of the prohibited substance Methyltestosterone in her body.

The Disciplinary Commission notes that the circumstances of the case and the behaviour of the coach of the Athlete will need to be followed up by the relevant sporting authorities and that the IOC should reserve its rights with respect to Sergii Blonskyi.

23. Subsequent to the hearing, the Disciplinary Commission was informed by representatives of the NOC of Ukraine that Mr Sergii Blonskyi had been asked by the NOC of Ukraine to return back to Ukraine and that the Ukraine National Athletic Federation would hold a special meeting regarding Sergii Blonskyi on 29 August 2008. The Disciplinary Commission asked that the NOC of Ukraine report back to the IOC on the results of such meeting.

The Disciplinary Commission finally indicated that the case of Mr Sergii Blonskyi might be examined in case he applied for an accreditation for future editions of the Olympic Games.

CONSIDERING the above, pursuant to the Olympic Charter and, in particular, Rule 23.2.1 thereof, and pursuant to the *IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008* and, in particular, Articles 2.1 and 8 thereof

THE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- I. The athlete Liudmyla Blonska, Ukraine, Athletics:
 - (i) be disqualified from the Women's Heptathlon event, where she had placed second;
 - (ii) be excluded from the *Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008*;
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- V. The NOC of Ukraine be requested to inform promptly the IOC and the IAAF of the outcome of the meeting scheduled on 29 August 2008 by the Ukraine Athletic Federation regarding Mr Sergii Blonskyi's case.
- VI. The IOC to reserve its right to take sanctions or measures in relation to the Athlete's coach, Sergii Blonskyi.

Beijing, 22 August 2008

The IOC Disciplinary Commission

Thomas BACH
Chairman

Denis OSWALD

Gunilla Lindberg