

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

IOC DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

REGARDING MR CHRISTIAN HOFFMANN BORN ON 22 DECEMBER 1974, ATHLETE, AUSTRIA, CROSS COUNTRY

1. The Italian police searched the accommodation of the Austrian cross-country and biathlon teams at the XX Olympic Winter Games in Torino in 2006 (the "Torino Olympic Games") on the night of 18 February 2006 and discovered a vast array of medical equipment.
2. The Torino Prosecutor's Office analysed the seized materials and determined that a significant number of the materials represented prohibited methods. The prohibited substances albumin and hCG were also identified.
3. The IOC informed Mr HOFFMAN by letter dated 1 March 2007 that the IOC was establishing a Disciplinary Commission, comprising Dr Thomas BACH (Chairman), Mr Denis OSWALD (member) and Mr Sergey BUBKA (member), to investigate the appropriateness of sanctions in connection with the seizure of evidence from his accommodation which appeared to demonstrate the possession, administration and use of prohibited substances and prohibited methods, or complicity in violations of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules.
4. Mr HOFFMAN was informed that the Disciplinary Commission would conduct a hearing on 4-5 April 2007 at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland
5. Based on Mr HOFFMAN's application for accreditation as a member of the Austrian cross-country team at the Torino Olympic Games, the IOC was concerned that he may have been one of the athletes responsible for the seized materials and thereby informed him of the following charges:
 - a. possession of Prohibited Methods pursuant to Article 2.6.3-M1 and 2.6.3-M2 of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable to the Torino Olympic Games; and
 - b. administration or attempted administration of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method to any athlete, or assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, covering up or any other type of complicity involving an anti-doping rule violation or any attempted violation, pursuant to Article 2.8 of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules.
6. Mr HOFFMAN responded by letter dated 14 March 2007 to the effect that he had not participated in the Torino Olympic Games and that he was not even in Torino during the period of the Olympic Games.
7. The Disciplinary Commission convened on 4-5 April 2007. In addition to the members of the Commission, the following were also present:
 - Francois CARRARD, Senior Legal Advisor (in part)

- Mark MANGAN, Legal Advisor
 - Howard STUPP, IOC Legal Director
 - Christian THILL, IOC Legal Department
 - Patrick SCHAMASCH, IOC Medical Director
8. The Disciplinary Commission determined that while Mr HOFFMAN applied for accreditation for the Games, his accreditation was not activated by the athlete in person at Torino.
 9. Cross-country athlete Markus HASLER of Liechtenstein appeared before the Disciplinary Commission on 5 April 2007. Mr HASLER, who had been assigned to the Austrian cross-country ski team for the purposes of meals, accommodation and training, confirmed that Mr HOFFMAN was not in attendance at the Torino Olympic Games.
 10. In these circumstances, the Disciplinary Commission considers it appropriate that Mr HOFFMAN's case be transferred to the Fédération Internationale de Ski to consider whether Mr HOFFMAN's absence from the Torino Olympic Games constituted a violation of his obligation to provide accurate whereabouts information.

CONSIDERING the above, pursuant to the Olympic Charter:

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

- I. That the charges against Mr HOFFMANN be dismissed; and
- II. The case be transferred to the Fédération Internationale de Ski with a recommendation that it consider whether Mr HOFFMAN's absence from the Torino Olympic Games constituted a violation of his obligation to provide accurate whereabouts information.

Beijing, 24 April 2007.

The IOC Disciplinary Commission

Thomas BACH
Chairman

Denis OSWALD

Sergey BUBKA