



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

DECISION

**REGARDING ANTONY FOWLER,
ATHLETE, GREAT BRITAIN, BOXING**

I. Facts

1. Antony Fowler (hereafter “the Athlete”), born on 10 March 1991, competed at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 as part of the team of Great Britain, in the sport of boxing (AIBA), in the men’s middleweight (75kg) event. He participated in one fight on 8 August 2016, and lost.
2. On 17 August at approx. 10:15 Rio time, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer was informed that the Athlete had placed seven bets between 9 August and 16 August 2016 on the Olympic Games boxing competitions.
3. The IOC Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) identified that the Athlete had bet on boxing matches; the bets were not on his own bouts, but on at least one occasion the Athlete had bet on an event in which a team member of Great Britain took part. The bets placed were between GBP 30 and 300 and three of these bets were won (not the one on Team GB).
4. Antony Fowler’s account was automatically suspended by the betting company following the alert.
5. As the likelihood of a breach was established, pursuant to Article 6 of the *Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions*, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer informed the IOC President about the situation. The IOC President immediately set up a Disciplinary Commission on 19 August 2016, consisting of:
 - Denis Oswald (Chair)
 - Angela Ruggiero
 - Karl StossThe IOC President also informed the Disciplinary Commission that, pursuant to Rule 59.2.4 of the Olympic Charter, as well as Article 8.1 of the above-mentioned Rules, the decision by the Disciplinary Commission in this case would constitute the decision of the IOC.
6. By letter dated 19 August 2016, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer invited the Athlete, the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the International Boxing Federation (hereafter “AIBA”) to attend a hearing on 20 August 2016 at 11:00 hours at the Marapendi Hotel in Rio de Janeiro.



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7. The Disciplinary Commission held the hearing on the said date and time, in the presence of the Athlete, Antony Fowler; the British Olympic Association (BOA) was represented by Shahab Uddin, BOA Legal Director, and Mahdi Choudhury, BOA Sport Engagement Manager.
8. AIBA was represented by Clíodhna Guy, AIBA Legal Director, and William Louis Marie, AIBA Communications Director.
9. The IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, also attended the hearing.
10. The Athlete and the British Olympic Association confirmed that they had no objection as to the disciplinary procedure.
11. Responding to the questions posed by the DC, the athlete confirmed to:
 - having bet on the Olympic Games competitions and in particular on the boxing competitions;
 - having signed the IOC eligibility condition form and the British Olympic Association's team contract, both clearly mentioning the prohibition of betting on the Olympic Games competitions.
12. The Athlete, the British Olympic Association and AIBA orally submitted their observations:
 - a) The Athlete stated that:
 - he had signed the various documents without reading them correctly; he was just aware of the prohibition of betting on his own competition, but not on his sport and not on all of the Olympic Games competitions;
 - he had believed that he could not bet on himself or people he knew;
 - he engaged in betting to pass the time; he had been bored in the Olympic Village and had tried to make a bit of money;
 - he bet just for fun; it was a bit of a habit; his betting made the events more exciting to watch;
 - he understood he had made a mistake and regretted it, and;
 - finally, he would be ready to help to educate his fellow athletes using his own experience.
 - b) The representatives of the British Olympic Association explained that:
 - in general, the athletes received the BOA team contract through their team leader, who conducted educational programmes with their respective teams; betting rules featured in the document;
 - the boxing athletes would have attended a session organised by BOA personnel on the contract. Most athletes would have attended, but Mr Uddin did not know if Mr Fowler had;
 - the athletes would receive an email containing the team agreement with a summary and an acceptance form to sign; the BOA had received a signed agreement from this athlete; and
 - an educational session on the Rio environment had been organised, in which the issue of betting had been addressed, even if the finer details had not been presented.



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- c) The representatives of AIBA recognised that the International Federation did not yet have any formal education programmes in place to raise awareness among athletes and officials, but said that this was planned for the near future.

II. Applicable Rules

13. The *Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions* provide that, for the purpose of the implementation of Articles 7, 9 and 10 of the IOC Code of Ethics, the following conduct constitutes a violation of the Code of Ethics and of these Rules:

Article 4.1.1 *Betting in relation to any Olympic Competitions, whether the Participant is directly participating or not.*

Article 4.2 *An intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a Competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of this Competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself or for others.*

Article 4.4.1 *Using Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of the Competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Participant or via another person and/or entity.*

For the purpose of Articles 7, 9 and 10 of the IOC Code of Ethics and the present Rules,

Article 2.5 sets out that “*Sports Betting, Bet or Betting*” means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to an Olympic Competition.

Article 2.3 sets out that “*Inside Information*” means any information relating to any participant to the Olympic Games or Olympic Competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to the Olympic Games, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant competition.

III. Discussion

14. The DC observes that the Athlete bet on the Olympic Games competitions and thus breached Article 4.1.1 of the above-mentioned Rules; it also notes that, while being a member of a boxing team participating in the Olympic boxing events, he used Inside Information regarding the Olympic boxing competition to bet on such competitions and in particular on his teammates’ competitions; and therefore breached Article 4.4.1 of the above-mentioned Rules.



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15. The DC takes notes that no manipulation of competition has been alleged and that no evidence of such manipulation has been identified; therefore the DC considers that there is no breach of Article 4.2 of the above-mentioned Rules.
16. The DC takes note that the Athlete had had ample opportunity to understand that betting was prohibited on all Olympic Games competitions.
17. The DC takes note of the willingness of the Athlete to follow the IOC's educational programmes.
18. To determine the sanction, the DC considers that the Athlete bet openly, without intending to manipulate his competition and that his participation in the Olympic Games is now over; it also takes into consideration the apologies of the Athlete.

CONSIDERING the above, pursuant to the *Rules for the Application during the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions* and Rule 59.2 of the *Olympic Charter*

THE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

DECIDES

- I. the Athlete, Antony Fowler:
 - is found to have violated the Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions;
 - is sanctioned with a severe reprimand;
 - is required to demonstrate, in order to have his accreditation validated for the next edition of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, in the event that he is eligible for that competition, that he has successfully followed the educational programme of the IOC;
 - is required to support, through active participation, the education programmes organised by either the British Olympic Association, AIBA or the IOC.

- II. The British Olympic Association:
 - is sanctioned with a reprimand for not having properly informed its athletes about the content of the different rules applicable to them on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Rio, as well as about the content of the contract signed with them;
 - is requested to make sure that the team preparation for the Olympic Games (winter and summer) includes complete education on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions and betting on the Olympic Games, using the material provided to the NOCs by the IOC.



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III. AIBA:

- is recommended to make sure that its rules and regulations for its own competitions are compliant with the *Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions* and to put in place education programmes on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions and betting on the Olympic Games, using the material provided to the IFs by the IOC.

Rio de Janeiro, 20 August 2016

Signed by the Chair, on behalf of the Disciplinary Commission Members

Denis Oswald