

## **WORLD RUGBY**

### **IN THE MATTER OF AN ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION BY VERONICA HARRIGAN (CANADA) (THE "PLAYER") CONTRARY TO REGULATION 21 OF THE WORLD RUGBY ANTI-DOPING RULES (THE "RULES")**

#### ***Reasoned Decision***

- [1] The Player underwent an In Competition Doping Control test on 12 June 2022 conducted under the Testing Authority of World Rugby.
- [2] The Player's urine sample was sent to the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sydney, Australia for analysis which returned an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) for Canrenone.
- [3] Canrenone is a metabolite of spironolactone and classified as a Specified Substance under S5. Diuretics and Masking Agents of the WADA 2022 Prohibited List.
- [4] The Player did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) approving the use of the Prohibited Substances to treat a legitimate medical condition.
- [5] The Player was notified by World Rugby, the Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management Authority, of the AAF and Provisionally Suspended as of 5 August 2022.
- [6] On 26 August 2022 the Player offered an explanation where she admitted committing an anti-doping rule violation having used spironolactone under the guidance of her family physician without a valid TUE. She had no intention to enhance her sport performance, had no desire to have her B Sample analysed, nor seek a full judicial hearing.
- [7] Despite being an International level player and receiving numerous cues, she failed to apply for a TUE while using a prohibited substance and was not eligible to apply for a retroactive TUE.
- [8] Having carefully considered the explanation, World Rugby does not consider the violations to be intentional, however the Player does bear some fault.
- [9] In accordance with Regulation 21.10.6.1.1  
*"Where the anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) or Specified Method, and the Player or other Person can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two (2) years of Ineligibility, depending on the Player's or other Person's degree of Fault."*
- [10] In assessing degree of Fault, World Rugby has taken into account the Player's explanation, the substance and the seriousness of the violation and consider a sanction of two months Ineligibility to be appropriate.
- [11] The Player was given formal notice that she was being charged with Anti-Doping Rule Violations, namely Presence (21.2.1) and Use (21.2.2) of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers, and given an opportunity to admit those violations and accept the sanction being proposed by signing an Acceptance of Consequences form.
- [12] The Player signed and returned the Acceptance of Consequences form on 4 October 2022.

- [13] Consequently, the Player is sanctioned for a period of Ineligibility of two months. In accordance with Regulation 21.10.13.2.1 of the Rules, the period of Ineligibility runs from the date of the Player's Provisional Suspension on 05 August 2022 , ending at midnight on 04 October 2022.
- [14] This decision is final as the Player has waived her right to contest, challenge, or dispute the ADRVs and/or the applicable consequences.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ho', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Ho

Senior Manager Anti-Doping Operations, World Rugby

12 October 2022