



DECISION of the FEI TRIBUNAL

dated 22 November 2012

Positive Controlled Medication Case No.: 2012/CM04

Horse: AZAM

FEI Passport No: 103CH29

Person Responsible: Abdulrahman Alqurashy/KSA/10059994

Event: CEI1*- 100km – Riyadh (KSA)/2012-CI_0292_E_S_01

Date: 2 February 2012

Controlled Medication Substances: Dexamethasone, Flunixin

I. COMPOSITION OF PANEL

Ms Randi Haukebø (one member panel)

II. SUMMARY OF THE FACTS

1. Memorandum of case: By Legal Department.

- 2. Summary information provided by Person Responsible (PR):**
The FEI Tribunal duly took into consideration all evidence, submissions and documents presented in the case file, as also made available by and to the PR.

3. Oral hearing: none; by correspondence.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE FROM THE LEGAL VIEWPOINT

1. Articles of the Statutes/ Regulations which are applicable or have been infringed:

Statutes 23rd edition, effective 15 November 2011 ("Statutes"), Arts. 1.4, 36, 37 and 39.

General Regulations, 23rd edition, 1 January 2009, updates effective 1 January 2012, Arts. 118, 143.1 and 169 ("GRs").

Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal, 2nd edition, 1 January 2012

("IRs").

FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations ("EADCMRs"), 1st edition, effective 5 April 2010, updates effective 1 January 2012.

FEI Equine Controlled Medication Rules ("ECM Rules"), 1st edition, effective 5 April 2010, updates effective 1 January 2012.

Veterinary Regulations ("VRs"), 12th edition, effective 5 April 2010, updates effective 1 January 2012, Art. 1013 and seq. and Annex II (the "Equine Prohibited List").

FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

2. Person Responsible: Abdulrahman Alqurashy

3. Justification for sanction:

GRs Art. 143.1: "Medication Control and Anti-Doping provisions are stated in the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes (ADRHA), in conjunction with The World Anti-Doping Code, and in the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCM Regulations)".

ECM Rules Art. 2.1.1: "It is each *Person Responsible's* personal duty to ensure that no *Controlled Medication Substance* is present in the *Horse's* body during an *Event*. *Persons Responsible* are responsible for any *Controlled Medication Substance* found to be present in their *Horse's Samples*, even though their *Support Personnel* will be considered additionally responsible under Articles 2.2 – 2.5 *ECM Rules* where the circumstances so warrant. It is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing *Use* be demonstrated in order to establish a *Rule* violation under Article 2.1."

IV. DECISION

1. Factual Background

- 1.1 The horse AZAM (the "Horse") participated at the CEI1*-100km in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 2 February 2012 (the "Event"), in the discipline of Endurance. The Horse was ridden by Mr. Abdulrahman Alqurashy, who is the Person Responsible in accordance with Article 118 of the GRs (the "PR").
- 1.2 The Horse was selected for sampling on 2 February 2012.
- 1.3 Analysis of blood sample no. FEI-5511968 taken from the Horse at the Event was performed at the FEI approved laboratory, the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC"), in Hong Kong, by Mrs Nola Hua Yu, Chemist, under the supervision of Dr. Terence See Ming Wan, Head of Racing Laboratory. The analysis of the sample

revealed the presence of Dexamethasone and Flunixin (Test Report 12-0214 dated 16 February 2012).

- 1.4 The Prohibited Substances detected are Dexamethasone and Flunixin. Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid that is used to treat inflammation and immune related conditions. Flunixin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) with anti-inflammatory and pain relief effect. The two substances are classified as Controlled Medication Substances under the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List.
- 1.5 No request had been made to administer Dexamethasone and Flunixin to the Horse, and no Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption ("ETUE") had been provided by the PR for the use of the substances on the Horse. Therefore, the positive findings for Dexamethasone and Flunixin in the Horse's sample at the Event give rise to a Controlled Medication Rule violation under the EADCMRs.
- 1.6 Under the ECM Rules, in cases of Controlled Medication Substances, a PR may elect the so-called "Administrative Procedure" (also referred to as "Fast-Track"), provided that the prerequisites of Article 8.3.1 of the ECM Rules are fulfilled. However, the case at hand is not eligible for the Administrative Procedure insofar as more than one Controlled Medication Substance had been detected in the Horse's sample.

2. The Proceedings

- 2.1 The presence of the Prohibited Substances following the laboratory analysis, the possible Rule violation and the consequences implicated, were officially notified to the PR, through the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation ("KSA-NF"), by the FEI Legal Department on 8 March 2012. Together with the Notification Letter of 8 March 2012, the PR received the Laboratory Documentation Package (A-Sample) for the positive sample by the FEI Legal Department.

3. The B-Sample Analysis

- 3.1 Together with the Notification Letter of 8 March 2012, the PR was also informed that he was entitled: (i) to the performance of a B-Sample confirmatory analysis on the positive sample; (ii) to attend or be represented at the B-Sample analysis; and/or (iii) to request that the B-Sample be analysed in a different laboratory than the A-Sample.
- 3.2 On 2 September 2012, the PR through the KSA-NF waived his right to have the B-Sample confirmatory analysis performed.

4. The Further Proceedings

- 4.1 On 2 September 2012, the PR submitted that the Controlled Medication Substances detected, had been administered by mistake to the Horse by the groom. That the Controlled Medication Substances had been destined for administration to another horse, which had been under treatment. The PR further explained that he had little experience in the sport of Endurance, but that he would nonetheless take responsibility for his actions and that he accepted the decision of the Hearing Panel.

5. Jurisdiction

- 5.1 The Tribunal has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Statutes, GRs and ECM Rules.

6. The Person Responsible

- 6.1 The PR is the Person Responsible for the Horse, in accordance with Article 118.3 of the GRs, as he competed with the Horse at the Event.

7. The Decision

- 7.1 As set forth in Article 2.1.2 of the ECM Rules, sufficient proof of an ECM Rule violation is established by the presence of a Controlled Medication Substance in the Horse's A-Sample where the PR waives analysis of the B-Sample and the B-Sample is not analysed. The Tribunal is satisfied that the laboratory report relating to the A-Sample reflects that the analytical tests were performed in an acceptable manner and that the findings of the HKJC are accurate. The Tribunal is satisfied that the test results evidence the presence of Dexamethasone and Flunixin in the sample taken from the Horse at the Event. The PR did not contest the accuracy of the test results or the positive findings. Dexamethasone and Flunixin are classified as Controlled Medication Substances on the Equine Prohibited Substances List.
- 7.2 The FEI has thus established an Adverse Analytical Finding, and has thereby sufficiently proven the objective elements of an offence in accordance with Article 3 of the ECM Rules.
- 7.3 In cases brought under the EADCMRs, a strict liability principle applies as described in Article 2.1.1 of the ECM Rules. Once an ECM Rule violation has been established by the FEI, the PR has the burden of proving that he bears "No Fault or Negligence" for the positive findings as set forth in Article

10.4.1 of the ECM Rules, or "No Significant Fault or Negligence," as set forth in Article 10.4.2 of the ECM Rules.

- 7.4 However, in order to benefit from any elimination or reduction of the applicable sanction under Article 10.4 of the ECM Rules, the PR must first establish how the Controlled Medication Substances entered the Horse's system. This element is a prerequisite to the application of Article 10.4 of the ECM Rules. The standard of proof is that the PR must establish "specified facts or circumstances" "by a balance of probability".
- 7.5 The Tribunal takes note of the PR's explanations, that his groom had mistakenly administered the Controlled Medication Substances to the Horse. The Tribunal however finds these explanations very vague, in particular since no explanations on the alleged mix-up of horses by the groom are provided, and since no details on the treatment of the other horse have been made available. However, even if the Tribunal would find that the PR has shown how the Controlled Medication Substances entered the Horse's system, the Tribunal holds that the degree of Fault or Negligence of the PR for the Rule violation is difficult to assess given the limited amount of information provided. The Tribunal therefore holds that no reduction or elimination of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility in accordance with Article 10.4.1 or Article 10.4.2 of the ECM Rules may be granted.
- 7.6 In deciding the sanctions, the Tribunal has a wide range of discretion from zero (0) up to two (2) years of Ineligibility. Given the limited amount of information provided by the PR regarding the Rule violation, it is not possible for the Tribunal to assess the PR's Fault or Negligence for the Rule violation. Therefore, the Tribunal is forced to take into account other, more objective factors in order to determine the period of Ineligibility.
- 7.7 In deciding the sanctions the Tribunal considered, on the one hand, and in mitigation, the PR's experience in the sport of Endurance and the level of the Event, and on the other hand the fact that two Controlled Medication Substances had been detected in the Horse's sample.

8. Disqualification

- 8.1 For the reasons set forth above, the Tribunal is disqualifying the Horse and the PR combination from the Competition and all medals, points and prize money won must be forfeited, in accordance with Article 9 of the ECM Rules.

9. Sanctions

9.1 The FEI Tribunal imposes the following sanctions on the PR, in accordance with Article 169 of the GRs and Article 10 of the ECM Rules:

1) The PR shall be suspended for a period of **eight (8) months** to be effective immediately and without further notice from the date of the notification. Therefore, the PR shall be ineligible through **21 July 2013**.

2) The PR is fined **CHF 1000.-**

3) The PR shall contribute **CHF 500.-** towards the legal costs of the judicial procedure.

9.2 No Person Responsible who has been declared Ineligible may, during the period of Ineligibility, participate in any capacity in a Competition or activity that is authorized or organized by the FEI or any National Federation or be present at an Event (other than as a spectator) that is authorized or organized by the FEI or any National Federation, or participate in any capacity in Competitions authorized or organized by any international or national-level Event organization (Article 10.9.1 of the ECM Rules). Under Article 10.9.2 of the ECM Rules, specific consequences are foreseen for a violation of the period of Ineligibility.

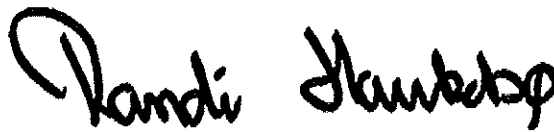
9.3 According to Article 168.4 of the GRs, the present decision is effective from the day of written notification to the persons and bodies concerned.

9.4 In accordance with Article 12 of the ECM Rules, the PR may appeal against this decision by lodging an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") within 30 days of receipt hereof.

V. DECISION TO BE FORWARDED TO:

- a. The person sanctioned: Yes
- b. The President of the NF of the person sanctioned: Yes
- c. The President of the Organising Committee of the Event through his NF: Yes
- d. Any other: No

FOR THE PANEL

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Randi Haukebø". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Randi" is written with a large, looped 'R'. The last name "Haukebø" follows, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the 'H'.

Ms Randi Haukebø