DECISION of the FEI TRIBUNAL
dated 31 July 2014

Positive Controlled Medication Case No.: 2013/CM02

Horse: UNICA DA AMEIRA  FEI Passport No: POR40581

Person Responsible: Pedro Godinho

NF/ID: POR/10018089

Event/ID: CEI3* 160 km, Barroca d’Alva (POR), 2013_CI_1050_E_S_02_01

Date: 26 - 29 September 2013

Prohibited Substances: Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Phenylbutazone, Hydrochlorothiazide

I. COMPOSITION OF PANEL

Ms. Randi Haukebø

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 during the hearing and in the Case File, as also made available by and to the PR.

3. Oral hearing: telephone conference; 26 June 2014

Present:
The FEI Tribunal Panel
Ms. Erika Riedl, FEI Tribunal Clerk

For the PR:
Mr. Pedro Godinho, PR
Mr. Joaquim Antonio Calado, replacement groom
Ms. Sofia Simões Coelho, partner of the PR
III. DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE FROM THE LEGAL VIEWPOINT

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


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 2013.


Veterinary Regulations (“VRs”), 13th edition, effective 1 January 2013, Art. 1055 and seq.

FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

2. Person Responsible: Pedro Godinho

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 without any valid Veterinary Form. 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 an EAD Rule violation under Article 2.1.”
IV. DECISION

The below constitutes a summary of the relevant facts and allegations based on the Parties’ written submissions, pleadings and evidence adduced at the Final Hearing. Additional facts and allegations found in the Parties’ written submissions, pleadings and evidence may be set out, where relevant, in connection with the legal discussion that follows. Although the Panel has considered all the facts, allegations, legal arguments and evidence in the present proceedings, in its decision it only refers to the submissions and evidence it considers necessary to explain its reasoning.

1. Factual Background

1.1 UNICA DA AMEIRA (the “Horse”) participated at the CEI3* 160 km in Barroca d’Alva, Portugal, from 26 to 29 September 2013 (the “Event”), in the discipline of Endurance. The Horse was ridden by Pedro Godinho who is the Person Responsible in accordance with Article 118.3 of the GRs (the “PR”).

1.2 The Horse was selected for sampling on 28 September 2013.

1.3 Analysis of urine and blood sample no. 5521335 taken from the Horse at the Event was performed at the FEI approved laboratory, the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory, Sport Science (“HFL”) in the United Kingdom by Ms. Selina Hines, Team Leader, under the supervision of Mr. Steve Maynard, Director. The analysis of the sample revealed the presence of Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone in the urine sample, and Dexamethasone, Flunixin and Phenylbutazone in the blood sample.

1.4 The Prohibited Substances detected are Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone. 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. Phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) with anti-inflammatory and pain relief effect. Hydrochlorothiazide is a diuretic that is used to encourage fluid loss. Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone are classified as Controlled Medication Substances under the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List.

1.5 No request had been made to administer Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone 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 finding for Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone in the Horse’s sample gives rise to a Controlled Medication Rule Violation under the Equine Controlled Medication Rules (“ECM Rules”).
2. The Further Proceedings

2.1 On 6 December 2013, the FEI Legal Department officially notified the PR, through the Federacao Equestre Portuguesa ("POR-NF"), of the presence of the Prohibited Substances following the laboratory analysis, the possible rule violation and the consequences implicated.

3. The B-Sample Analysis

3.1 Together with the Notification Letter of 6 December 2013, 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 The PR did not request for the B-Sample to be analysed and accepted the results of the A-Sample analysis.

4. Written submission by the PR

4.1 On 27 December 2013, the PR provided his explanations to the positive findings. The PR explained that a replacement groom, Mr. Joaquim António Calado, had orally administered medication containing the Prohibited Substances detected to the Horse on 24 September 2013. That this had been a “terrible and unfortunate” mistake as those products had been intended for another of his horses, Urso Da Ameira, stabled in the same stable as the Horse. Together with his submission the PR provided an excerpt of the Medication Logbook for the horse Urso Da Ameira, which contained entries for several medications administered by Mr. Calado on 24 September 2013.

4.2 The PR further stated that he had not realised the replacement groom’s mistake until after having been notified of the case at hand. He further explained that he did not have any intention to enhance the Horse’s performance. The PR however admitted that he should have been more careful about checking the Horse’s feed. Further that he had been an amateur rider for over 30 years and that his horses had been tested several times, always yielding in negative results. That as he was an agricultural engineer who made his living from agriculture, his income was very low.

4.3 Lastly, the PR argued that the case at hand would meet all requirements to be prosecuted under the Fast Track procedure.

5. Written submission by the FEI

5.1 On 11 February 2014, the FEI provided its Response to the written submissions by the PR. Together with its Response the FEI provided an
expert statement by Dr. Stuart Paine, BSc (Hons), PhD, MRSC, CCHEM, CSci, ACS. In his statement Dr. Paine explained that based on his review on the PR’s explanation and evidence he had come to the conclusion that the explanation provided by the PR, i.e. the oral administration to the Horse as initially intended for Urso Da Ameira - of Dexamethasone, Flunixin and Phenylbutazone on 24 September 2013 was a plausible explanation for the detection of those three substances in the sample taken from the Horse on 28 September 2013. That however no explanation had been provided regarding the positive finding for Hydrochlorothiazide, in particular as no entry for this substance had been made in the medical records provided by the PR. Further that there was potential abuse of Hydrochlorothiazide within the sport as it was a diuretic that would promote the loss of water.

5.2 In essence the FEI argued:

a) That sufficient proof of the presence of four Controlled Medication Substances in the Horse’s A-Sample had been provided, and that - as the PR had waived his right to the B-Sample analysis - a violation of Article 2.1 of the ECM Rules had been established.

b) That under 10.2 of the ECM Rules, any period of Ineligibility shall be commensurate with the seriousness of the offence, taking into account the underlying objectives and rationale of the ECM Rules and the FEI Medication Code, as well as principles of fair play. That according to Article 10.2 of the ECM Rules, a period of Ineligibility of six (6) months had to be imposed, unless the conditions for eliminating, reducing or increasing that period as set out in Articles 10.4 and 10.5 of the ECM Rules were met.

c) That however no elimination or reduction under Article 10.4 of the ECM Rules was applicable since the PR had not fulfilled the prerequisites for the application of that Article, as he had not established – as confirmed by Dr. Paine - how the Hydrochlorothiazide had entered the Horse’s system.

d) That even if Article 10.4.1 of the ECM Rules was applicable to the case at hand, the FEI was of the view that the PR had been negligent in allowing a replacement groom to administer various products containing Prohibited Substances. Further that the replacement groom’s actions in mixing up the feed buckets had been most negligent, and that, as the Tribunal had repeatedly expressed in its decisions, competitors were responsible for their staff and the care given to their horses by grooms and support personnel. That therefore the replacement groom’s negligence was attributable to the PR.

e) Furthermore, that riders had to ensure that their support personnel (through the establishment of clear and defined procedures and protocols, checks and personal responsibility) treated Prohibited Substances (even if authorised) as extremely dangerous products, as these might result in positive findings
with all the negative consequences that followed. That therefore all such products had to be stored separately and administered with strict caution directly to the relevant horse, on a one-by-one basis with the proper written recording of every such treatment. That thereby the chance of inadvertent administration was minimized even under extreme circumstances. That given the above the PR had clearly acted negligently, both through his own actions as well as by the actions of the replacement groom.

f) That in conclusion, and as the PR had not provided a comprehensive explanation regarding the positive finding of all Prohibited Substances detected in the Horse’s sample, it was difficult to assess the degree of Fault or Negligence of the PR for the rule violation. That however apparently the PR had not consulted any veterinarian on the treatment administered to his Horse, and had not taken any other measures in order to ensure that his Horse competed free of Prohibited Substances. Furthermore, as the PR had also been the owner of the Horse at the time of the respective violation, he had an additional responsibility for the Horse, and should therefore have been even more attentive to its medication history.

g) Lastly, the FEI suggested, that given the circumstances of the case at hand, a period of Ineligibility of at least six (6) months had to be imposed on the PR.

h) With respect to the PR’s claim that his case would fulfil the requirements of the administrative procedure under Article 8.3 of the ECM Rules, also referred to as “Fast Track” procedure, the FEI argued that it followed from Article 8.3.1 a) of the ECM Rules that the Fast Track procedure was only available in cases where not more than one (1) Controlled Medication Substance had been detected in the Horse’s sample. That however in the case at hand four (4) Controlled Medication Substances had been detected in the urine sample and three (3) in the blood sample, the prerequisites of the Fast Track procedure had not been fulfilled.

6. Rebuttal submission by the PR

6.1 On 11 March 2014, the PR provided his Rebuttal submission. Together with his submission, the PR also provided a witness statement by his veterinarian, Dr. Abelardo Lage Fernández. Dr. Fernández explained that he had been the treating veterinarian at the PR’s stables for all of his horses, including the Horse, since August 2013. He further explained that the PR had called him on 20 September 2013 informing him that the horse Urso da Ameira had presented an acute and sudden inflammation on the right hind, presenting intense pain, and that he had recommended a preventive rest in the stable because of the differential diagnosis. Further that, while visiting the PR’ stables on 24 September 2013, Urso Da Ameira had been diagnosed with an acute lymphagitis, and treated with a range of medication – as listed by him - including
Hydrochlorothiazide. Lastly, Dr. Fernández explained that he had omitted to record the substance Hydrochlorothiazide in the Medication Logbook of Urso Da Ameira.

6.2 The PR further contended that he bore No Fault or Negligence for the Rule violation, as a case of “force majeure” had taken place on 24 September 2013. That normally, he himself was in charge of providing food and medication to his horses, including the Horse. That however on 24 September 2013 he had to visit the doctor, as he had felt pain in his prostate, and that later on he had to be operated. That only under these circumstances his replacement groom had taken over the feeding of his horses on that day. That he had given explicit instructions to Mr. Calado regarding the precautions to be taken when administering food and medication to his horses.

6.3 Lastly, the PR argued that as he had established how the Controlled Medication Substances had entered he Horse’s system, and that insofar as he bore No Fault or Negligence for the Rule violation, the period of Ineligibility and any other possible sanction had to be eliminated.

7. Additional Submission by the PR

7.1 On 29 and 30 May 2014, the PR provided further witness statements by Mr. Calado and by Ms. Sofia Simões Coelho, partner of the PR. Ms. Coelho accounted for the good character of the PR, and explained that she had never seen the PR administering any Prohibited Substances to any of his horses. That she was further certain that the PR would have never competed with the Horse if he had been aware that it had been administered Prohibited Substances.

7.2 In his witness statement Mr. Calado explained that he was 72 years old and that he had been working with the PR’s father for over 40 years. That in the past couple of years he had also helped the PR with his horses, mostly when the PR had been absent from the stables for a competition or for work, and that then he had been in charge of feeding the horses as well as cleaning the horses and the stables. Further that on 24 September 2013, the PR had called him asking him to feed all horses as usually done, and in addition to add some medication in the bucket of the horse Urso Da Ameira. That the PR had told him to take the envelopes with the medicines, to put them in a bucket wet with some water and to feed them to the horse Urso Da Ameira. That the PR had underlined that only the horse Urso Da Ameira could eat from the bucket, and that the PR had instructed him to remove the bucket from the paddock as soon as the horse had finished its feed, and to clean the bucket used for the medication with water thereafter. Mr. Calado further explained that the feeding box had not been stored close to the paddocks of the horses, and that in order to save time, he had prepared all buckets at the same time, and had taken the wheelbarrow with all buckets placed in it to feed the horses. That at the time, as all buckets had been in the same wheelbarrow, he had not been sure which horse had eaten the food with the treatment for Urso Da Ameira; that however
now, following the positive findings, he was certain that he had wrongly
given the bucket with the treatment of Urso Da Ameira to the Horse.
Lastly, that he had not informed the PR of his mistake, and that he had
not realized which consequences his actions might have. That he had
only completed four classes of school and was not aware of the
EADCMRs, as usually it was only the PR and the veterinarian
administering medication to the horses, including the Horse. That the
day of the PR’s visit to the hospital had been his first time he had
administered a medication to a horse.

8. Final Hearing

8.1 On 26 June 2014, a Final Hearing took place via telephone conference.
During the Final Hearing the PR further explained that on 24 September
2013, he had woken up with pain in his prostate and therefore had to go
to the hospital, reason for which he had not been able to look after his
horses or prepare their food, as he would usually do. As a result, he had
called Mr. Calado, and requested him to feed his horses, six (6) in total.
That Mr. Calado was the only one he could rely on to feed his horses, as
otherwise the horses would not have eaten on that day. That Mr. Calado
had fed his horses two or three times before in the last two years, but
that this had been the first time Mr. Calado had also prepared the
buckets for the horses. That the names of the respective horses were
not written or otherwise indicated on the buckets, and that the buckets
all looked more or less the same. That the Horse and the horse Urso Da
Ameira were siblings (from the same father) and that they looked alike,
even though one had a brown and the other one a chestnut coloured
coat. That upon his request Mr. Calado had confirmed to him that the
feeding of the horses had gone “fine”. That if he had known that the
Horse had carried Prohibited Substances in its system, he would not
have competed with it at the Event. The PR further explained that the
statement by Dr. Fernández was incorrect insofar as the veterinarian
had come to the stables, on 23 September 2013 and not on 24
September 2013 as stated by him, to see the horse Urso Da Ameira.
That on that day the veterinarian had left three of the prescribed
Controlled Medication substances, and that he had already been in
possession of the fourth, as it was a leftover from previous treatments.
Further, that he and his veterinarian had prepared all four Controlled
Medication substances on a table in the stables – which had been locked-
for treatment to commence on the next day, i.e. the 24 September
2013. Lastly the PR explained that he competed mostly in Portugal or
around Portugal, and the competitions he competed in did usually not
foresee any economic prize money. That his earnings were six hundred
(600) Euros per months.

8.2 Mr. Calado explained that he had prepared the buckets for all six (6)
horses at the same time, and that he had only realized after he had fed
the horses that he had “inter-changed” the buckets. That he had not
informed the PR of his mistake, as he had not been aware of the
potential consequences of it. That the paddocks used by the PR had been
numbered, and that the horse Urso Da Ameira had been stabled in
paddock number 1, next two the Horse, which had been stabled in
paddock number 2. That he had seen the horses two or three times
before 24 September 2013 and generally saw little difference between
the horses. That he had however received the instruction to feed the
medication to the horse in paddock number 1. Further that whereas he
had difficulties to read, upon his arrival at the stable the medication for
the horse Urso Da Ameira had already been prepared in four different
packages, on a table in the stables. Lastly that the PR had never
informed him of the EADCMRs or the FEI Prohibited Substance List.

8.3 During the Hearing, the FEI argued that it accepted that the PR had
proven how the four Controlled Medication Substances had entered the
Horse’s system. That the PR had however been highly negligent. That
even considering that the PR had been in an emergency situation, the
PR had not dealt with the situation as would have been expected, since
a replacement groom with no training on the EADCMRs or on the FEI
Prohibited Substance List had been asked to administer Prohibited
Substances to a horse. That the replacement groom had further only
seen the horses very few times before administering the medication,
and had never prepared the buckets for the horses before. That
further, as the replacement groom had difficulties to read, and in case
someone had changed the medication, there had been a high risk that
the replacement groom administered the wrong medication. That in
addition, as the Horse and the horse Urso Da Ameira looked alike, and
as he had not been able to distinguish between the two horses, he
could not have reacted in a situation in which the horses had
previously switched paddocks for whatever reason, as he had to rely
on the paddock number only. Lastly that insofar as the names of the
horses were not indicated on the buckets and as they all looked
similar, it was highly likely that those buckets could have been mixed
up easily. The FEI further argued that the PR was responsible for
choosing appropriate Support Personnel, which was not the case in the
case at hand, and for the actions taken by his Support Personnel. That
the PR was also responsible to train his Support Personnel accordingly.
That therefore the PR had acted highly negligently in the case at hand.

9. Jurisdiction

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

10. The Person Responsible

10.1 The PR is the Person Responsible for the Horse, in accordance with
Article 118.3 of the GRs, as he had competed with the Horse at the
Event.
11. The Decision

11.1 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 reports relating to the A-Sample reflect that the analytical tests were performed in an acceptable manner and that the findings of HFL are accurate. The Tribunal is satisfied that the test results evidence the presence of Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone in the urine sample, and Dexamethasone, Flunixin and Phenylbutazone in the blood sample, taken from the Horse at the Event. The PR did not contest the accuracy of the test results or the positive findings, and did not request for the B-Sample analysis to be performed. Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Hydrochlorothiazide and Phenylbutazone are classified as Controlled Medication Substances under the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List.

11.2 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.

11.3 To start with, the Tribunal had to decide whether or not the so-called “Administrative Procedure” (also referred to as “Fast-Track”) is applicable in the case at hand. The Tribunal however finds that the prerequisites of Article 8.3.1 of the ECM Rules are not fulfilled as more than one Controlled Medication Substance had been detected in the Horse’s sample, and that therefore the case at hand is not eligible for the Administrative Procedure.

11.4 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 rule violation 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.

11.5 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.

11.6 The Tribunal finds that by means of the explanations by the veterinarian and the replacement groom, the PR has established on a balance of probability, as required under Article 3.1 of the ECM Rules, that the medication mistakenly fed to the Horse has caused the positive findings. In this respect the Tribunal also understands that according to Dr. Paine, the oral administration of medication to the Horse on 24 September 2013 was a plausible explanation for the detection of the three substances, namely Dexamethasone, Flunixin and Phenylbutazone, in
the sample taken from the Horse on 28 September 2013. With regards to the positive finding for Hydrochlorothiazide the Tribunal notes that the veterinarian had not included it in the Treatment Book of the horse Urso da Almeira, but later on confirmed in his statement that it had been part of the treatment. The Tribunal is therefore satisfied that the PR has established how the Prohibited Substances have entered the Horse’s system.

11.7 In a second step the Tribunal needs to examine the question of “No Fault or Negligence” or “No Significant Fault or Negligence” for the rule violation. In accordance with Article 2.1.1 of the ECM Rules, the Tribunal considers that it is the PR’s personal duty to ensure that no Controlled Medication Substance is present in the Horse’s body during an event.

11.8 The Tribunal finds that the PR has acted negligently for several reasons. Whereas the Tribunal acknowledges that the PR had been in an emergency situation which did not allow him to take care of his horses himself, the Tribunal is of the opinion that the PR’s expected duty of care comprises having a substitute at disposal in situations in which he is not able to take care of his horses himself. In the case at hand however, the PR relied on a replacement groom who had never fed the horses by himself beforehand, and who was not able to distinguish the Horse from the horse Urso Da Almeira, or to distinguish between the PR’s horses in general. In addition the replacement groom had been entrusted with administering in total four Controlled Medication Substances to one of the PR’s horses. The Tribunal finds that the PR should have made sure to have procedures in place which allowed a person replacing him to uphold the duty of care expected, and that this had not been the case in the case at hand. The Tribunal is of the opinion that the establishment of such procedures is even more important for those horses which are competing in FEI competitions, and which are therefore subject to the EADCMRs. The Tribunal is further of the opinion that if the PR had identified the buckets, i.e. with numbers similar to the ones on the paddocks, it would have been easy to secure that each horse, including the Horse, received the food and/or medication destined for it, and that therefore the likelihood of mistakes being made in the feeding process would have been significantly reduced. In addition the Tribunal also finds that the PR had to assure that the replacement groom was informed of the EADCMRs and the FEI Prohibited Substances List, with all its consequences and even more so if the respected person was entrusted with administering Prohibited Substances to the horses. Furthermore the Tribunal is of the opinion that all medication had to be stored separately and administered with strict caution directly to the relevant horse, on a one-by-one basis including proper written recording of every such treatment. The Tribunal is of the opinion that this would minimize the chance of inadvertent administration even under extreme circumstances.

11.9 Finally, the Tribunal holds that - in line with its previous decisions - Persons Responsible are responsible for their Support Personnel and the medical treatment given by them to their horses. The Tribunal therefore finds that the negligence of Mr. Calada is attributable to the PR.
11.10 Accordingly, the Tribunal finds that the PR has acted highly negligently in performing his duties as competitor and Horse owner. The Tribunal therefore comes to the conclusion that no reduction or elimination of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is warranted.

12. **Disqualification**

12.1 For the reasons set forth above, the FEI 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.

13. **Sanctions**

13.1 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 **six (6) months** to be effective immediately and without further notice from the date of the notification. Therefore, the PR shall be ineligible through **30 January 2015**.

2) The PR is fined **seven hundred and fifty Swiss Francs (CHF 750)**.

3) The PR shall contribute **seven hundred and fifty Swiss Francs (CHF 750)** towards the legal costs of the judicial procedure.

13.2 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 authorised or organised 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 organisation (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.

13.3 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.

13.4 In accordance with Article 12 of the ECM Rules, the Parties 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

Ms. Randi Haukebø
One member panel,