



**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

CASE: n° 2021-5

Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI (AUS)

Mr. TAKAYAWA (FIJ)

COMMISSION COMPOSITION:

- Mr. Envic GALEA	President
- Mr. Balint PUTNIK	Member
- Mr. Franco CAPELLETTI	Member

CONCERNED PERSON:

- Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI

Athlete, Australia, -100 kg

- Mr. TAKAYAWA

Athlete, Fiji, -100 kg

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

During the 2021 World Judo Championships Seniors in Budapest, on June 11th 2021 the course of the fight n°18 (-100kg) which opposed Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI (AUS) to Mr. TAKAYAWA (FIJ) drew the attention of several persons including the IJF Education Commission Director.

The video of the fight can be watched with the following link:

<https://we.tl/t-2XUHXFjINQ>

After viewing the videos of this fight by three IJF commissions: Refereeing, Sport and Education, it appears that the behaviour of Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI seems suspicious.

On June 18th 2021, the International Judo Federation General Secretary informed Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI and Mr. TAKAYAWA that a disciplinary procedure was open against them, and asked them to choose between the written procedure and the hearing.

On June 18th, 2021, Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI and Mr. TAKAYAWA chose the written procedure.

On June 19th 2021, Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI gave the following explanation:

“In preparation for the World Championships, I experienced severe lower back pain on 31st May and could not walk properly that day. Prior to this I was training exceptionally hard but the pain required that I only do scaled training before I headed to Hungary on the 6th June. After arriving in Hungary my back continued to be painful and in poor condition.

Before the World Championships I was very conscious that I had already withdrawn once from the Tbilisi Grand Slam with an injury and could not willingly repeat this feeling of just giving up.

I did my best to perform and fight through the injury and back pain. Unfortunately, I had a pain in my lower back immediately as the match began. Because of this and after doing an attack and moving to groundwork, I did not have strength in my back and could not do anything. Since I sustained lower back pain, I have been getting treatment. I have attached receipts from treatments and can request my therapist for a statement of my physical condition if this would assist. Thank you again for the opportunity to explain this situation and protect my reputation”.

On June 21st 2021, Mr. TAKAYAWA sent the following explanation:

“I would like to reassure you that I competed in the match as I always do, trying my hardest to win and behaving within the judo moral code. I believe that this is what the video of the match shows, which in my mind re-confirms my recollection of that day.

I have competed against Mr. OZCIKEK TAKAGI 2 times before with the last contest being at the 2019 Asia Pacific Championship in Fujairah, U.A.E. On that occasion I took the contest to Golden score and only lost by a single shido. This shows that as athletes we are evenly matched. Please see the link for the contest:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoKg5t6TQXY>

I knew that 2 years on from that contest that I could win. I went into the fight with confidence. I have trained hard and improved in a lot of areas to justify the support I receive from my National Federation, the Fiji NOC and especially the IJF at a few WJT events. Like any other athlete I attended with the goal of winning fights, when the opportunity presented itself to go for osaekomi I did like any other athlete would have done. I fought what was in front of me and did indeed win.

I would like to express that I have been a Judoka for 15 years now and in all that time I have never at any time faced any such proceedings before.

Judo has been an educational journey for me in every aspect of my involvement in the sport. I understand the ethics and integrity required of a judoka and I believe that I have played to the best of my ability during the 2021 World Judo Championship in Budapest”.

REGARDING THE CASE FILE:

Mr. Kayhan OZCICEK-TAKAGI (AUS) reported for possible match-fixing in his match vs Mr. Tevita TAKAYAWA (FIJ).

This result surprised his coach Mr. Daniel KELLY, who stated that his athlete was ok and had no back problem. His coach also noted that he had met Mr. TAKAYAWA on other occasions and surprised and shocked by his performance. He had beaten this athlete twice before.

The coach was also surprised at his lack of emotion after the match. When he lost, he was quite emotional, either crying or angry. All he said was he made a mistake, and there was no mention of back pain as the Judoka reported.

In his letter, Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI referred to his back injury.

He stated, "I did my best to perform and fight through the injury and back pain. Unfortunately, I had a pain in my lower back immediately as the match began. Because of this, and after making an attack and moving to groundwork, I did not have strength in my back and could not do anything." This statement is inconsistent with what he told his coach after the match.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION:

- **Pronounces against Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI serious reprimand and warning.**
- **Mr. Tevita TAKAYAWA (FIJ), opponent to Mr. Kayhan OZCICEK-TAKAGI (AUS): no proof of match-fixing was found.**

- **Says that this decision shall be communicated to:**
 - Mr. Marius VIZER, IJF President;
 - Mr. Jean Luc ROUGE, IJF General Secretary;
 - Mr. Rehia DAVIO, OJU President;

- Mr. Mohamed MERIDJA, IJF Education and Coaching Director;
 - Mr. Vladimir BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director;
 - Dr. Lisa ALLAN, IJF Event Director ;
 - Mr. Vlad MARINESCU, IJF General Director;
 - Australian Judo Federation President;
 - Fiji Judo Federation President;
 - Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI
 - Mr. TAKAYAWA
- **Inform Mr. OZCICEK-TAKAGI and Mr. TAKAYAWA that this decision is subject to appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The time limit for appeal shall be twenty-one days from the receipt of the decision appealed against.**

Paris, June 24th, 2021

President
Mr. Envic GALEA