



**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

CASE: n° 2017-1

Mr. Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE

COMMISSION COMPOSITION:

- Mr. Envic GALEA	President
- Mr. Colin DRAYCOTT	Vice-president
- Mr. Hirofumi OTSUJI	Member

CONCERNED PERSON:

- **Mr. Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE;**
Azerbaijan athlete

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

According to the European Judo Union report:

“An athlete Mehdi ASGAROV with date of birth 1997-03-27 was registered in 2014 in JUMAS and won bronze in Cadet EJC Poland 2014-05-17, last cadet appearance 18 May 2015.

In 2015 a new profile was created for the same athlete in JUDOBASE, same date of birth, new but resembling picture.

On 2017-02-23 a new profile was created in JUDOBASE for athlete Ali Askarzade with date of birth 2001-11-22, pictures were changed twice. Ali Askarzade whose latest photos strongly resemble Mehdi ASGAROV from 2014 – 2015 was winning Cadet EJC Antalya TUR, 2017-03-05 and Teplice CZE, 2017-04-08.

The EJU Head Office had asked General Secretary of Azerbaijan judo federation for explanation but he said there was only some administrative confusion with pictures and denied any manipulation. Conclusion: The athlete appearing as Mehdi ASGAROV in 2014 and 2015 and the athlete appearing as Ali ASKARZADE in 2017 is one and the same person. Attached please find a report and full analysis & comparison of two identities prepared by a certified expert anthropologist in Prague and its English translation.”

On the 15th June 2017, by an official order, the IJF Disciplinary Commission President pronounced against Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE a provisional suspension from all competitions organized or authorized by the International Judo Federation and its Unions, until the IJF Disciplinary Commission decision.

On the 19th June 2017 the International Judo Federation General Secretary informed Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE that a disciplinary procedure was open against him and asked him to choose between the written procedure and the hearing.

On the 28th June 2017 the Azerbaijan Judo Federation informed the International Judo Federation General Secretary that they choose the written procedure.

On the 7th July 2017, the International Judo Federation General Secretary duly noted that Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE had chosen the written procedure, sent him the case file and informed him that he could send to the commission all observation, evidence and testimony, for his own defense.

REGARDING THE CASE FILE,

The action to change a date of birth in order to appear younger to participate in a cadet competition can have really serious consequences.

This action represents a major breach of IJF regulation and Judo moral code.

The IJF Disciplinary Commission didn't receive any observation, evidence or testimony from Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION PRESIDENT:

- **Pronounces against Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE a 6 months suspension from all competitions organized or authorized by the International Judo Federation and its Unions, from the 15th June 2017, date of the provisional suspension, to the 14th December 2017.**
- **Specifies that the provisional suspension pronounced on the 15th June is ended.**
- **Says that this decision shall be communicated to :**
 - Mr. Marius VIZER, IJF President;
 - Mr. Jean Luc ROUGE, IJF General Secretary;
 - Mr. Sergey SOLOVEYCHIK, EJU President;
 - Mr. Vladimir BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director;
 - Mr. Mohamed MERIDJA, IJF Education and Coaching Director;
 - Azerbaijan Judo Federation President;
 - Mr. Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE.
- **Informs Medhi ASGAROV / Ali ASKARZADE 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, the 7th August 2017

President
Mr. Envic GALEA

Vice-President
Mr. Colin DRAYCOTT