



**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

CASE: n° 2018-2

Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE

COMMISSION COMPOSITION:

- Mr. Envic GALEA	President
- Mr. Francis LEGOND	Vice-President
- Mr. Hirofumi OTSUJI	Member
- Mr. Colin DRAYCOTT	Member
- Mr. Dick JOHANSSON	Member

CONCERNED PERSON:

- **Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE;**
Russian Athlete

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

During the 2018 Master in Guangzhou on the 15th December 2018, Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE - 60kg from Russia after winning his final contest against Amiran PAPINASHVILI GEO made a clear religious sign. This is a clear breach to International Judo Federation (IJF) Code of Ethics.

Mr. Mohamed MERIDJA, International Judo Federation Education and Coaching Director, made a report concerning this incident pointing that his records show that the athlete already made a similar sign during the Grand Prix of Budapest on 10th August 2018, and during the World Championships in Baku on 20th September 2018, this is by consequences a repeated infringement.

Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE received a first warning by the International Judo Federation General Secretary on the 13th August 2018 after the first infringement during Grand Prix of Budapest.

On the 15th January 2019 International Judo Federation General Secretary informed Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE that a disciplinary procedure was open against him, because of the repeated violations, and asked him to choose between the written procedure and the hearing.

On the 24th January 2019 Robert MSHVIDOBADZE chose the written procedure.

On the 24th January 2019, the International Judo Federation General Secretary duly noted that Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE 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.

On the 8th February 2019 Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE “admits sincerely that this gesture [sign of the cross] might have been done by him automatically” but he assures that “he has never meant to show any gesture or movement of any ostentatious form.”

“The Athlete promises to do his best to prevent such situations in the future.”

REGARDING THE CASE FILE,

Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE admits to have done a gesture against the IJF code of Ethics during the 2018 Master in Guangzhou and before.

This misconduct which is against the judo moral code and especially the principle of control of oneself, and against the IJF Code of Ethics, took place on the tatami, during a public and broadcasted competition, and damaged the International Judo Federation and judo in general image.

The athlete was already warned for a first misconduct by the International Judo Federation General Secretary and so was aware that this gesture is not allowed during IJF events.

This behaviour is not acceptable from a top level athlete who has to set a good example and respect IJF rules in all circumstances.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION:

- **Imposes to Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE a 1000 US \$ fine.**
- **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. Mohamed MERIDJA, IJF Education and Coaching Director;
 - Mr. Vladimir BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director;
 - Russian Judo Federation;
 - Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE;
- **Informs Mr. Robert MSHVIDOBADZE 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 19th February 2019

President
Mr. Envic GALEA

Vice-President
Mr. Francis LEGOND