



**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

CASE: n°2022-01

Mr. RAMIREZ, Isaiah, USA

COMMISSION COMPOSITION:

- | | |
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| - Mr. Dick D. JOHANSSON | President |
| - Mr. Hirofumi OTSUJI | Member |
| - Mr. Colin DRAYCOTT | Member |

CONCERNED PERSON:

- Mr. RAMIREZ, Isaiah, USA

DECISION 2022-08-05

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

During the Grand Prix Zagreb on July 15th 2022 the athlete Mr. Isaiah RAMIREZ had during his fight against his opponent unsportsmanlike conduct. (See attached Incident Report 01).

On July 20th 2022 the International Judo Federation General Secretary informed Mr. RAMIREZ that a disciplinary procedure was open against him and asked him to choose between the written procedure or the hearing.

On July 25th and 29th 2022 Mr. RAMIREZ chose a written procedure and on August 4th 2022 he gave the following explanation: My name is Isaiah Ramirez and I am twenty (20) years old. I'm currently a 4th-year student (senior) attending the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and next year I will be attending law school to eventually become an attorney. I have been practicing and competing in the sport of judo since I was five (5) years old and have honorably and respectfully competed in many national and international judo competitions.

In 2018, my father and I started a judo club in my community that is called the Barstow Police Activities League Judo Club. This judo club is 100% free for all children to learn the art of judo and is geared towards serving the under privileged children in our community. Everything is free for the children and we even provide them with used judo gi's to train and compete in. All of my judo gi's (that I no longer use) since I was five (5) years old have been donated for the children to use. We teach and instill in our judokas to be good people both on and off the tatami and to contribute to the community in a positive manner. I love teaching and sharing judo and its values with the youth of the community of the town that I grew up in and plan to continue this with my own club in the future in a different location.

At the Zagreb Grand Prix 2022 I competed in the first (1st) round against Ramazan Kodzhakov in the 66kg division. Prior to competing against Mr. Kodzhakov, I didn't have any negative feelings or ill will towards him nor anyone else that I have ever competed against. I have always competed against all of

my opponents with all of my judo knowledge, abilities, and with sportsmanship. I always have respect for my opponents and their coaches.

As you can see in the video, I did not show any signs of anger or frustration towards Mr. Kodzhakov during the entire match (nor before or after). I was just competing against him to the best of my abilities as I do all of my opponents. At the point of the illegal action in question, I had just attempted a counter throw on Mr. Kodzhakov (which failed) and then immediately came up to my feet. I thought and anticipated that Mr. Kodzhakov was going to try to come to his feet quickly too, so I started my right arm in a quick downward motion (an attempt to push him down towards the mat) in order to force him back down to the tatami so I could attempt to engage him in newaza by grabbing his belt. However, Mr. Kodzhakov did not immediately try to come up to his feet so it appeared as if I intentionally tried to do an illegal action. (As in mixed martial arts and boxing there are times when an opponent knees/strikes his opponent in the groin area, which is illegal, but wasn't done intentionally. It was done by accident based on the positioning and movements of each competitor. A majority of the time the strike to the groin was unintentional and an accident as in my case).

I can absolutely ensure you with all my heart that I did not intentionally try to do any illegal action against Mr. Kodzhakov and that the illegal action in question was an accident. Nor have I intentionally attempted any illegal action against any of my opponents since I first started judo when I was five (5) years old. After viewing the video, I can see how it can be seen as me performing an illegal action, but I did not intentionally try to do anything illegal. I am truly sorry for my actions and for all the negative impacts that it has caused.

I have always represented the sport of judo and myself in a respectable and honorable manner. I have also always shown good sportsmanship and as you can see on the video at the end of the match, after Mr. Kodzhakov was awarded the victory, I started to move forward so I could congratulate Mr. Kodzhakov, but Mr. Kodzhakov bowed and walked off the contest area. After the match, my coach and I went to the officiating table to see what the illegal action was I question because I wholeheartedly did not intend to or realize that I did the illegal action to Mr. Kodzhakov. Once I was made aware of what I was disqualified for, I went to the warm up area and apologized to Mr. Kodzhakov and his coach. I also let them know that anything done was not intentional and wished the luck for the rest of the competition.

Attached below is a clip of one of my previous matches from a domestic competition. This clip shows what I was attempting to do to Mr. Kodzhakov and that it is a judo technique. Any motion that appears to be hitting my opponent was completely accidental as I was attempting a legitimate newaza sequence. I attempted to do that technique but swung my arm too quickly.

I sincerely apologize to the International Judo Federation, USA Judo, everyone who viewed the match, and the sport of judo. I also want to thank the International Judo Federation for allowing me to submit my defense statement in writing.

REGARDING THE CASE FILE:

The IJF Disciplinary Commission has seen the video from the event and it is clear that Mr. RAMIREZ intentionally was hitting his opponent on the shoulder.

The behaviour from Mr. RAMIREZ was totally unacceptable and it was a serious violation of the rules of the International Judo Federation and fully against the Code of Ethics of Judo, especially the principles of control of oneself and respect for the opponent. It took place during the Grand Prix on the tatami in front of TV, media and spectators. The IJF can never accept that an athlete on World level is breaking the spirit of Judo in this very bad way.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY:

Pronounces against Mr. Isaiah RAMIREZ two (2) months suspension from all Judo activities organized or authorized by the International Judo Federation, the Continental Unions and all their National Judo Federations, started from July 15th 2022.

- **Says that this decision shall be communicated to:**

- Mr. Marius VIZER, IJF President
- Mr. Jean Luc ROUGE, IJF General Secretary
- Mr. Mohamed MERIDJA, IJF Education and Coaching Director
- Mr. Vladimir BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director
- Mr Daniel Lascau, IJF Head Referee Director
- Dr. Lisa ALLAN, IJF Event Director
- USA Judo President
- Mr. Isaiah RAMIREZ

Informes Mr. Isaiah RAMIREZ that this decision is subject to appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The time limit for appeal shall be twenty-one days from the receipt of the decision appealed against. An appeal will not delay the sanction.

Paris, August 5th 2022

President
Mr. Dick D. JOHANSSON

Member
Mr. Hirofumi OTSUJI