



**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

CASE: n°2022-02

Ms. SILVA, Rafaela, BRA

COMMISSION COMPOSITION:

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

CONCERNED PERSON:

- Ms. SILVA, Rafaela, BRA (lawyer Ana Paula BELINGER)

DECISION 2022-09-28

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

During the Grand Prix Zagreb on July 15th 2022 the athlete Ms. Rafaela SILVA behaved against the spirit and current regulations of Judo (See attached Incident Report 02, Appendix A).

On July 20th 2022 the International Judo Federation General Secretary informed Ms. SILVA that a disciplinary procedure was opened against her and asked her to choose between the written procedure or the hearing.

Finally Ms. SILVA has chosen a written procedure and she has in a handwritten letter expressed her formal apology for her conduct.

On September 5th 2022 Ms. SILVA's lawyer has presented Ms. SILVA's first defence letter and after the request by Ms. SILVA her final defence letter was sent to the IJF General Secretary on September 21st 2022 (See attached document, Appendix B).

The members of the IJF Disciplinary Commission have seen two videos from the event including what was happening after the referee had declared the winner and Ms. SILVA refused to leave the mat.

REGARDING THE CASE FILE:

First of all, the IJF Disciplinary Commission will underline that the Commission has not the task to judge the referee's decisions during the competition. The Commission will only take into consideration the Athletes behaviour in accordance with the incident report.

From the second video it is very clear that Ms. SILVA contested the referee's decision and refused to leave the tatami in spite of several requests from the referee, which caused a delay of the competition for more than two minutes.

The behaviour from Ms. SILVA 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 officials. 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.

All the argumentation in Ms. SILVA's final defence letter can never lead to another conclusion. It is the opinion of the Commission that the incident report fulfils all necessary requirements for the proceeding and it is obvious that Ms. SILVA never has been imposed a verbal warning in accordance with the IJF Disciplinary Code, Article 12 Sanctions, from the IJF officials during the hearing after the fight, no matter the statement from Mr. Marcello Theotónio, the Brazilian High Performance Manager. When it comes to similar cases it is a considerable difference between this case and the case where Mr. Fonseca was imposed a warning (IJF DC case 2021-2) because Mr. Fonseca was the winner of his fight and he did celebrate his World Title in an inappropriate way, he did never contested the referee's decision, refused to leave the mat or delayed the competition.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION:

Pronounces a warning against Ms. Rafaela SILVA for her behaviour on the mat.

- **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
- Confederaçao Brasileira de judo President
- Ms. Rafaela SILVA
- Lawyer Ana Paula BELINGER

Informs Ms. Rafaela SILVA 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.

Paris, September 28th 2022

Mr. Dick D. JOHANSSON
President

Mr. Hirofumi OTSUJI
Member

DIVERGENT OPINION

The IJF DC President, Mr. Dick D. JOHANSSON, finds that Ms. SILVA's bad behaviour on the mat is much more serious than Mr. Fonseca's and that she therefore should be **pronounced 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 September 28th 2022. /DDJ**