

INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

CASE: No. 2024-02 GEO

Defendant: Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE, athlete from Georgia

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION:

Mr Helder LOURENÇO, President

Mr David PAPAUX, Vice-President

Mr Lukas DUSEK, Member

PERSON INVOLVED:

Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE, athlete from Georgia

FACTS AND PROCEDURE:

According to the report from the International Judo Federation:

"On May 11, 2024, at the Grand Slam in Astana, Kazakhstan, athlete Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE, after the match, in the waiting area, removed the top part of his judogi and threw it to the ground".

Such behavior corresponds in abstract to a violation of Article 3 of the International Judo Federation's Code of Ethics and Article 1.6 of the International Judo Federation's Disciplinary Code.

On May 24, 2024, Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE was notified of the intention to initiate a disciplinary procedure, being informed that the procedure would be initiated by sending the case files to the Disciplinary Committee.

On May 31, 2024, Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE was informed that a disciplinary procedure was being conducted against him and that he had eight days to submit his defense and all relevant evidence.

The defendant responded by demonstrating remorse and promising not to repeat such behavior.

It is also noted in the report that, after the incident, Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE was verbally reprimanded by a member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

REGARDING THE CASE FILE:

Upon review of the evidence submitted, it was found that the athlete was cautioned during the competition by the Ad Hoc Committee and demonstrated genuine remorse.

The incident initially appeared as though the judogi had been thrown to the ground, which could have had significant repercussions. However, upon closer examination, it was established that the athlete handed the judogi to their coach instead.

While this action goes against judo's ethical principles, the Committee determined it to be of minimal significance and a minor transgression. The Committee acknowledged the athlete's sincere regret and opted for a lenient penalty as a result.

The Committee considered the defendant's remorse to be sincere and decided to impose a light sanction. The Committee considered that the verbal warning is the lightest type of sanction from the system of sanctions set forth in articles 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the International Judo Federation's Disciplinary Code. With regards to the fact that similar behaviour is nowadays not a widespread behaviour on the judo competitions, the commission believes that the verbal warning is a sufficient signal that such behaviour is a breach of rules; for defendant as well as for judo community.

ON THESE GROUNDS, THE IJF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PRESIDENT:

The incident, being a rare occurrence, was carefully considered by the Committee mission, who deliberated to act as follows :

Pronounces a verbal warning against Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE, as provided for in the International Judo Federation's Disciplinary Code.

This decision shall be communicated to:

President of the IJF;

Secretary General of the IJF;

President of the European Judo Union (EJU);

Director of Sports of the IJF;

Director of Education and Coaching of the IJF;

President of the Judo Federation of Georgia;

Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE.

Informs Mr Giorgi CHIKHELIDZE that this decision is subject to appeal. The deadline for appeal is fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the decision. The appeal should be filed with the President of the disciplinary body responsible under points (a) to (d) of Clause 10.4. This President shall then forward the appeal, along with the documents generated during the process, to the President of the IJF Disciplinary Appeals Committee (International Judo Federation), also within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the appeal request.

President

Mr Helder LOURENÇO

Vice-President

Mr David PAPAUX

Member

Mr Lukas DUSEK

1 July 2024.