



Australian Government

Australian Sports
Anti-Doping Authority

25 March 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

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Surf boat crew's disqualification clarifies rule for all sports

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) today welcomed the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Appeal Panel to disqualify *all* members of the Currumbin Barbarians surf boat crew that won the 2009 Australian Championships Men's Open Surf Boat competition.

In 2009, the CAS banned a single member of the crew, Peter Atkins, for two years when he tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol after the crew won the title. At that time, CAS ruled that the remaining members of the crew (Lyle Clarke, Glen Williams, Randall Martin and Nick Parr) could keep their national title.

ASADA, on behalf of Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), appealed against the CAS ruling, submitting that the whole crew should be disqualified due to the single athlete's doping.

Under the World Anti-Doping Code, a disqualification of results for the whole team occurs only when more than two members in a 'team sport' commit a doping violation.

A 'team sport' is defined as a sport in which the substitution of players is permitted during a competition, such as football or netball.

ASADA argued that under Articles 9 and 11 of the World Anti-Doping Code, surf boating is not a 'team sport' as there is no substitution of boat crew members during a race, and therefore the doping conviction of one athlete should disqualify the whole crew.

On 19 March 2010, the CAS Appeal Panel handed down its judgement in support of ASADA and SLSA and ordered that the other four members from the winning boat have their result disqualified and any medals, points and prizes awarded to them from the competition forfeited.

Outgoing ASADA Chairman, Richard Ings, said that sports similar to surf boating that do not fit under the World Anti-Doping Code's definition of 'team sport' will be affected by this decision.

"It would be grossly unfair for a crew to win a major competition on the back of one doped athlete.

"Athletes competing as part of a rowing or canoeing crew, tennis doubles, and relay squads in swimming and athletics who dope to help their squad to victory not only risk being stripped of their individual medals but of condemning their honest team mates to a similar consequence," said Mr Ings.

SLSA's General Manager of Sport, Grant Baldock said the organisation welcomes the decision handed down by the CAS Appeal Panel.

"Surf Life Saving Australia condemns the use of performance enhancing drugs and doping practices in sport and we are pleased with the decision handed down by CAS in relation to Currumbin surf boat crew's placing from the 2009 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

"While it is disappointing that the action of one member has affected the results and rewards of other crew members, this decision sends a strong message that doping practices in our sport are not tolerated.

"We hope that this ruling will encourage members to look out for their fellow crew mates and ensure that this kind of behaviour is not tolerated," said Mr Baldock.

-ENDS-

Media note: Article 9 of the World Anti-Doping Code refers to the automatic disqualification of individual results and Article 11 of the Code looks at the consequences to teams.

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