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FIS MEDIA INFO

FIS Doping Panel confirms suspension of 1 year for Justyna Kowalczyk (POL)

On Monday 13th June 2005 the FIS Doping Panel adjudicated that Cross-Country skier Justyna Kowalczyk (POL) had committed a doping violation in accordance with Article 2.1 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules and consequently sanctioned her to suspension from all international competitions for 2 years until 22nd January 2007.

Subsequent to the decision of the FIS Doping Panel it was brought to the attention of the International Ski Federation (FIS) by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that since the substance Dexamethason is a Glucocorticosteroid, it is classified as a Specified Substance on the WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Methods and therefore the period of Ineligibility for the first violation shall be at a minimum, a warning and reprimand and no period of Ineligibility from future Events, and at a maximum, one (1) year's Ineligibility.

According to the World Anti-Doping Code and article 10.3 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules, the Prohibited List may identify specified substances which are particularly susceptible to unintentional anti-doping rules violations because of their general availability in medicinal products or which are less likely to be successfully abused as doping agents.

The FIS Doping Panel decided that based on the facts submitted and the testimony of the athlete and Polish Ski Association at the hearing on 21st May 2005, the sanction for the doping offence will be one (1) year beginning from 13th June 2005. The athlete is disqualified as from (and including) the U23 OPA Intercontinental Cup competition held on 23rd January 2005. The period from 23rd January 2005 - 13th June 2005 shall be calculated within the period of Ineligibility, meaning that she is ineligible to participate until 22nd January 2006.

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