



GEF Disciplinary Commission Panel sanctions head coach of Russian rhythmic gymnastics with two-year suspension and Russian Member Federation with warning

06/03/2023 ⌚ 3 MIN

The Gymnastics Ethics Foundation (GEF) Disciplinary Commission Panel, composed of Ms Laurence Burger (President) Dr Despina Mavromati and Mr Thomas Hayn (Members), notified on 6 March 2023 its decision in the disciplinary proceedings against Ms Irina Viner-Usmanova (RUS) and the Artistic Gymnastics Federation of Russia (the FIG Member Federation for Russia). The proceedings related to the alleged retaliatory withdrawal of Ms Nataliya Kuzmina's candidacy for the 2021 elections to the FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics Technical Committee, public statements made in media following the defeat of the Russian rhythmic gymnastics team at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which were deemed abusive and in violation of FIG Rules, as well as the Respondents' failure to duly cooperate with the investigation.

As such, the GEF Disciplinary Commission Panel decided as follows:

1. The GEF Disciplinary Commission has jurisdiction to decide upon the liability of Ms Viner-Usmanova.
2. The GEF Disciplinary Commission has jurisdiction to decide upon the liability of the AGFR.
3. Ms Viner-Usmanova is liable for breach of the FIG Rules.
4. The AGFR is liable for breach of the FIG Rules.
5. Ms Viner-Usmanova is not allowed to participate nor receive accreditation for any role at an international competition, including but not limited to acting as coach, head of delegation or other official role at an international competition in any FIG sanctioned event or competition organized by an affiliated FIG member federation for a period two years which shall start one (1) day after the FIG protective measures linked to the Russia- Ukraine war are lifted, assuming that the FIG protective measures linked to the Russia- Ukraine war are lifted within five (5) years from the date of the present Decision. Should the FIG protective measures be lifted after five (5) years from the date of the present Decision, then the sanction should be reduced to amount of time left between the date of the lifting of the FIG protective measures and seven (7) years after the date of the present Decision.
6. The AGFR is sanctioned with a warning.
7. The GEF, on the one hand, and the Respondents, on the other, shall each bear one half of the costs of the disciplinary proceedings of CHF 5'000.
8. Each Party shall bear its own legal costs and expenses incurred with respect to these proceedings.
9. This decision is to be published.

This site uses cookies and gives you control over what you want to activate. OK, accept all

Personalize

Ms Viner-Usmanova had previously received a warning from the FIG Presidential Bureau in 2008 for public statements deemed to violate FIG ethics rules at the time.

The Parties have the right to appeal the decision to the GEF Appeal Tribunal within 21 days of the notification of the decision.

The GEF (<https://www.gymnasticethicsfoundation.org/>), as an independent body, investigates complaints in order to ensure that violations of FIG rules, policies, and procedures, including ethical breaches, are handled in an unbiased manner. The GEF Disciplinary Section is composed of the Disciplinary Commission (<https://www.gymnasticethicsfoundation.org/disciplinary-commission>) and the Appeal Tribunal (<https://www.gymnasticethicsfoundation.org/appeal-tribunal>). Disciplinary proceedings may be opened by the Director of the GEF based on the findings from an investigation into a complaint. These proceedings are governed by the FIG rules in particular the FIG Code of Discipline (https://www.gymnastics.sport/publicdir/rules/files/en_Code%20of%20Discipline%202021.pdf), as well as international and Swiss law. The outcomes are communicated by the Disciplinary Commission (<https://www.gymnasticethicsfoundation.org/disciplinary-commission>) to the GEF Director who is then responsible for informing all concerned parties. Any federation, gymnast, judge, or other person directly affected by a decision of the GEF Disciplinary Commission, the FIG Congress, or the GEF Council may submit an appeal to the GEF Appeal Tribunal. Decisions taken by the Disciplinary Commission and the Appeal Tribunal of the GEF must be implemented by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and are therefore communicated on the FIG website (<https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/pages/governance-disc-decisions.php>).

This site uses cookies and gives you control over what you want to activate