

3 June 2025

DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS INTEGRITY AGENCY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7.14 OF THE 2025 TENNIS ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME

I. Introduction

1. The International Tennis Integrity Agency (**'the ITIA'**) is the delegated third party, under the World Anti-Doping Code (**'the Code'**), of the International Tennis Federation (**'the ITF'**), the international governing body for the sport of tennis and signatory of the Code. Under the delegation, the ITIA is responsible for the management and administration of anti-doping across professional tennis in accordance with the 2025 Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (**'the TADP or the Programme'**), which sets out Code-compliant anti-doping rules applicable to players competing in Covered Events.¹
2. Imran Sibille (**'the Player'**) is a 23-year-old tennis player from Morocco. He has an ITF ranking of 2517. He registered online for an International Player Identification Number (IPIN) in 2013 and in subsequent years. Thereby, the Player expressly agreed to be bound by and to comply with the Programme. By virtue of that agreement, and by virtue of his participation in ITF events (which fall within the definition of 'Covered Events' under the TADP), the Player became bound by and was required to comply with the Programme.
3. The ITIA charged the Player with the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.1 and/or Article 2.2 of the TADP involving a substance, cocaine, which is a Substance of Abuse as defined in the TADP. TADP Articles 2.1 and 2.2 read:

“2.1 The presence of a Prohibited Substance or any of its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample, unless the Player establishes that such presence is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.4.”

“2.2 Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, unless the Player establishes that such Use or Attempted Use is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.4.”

4. This ITIA issued decision is made in accordance with Article 10.2.4 of the TADP, which provides:

“10.2.4 Notwithstanding any other provision in Article 10.2, where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Substance of Abuse:

10.2.4.1 If the Player can establish that any ingestion or Use occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance, the period of Ineligibility will be three months, provided that it may be further reduced to one month if the Player

¹ Any term in this Decision that begins with a capital letter and is not otherwise defined in this Decision has the meaning given to it in the Programme.

satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse treatment program approved by the ITIA. The period of Ineligibility established in this Article 10.2.4.1 is not subject to any reduction based on any provision in Article 10.6.

10.2.4.2 *If the ingestion, Use, or Possession occurred In-Competition, and the Player can establish that the context of the ingestion, Use, or Possession was unrelated to sport performance, then the ingestion, Use, or Possession will not be considered intentional for purposes of Article 10.2.1 and will not provide a basis for a finding of Aggravating Circumstances under Article 10.4.”*

II. The Player's commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation

5. On 9 March 2025, while competing in the qualifying rounds of the men's singles competition at the ITF M25 event held in Catalonia, Spain from 9 March to 11 March 2025 (**'the Event'**), the Player was required to provide a urine sample for anti-doping testing under the TADP. The sample was given reference number 1540702 and was split into an A sample and a B sample, which were sealed in tamper-evident bottles and transported to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Montréal, Canada (**'the Laboratory'**) for analysis. The Laboratory reported an Adverse Analytical Finding for cocaine (and its metabolites), which is prohibited under the Programme, in the category of Stimulants (section S6.A of the 2025 Prohibited List). Cocaine is a non-Specified Substance. The Player does not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (**'TUE'**) permitting use of cocaine.
6. The Adverse Analytical Finding reported by the Laboratory in respect of the A sample was considered by an independent Review Board in accordance with TADP Article 7.4. The Review Board did not identify any apparent departures from the sample collection procedures set out in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations or from the sample analysis procedures set out in the International Standard for Laboratories that could have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding. The Review Board noted the Player does not have a TUE. It therefore decided that the Player had a case to answer for breach of TADP Article 2.1 and/or TADP Article 2.2.
7. The ITIA sent the Player a (pre-charge) Notice on 8 May 2025, advising him of his Adverse Analytical Finding and that he may have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under TADP Article 2.1 (presence of a Prohibited Substance in his Sample) and/or TADP Article 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance). Given that cocaine is classified as a non-Specified Substance under the TADP, the Player was subject to a mandatory provisional suspension under TADP Article 7.12.1 from the date of the pre-charge Notice, i.e., 8 May 2025.
8. On 14 May 2025, in response to the ITIA's (pre-charge) Notice, the Player admitted that he had committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation. In that response, he waived the opening of the B-Sample and submitted a detailed report from his psychologist.
9. On 22 May 2025, the ITIA formally charged the Player with the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under TADP Article 2.1 and/or TADP Article 2.2. TADP Article 2.1 is a strict liability offence that is established simply by proof that a Prohibited Substance was present in the sample, i.e., the ITIA does not have to prove how the substance got into the Player's system or that the Player took the substance intentionally (or even knowingly).
10. Also on 22 May 2025, the Player responded to the formal charge letter. He reiterated his acceptance of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation and asserted that his consumption was unrelated to sports performance, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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11. Accordingly, the breach of TADP Articles 2.1 and 2.2 (taken as one Anti-Doping Rule Violation for this purpose) was made out. This is the Player's first Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

III. Consequences

A. Applicability of TADP Article 10.2.4 sanctioning process

12. The Player asserted that his Adverse Analytical Finding was caused by taking the Prohibited Substance approximately four to five days before the match on 9 March 2025 (i.e., out of competition) in a context with no link to his sports performance.

13. [REDACTED]

14. In view of the evidence, the ITIA accepted that the Player's "*ingestion or Use occurred out-of-competition and was unrelated to sports performance.*" Therefore, his case qualified for the process set out in TADP Article 10.2.4.1.

B. Period of Ineligibility

15. The default period of ineligibility under TADP Article 10.2.4.1 is three months. The sanction may be further reduced to one month if the Player satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse treatment programme approved by the ITIA.

16. [REDACTED]

17. [REDACTED]

18. [REDACTED]

19. If the Player does not satisfactorily meet the above conditions, the sanction will revert back to three months and the additional two months will fall to be served pursuant to a further decision which would be issued by the ITIA at such time. However, for the time being, the sanction on a conditional basis is one month of Ineligibility.

20. As the Player was subject to a provisional suspension from 8 May 2025, his (conditional) one-month period of Ineligibility is backdated to that date. Therefore, the one month concludes on 7 June 2025.

C. Disqualification of results

21. The Player's results at the Event are automatically disqualified in accordance with TADP Articles 9.1 and 10.1.1 (including forfeiture of any medals, titles, ranking points, and prize money received as a result of participation in the Event).

22. TADP Article 10.10 states:



“Unless fairness requires otherwise, in addition to the Disqualification of results under Articles 9.1 and 10.1, any other results obtained by the Player in Competitions taking place in the period starting on the date the Sample in question was collected or other Anti-Doping Rule Violation occurred and ending on the commencement of any Provisional Suspension or Ineligibility period, will be Disqualified, with all of the resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, titles, ranking points and Prize Money).

D. Costs

23. Each party shall bear its own costs of dealings with this matter.

E. Publication

24. TADP Article 10.15 states:

“10.15 Automatic publication of Consequences

A mandatory Consequence in every case where an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has been committed will be automatic publication, as provided in Articles 8.6 and 13.11.”

25. Accordingly, this Decision will be publicly reported by being posted on the ITIA's website. Medical information pertaining to the Player has been removed from the published decision by redaction.

F. Notification

26. On 28 May 2025, the Player was advised in summary form of the ITIA's decision pursuant to TADP Article 10.2.4.1, the written reasons for which are now set out in this Decision issued on 3 June 2025.

IV. Rights of appeal

27. This Decision constitutes the final decision of the ITIA resolving this matter pursuant to TADP Article 10.2.4.1.

28. Further to TADP Article 13.2, each of WADA and the Moroccan NADO (AMAD) has a right to appeal against this Decision to the CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the procedure set out at TADP Article 13.9.

V. Summary

29. The Anti-Doping Rule Violation was admitted. On the conditions set out in this Decision, the Player is subject to a one-month period of Ineligibility pursuant to TADP Article 10.2.4.1. The one-month (conditional) period of Ineligibility commenced on the date on which the Player received the pre-charge Notice (8 May 2025) and concludes on 7 June 2025. If the Player fails to comply with the conditions set out in this decision and communicated to him, he will be subject to an additional two months of Ineligibility to be imposed by the ITIA in a subsequent decision.

Issued Decision of the ITIA

London, 3 June 2025

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