

NEW ERA ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

In the Matter of Arbitration Between:

**United States Anti-Doping Agency,
Claimant,**

Case No.: 26031610

v.

**Chase Zilcosky,
Respondent.**

FINAL AWARD OF ARBITRATOR

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the New Era ADR Rules and Procedures, as modified by the Procedures for the Arbitration of Olympic & Paralympic Sport Doping Disputes and the United States Anti-Doping Agency Protocol (“ the Protocol”) (effective as revised January 1, 2025) (“Arbitration Procedures”) as contained in the World Athletics Rules and World Anti-Doping Code (the “Code”) (collectively known as the “Applicable Rules”), an evidentiary hearing was held by videoconference on June 25, 2026, before the duly appointed arbitrator, Jeanne Charles (“the Arbitrator”). United States Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA” or “Claimant”) is an independent anti-doping organization with headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. USADA has promulgated numerous anti-doping protocols, including the USADA Protocol referenced above.
2. This case arises from Chase Zilcosky’s in-competition urine sample collected at the VIRUS Weightlifting Finals, a USA Weightlifting-sanctioned event held on December 4, 2025. The World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”)-accredited laboratory in Los Angeles, California reported his sample as an Adverse Analytical Finding (“AAF”) for amphetamine, a stimulant prohibited in-competition and classified as a non-Specified Substance on the WADA Prohibited List.
3. I, THE UNDERSIGNED ARBITRATOR, having been designated, and having been duly sworn, and having duly heard the allegations, arguments, submissions, proofs, and evidence submitted by the Parties do hereby FIND and AWARD as follows:

II. THE PARTIES

4. Chase Zilcosky (“Athlete” or “Respondent”) is a 22-year-old weightlifter who has held a USA Weightlifting membership since 2022.¹ Since that time, he has competed in numerous high-level events including the 2023 and 2024 National Junior Championships, the 2023 and 2024 National University Championships, the 2025 National University Championships, and the 2025 VIRUS Weightlifting Finals, where the sample at issue was collected.²
5. Claimant was represented in this proceeding by Spencer Crowell, USADA Director of Legal Affairs.
6. After due notice, Respondent failed to appear.
7. Claimant and Respondent will be referred to collectively as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party.”

III. ISSUE

8. On March 4, 2026, Claimant charged Respondent with anti-doping rule violations (“ADRV”) for the presence and use and/or attempted use of amphetamine pursuant to Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the International Weightlifting Federation (“IWF”) Anti-Doping Rules and Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Code.
9. It is undisputed that during the sample collection at the competition event on December 4, 2025, Respondent declared six (6) medications and supplements on the Doping Control Form including TUE D-amphetamine salt combo 10mg.³ Prior to the competition, Respondent applied for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (“TUE”) but was informed by USADA’s TUE Team that it was not required because he was considered to be a Recreational-level athlete. Later, due to the Adverse Analytical Finding (“AAF”), USADA requested the TUE application. Respondent failed to submit a complete application.
10. Respondent submitted no evidence to the Arbitrator disputing the instant violations.
11. Although the default sanction for ADRVs involving Non-Specified Substances is four (4) years, Claimant requests that Respondent be assessed a 2-year penalty because Respondent can meet his burden that his use was not intentional as that term is defined by the Code. Additionally, USADA requests

¹ Claimant Exhibit 3 (Weightlifting Membership History).

² Claimant Exhibit 4 (Competition History).

³ Claimant Exhibit 1 (Notice Letter).

the disqualification of all results Respondent obtained on and after the date of his positive test through the beginning of his provisional suspension on December 19, 2025.

12. Since the AAF is undisputed, the central issue before the Arbitrator in this proceeding is the appropriate sanction, if any, to be imposed upon Respondent for the presence and use and/or attempted use of amphetamine.

IV. JURISDICTION

13. Respondent did not contest that this arbitration is governed, procedurally and substantively, by the Protocol as applicable to Respondent and his participation at the VIRUS Weightlifting Finals on December 4, 2025.
14. Pursuant to the applicable arbitration procedures, which are contained in the USADA Protocol, the Arbitrator has the power to rule on her own jurisdiction.
15. No party has objected to the jurisdiction of the Arbitrator or asserted inarbitrability of the claim.
16. Accordingly, the instant matter is properly before this Arbitrator.

V. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

17. On November 11, 2025, Respondent applied to USADA for a TUE for amphetamine. Because he was considered to be a Recreational-Level Athlete, USADA's TUE Team informed Respondent, via an email dated November 13, 2025, that he was not required to obtain a TUE in advance of competition. The TUE Team also informed Respondent that if a sample resulted in an AAF or non-analytical finding, he may be eligible to apply for retroactive TUE consideration.
18. USADA collected a urine sample from Respondent while in competition at the VIRUS Weightlifting Finals on December 4, 2025.
19. USA Weightlifting is a signatory of the Code.
20. USADA sent Respondent's sample to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Los Angeles, California. The laboratory reported Respondent's sample as an AAF for the presence of amphetamine.⁴

⁴ Claimant Exhibit 1 (Notice Letter w/ Lab Report attached).

21. On December 19, 2025, USADA notified Respondent of the AAF and imposed a provisional suspension.⁵ Respondent did not request B Sample analysis by the December 29, 2025 deadline and is therefore deemed to have waived that analysis under the applicable rules.
22. Subsequently, USADA acknowledged Respondent's disclosure of amphetamine and his request, in advance, for a TUE, but informed him that due to the AAF, he now needed to submit the TUE.
23. On January 13, 2026, Respondent submitted a TUE application. However, the application was incomplete because it lacked requisite medical documentation. Specifically, Respondent failed to include fully signed forms; a complete psychological evaluation under current DSM Diagnostic Criteria; and three (3) testimonial letters.
24. USADA outlined these deficiencies in an email sent to Respondent on January 16, 2026, to the email address that Respondent used for the submission of his TUE application.
25. On March 4, 2026, USADA charged Respondent with ADRVs for the presence of amphetamine and for the use and/or attempted use of amphetamine pursuant to Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the IWF Anti-Doping Rules and Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Code.⁶
26. This proceeding was initiated on March 13, 2026, when Respondent requested a hearing. USADA contacted New Era ADR on March 16, 2026, to initiate the instant matter.⁷
27. On March 17, 2026, New Era ADR appointed the undersigned Arbitrator to this case.
28. The Arbitrator in this matter first contacted the parties on March 23, 2026, to schedule the preliminary hearing. After due notice and Respondent's failure to respond to the Arbitrator's attempts to schedule the hearing with his input, the preliminary hearing was held on April 13, 2026.
29. Respondent failed to appear at the preliminary hearing.
30. On May 7, 2026, USADA submitted its pre-hearing brief, its witness designation, exhibits list and exhibits timely to the Arbitrator and Respondent.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Claimant Exhibit 14 (Charging Letter).

⁷ Claimant Exhibit 16 (New Era ADR Initiation Letter).

31. Respondent failed to submit a pre-hearing brief, witness designation, exhibits list, or exhibits on the due date of May 28, 2026.
32. On June 22, 2026, a Show Cause hearing was held at USADA's request because while Respondent failed to comply with the Scheduling Order directing the submission of pre-hearing briefs and exhibits, it was anticipated that he might appear for the hearing to present evidence which would deprive Claimant of a proper opportunity to respond. Claimant requested that Respondent explain his failure to advance any arguments in this matter.
33. After due notice sent on June 18, 2026, Respondent failed to appear at the Show Cause hearing. Respondent was also informed (during a phone call with Claimant's Counsel and via the New Era ADR portal) that under Code Article 3.2.5, the Arbitrator would be permitted to make an adverse inference based on his failure to attend the hearing and respond to questions under oath.
34. On June 25, 2026, the Arbitrator held a full evidentiary hearing via video conference. USADA, being the only Party present, was given the opportunity to call witnesses and present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses and make arguments in support of its position.
35. The hearing was not transcribed.
36. USADA called Muriel Ossip, USADA Legal Assistant, Matthew Fedoruk, Ph.D., Chief Science Officer for USADA and Tammy Hansen, Director of Elite Education, USADA as witnesses.
37. No witnesses appeared on Respondent's behalf.
38. All witnesses testified under oath.
39. Opening and closing arguments were waived.
40. The hearing lasted approximately one (1) hour.
41. Neither party elected to submit a post-hearing brief.
42. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Arbitrator asked USADA whether it had any additional evidence to offer or witnesses to be heard, as required by the Protocol. USADA indicated that it did not.
43. The Arbitrator declared the hearing closed on June 25, 2026.

VI. APPLICABLE LAW

A. The Athlete's Responsibility

44. This arbitration is governed, procedurally and substantively, by the Protocol which is applicable to Respondent pursuant to his membership in USA Weightlifting, a signatory to the Protocol.
45. The Code is incorporated into the Protocol. The WADA Prohibited List is also applicable in this matter. Amphetamine is a Non-Specified Substance prohibited in-competition under S6a Non-Specified Stimulants on current and past WADA Prohibited Lists. Amphetamine is also specifically named on the WADA Prohibited List.⁸
46. Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) of the Code proscribes the presence of prohibited substances or their metabolites or markers in an Athlete's sample and applies a strict liability standard, meaning athletes are responsible regardless of fault or knowing use. It states, in relevant part:
- 2.1.1 It is the *Athletes'* personal duty to ensure that no *Prohibited Substance* enters their bodies. *Athletes* are responsible for any *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* found to be present in their *Samples*. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, *Fault*, *Negligence* or knowing *Use* on the *Athlete's* part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation under Article 2.1.⁹ (Emphasis in the original).
- 2.1.2 Sufficient proof of an anti-doping rule violation under Article 2.1 is established by any of the following: presence of a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* in the *Athlete's A Sample* where the *Athlete* waives analysis of the *B Sample* and the *B Sample* is not analyzed....¹⁰ (Emphasis in the original).
47. Article 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) of the Code proscribes the use or attempted use of

⁸ Claimant Exhibit 17 (Dr. Fedoruk Expert Report, Par.7).

⁹ Claimant Exhibit 19 at 19 (World Anti-Doping Code).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 20.

prohibited substances and applies a strict liability standard, meaning athletes are responsible regardless of fault or knowing use. It states, in relevant part:

2.2.1 It is the *Athletes'* personal duty to ensure that no *Prohibited Substance* enters their bodies and that no *Prohibited Method* is *Used*. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, *Fault*, *Negligence* or knowing *Use* on the *Athlete's* part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation for *Use* of a *Prohibited Substance* or a *Prohibited Method*.¹¹ (Emphasis in the original).

2.2.2 The success or failure of the *Use* or *Attempted Use* of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* is not material. It is sufficient that the *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* was *Used* or *Attempted* to be *Used* for an anti-doping rule violation to be committed.¹² (Emphasis in the original).

B. Burden and Standard of Proof

48. Article 3.1 of the Code provides, in relevant part, that: “The *Anti-Doping Organization* shall have the burden of establishing that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred.” Additionally, Article 3.1 states that:

The standard of proof shall be whether the *Anti-Doping Organization* has established an anti-doping rule violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing panel, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made. This standard of proof in all cases is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Where the *Code* places the burden of proof upon the *Athlete* or other *Person* alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to rebut a presumption or establish specified facts or circumstances, except as provided in Articles 3.2.2 and 3.2.3, the standard of proof shall be by a balance of probability.¹³ (Emphasis in original).

49. Under Article 10.2.2 of the Code, the Athlete bears the burden of establishing, by a balance of probabilities, that the ADRV was unintentional such that the penalty can be reduced.

¹¹ *Id.* at 21.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.* at 26-27.

C. Sanctions

50. Code Article 10.2.1 requires that the default period of ineligibility for a first ADRV involving a Non-Specified Substance such as amphetamine is four (4) years unless the athlete can establish, by a balance of probabilities, that the ADRV was unintentional, in which case the period of ineligibility shall be two (2) years in accordance with Article 10.2.2.
51. Code Article 10.6.2. provides for a further reduction in the period of ineligibility if the athlete can establish no significant fault or negligence, and a reduction is deemed appropriate based on a degree of fault analysis. A reduction based on a finding of no significant fault requires the athlete to prove source of the positive test and that any fault or negligence was not significant with respect to the ADRV.
52. In AAFs involving Non-Specified Substances, the period of ineligibility may not be reduced below one year, except in cases involving contaminated products or situations where the athlete can establish no fault or negligence.
53. In instances where a positive test was caused by a contaminated product, an athlete can qualify for a sanction from 0-24 months, but they must establish both no significant fault or negligence and that the prohibited substance in their sample came from a contaminated product.
54. It is the athlete's burden of proof to establish by a balance of probability (*i.e.*, preponderance of the evidence) that a reduction is appropriate.
55. Claimant avers that because Respondent has met his burden with respect to establishing that the use of amphetamine was unintentional, the recommended period of ineligibility should be two (2) years.
56. Disqualification of results in competitions subsequent to sample collection or commission of an ADRV is covered in Article 10.10. It states:

In addition to the automatic *Disqualification* of the results in the *Competition* which produced the positive *Sample* under Article 9, all other competitive results of the *Athlete* obtained from the date a positive *Sample* was collected (whether *In-Competition* or *Out-of-Competition*), or other anti-doping rule violation occurred, through the commencement of any *Provisional Suspension* or *Ineligibility* period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be *Disqualified* with all of the resulting *Consequences* including

forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.¹⁴ (Emphasis in original).

57. Pursuant to Article 10.13.2.1 of the Code, “[i]f a *Provisional Suspension* is respected by the *Athlete* or other *Person*, then the *Athlete* or other *Person* shall receive a credit for such period of *Provisional Suspension* against any period of *Ineligibility* which may ultimately be imposed....”¹⁵ (Emphasis in original).
58. However, according to Article 10.13.2.3, “[n]o credit against a period of *Ineligibility* shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the *Provisional Suspension* or voluntary *Provisional Suspension* regardless of whether the *Athlete* elected not to compete or was suspended by a team.”¹⁶

VII. FACTUAL SUMMARY

59. Below is a summary of the relevant facts and allegations based on the Parties’ written and oral submissions, pleadings and evidence adduced during the pendency of this arbitration proceeding. Additional facts and allegations found in the Parties’ submissions, pleadings and evidence may be set out, where relevant, in connection with the legal discussion that follows.
60. While the Arbitrator has considered all the facts, allegations, legal arguments, and evidence submitted by the Parties in the present proceeding, this Award only refers to the submissions and evidence necessary to explain the Arbitrator’s reasoning. The facts presented or relied upon may differ from one side’s or the other’s presented version and that is the result of the Arbitrator necessarily having to weigh the presented evidence in providing the basis for and in coming to a decision as to the award. The summary presented below reflects portions of the evidence and witness testimony deemed relevant by the Arbitrator.
61. Respondent is a 22-year-old weightlifter who has held a USA Weightlifting membership since 2022. Since that time, he has competed in numerous high-level events including the 2023 and 2024 National Junior Championships, the 2023 and 2024 National University Championships, the 2025 National University Championships, and the 2025 VIRUS Weightlifting Finals, where the sample at issue was collected.
62. As part of his involvement with USA Weightlifting, Respondent has completed online anti-doping education tutorials developed by USADA on multiple

¹⁴ *Id.* at 82-83.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 84.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 85.

occasions. Tammy Hansen Director of Elite Education, USADA Tammy Hansen provided un rebutted testimony that Respondent completed anti-doping tutorials for three (3) consecutive years — October 30, 2022; November 9, 2023; December 26, 2024 — via USA Weightlifting's USADA-designed platform. She testified further that completion of the training and knowledge check are required to compete.

63. Respondent's ADRVs occurred on December 4, 2025. At the competition event, Respondent declared six (6) medications and supplements on the Doping Control Form including D-amphetamine salt combo medication.
64. While in competition A and B urine samples were collected from Respondent. The WADA-accredited laboratory at UCLA in Los Angeles, California found Respondent's A sample positive for amphetamine, a Non-Specified Substance prohibited at all times. Respondent waived B Sample analysis by failing to request it by the prescribed deadline. As Dr. Matthew Fedoruk, USADA's Chief Science Officer, confirmed in his expert report, the laboratory analysis was completed in accordance with the requisite international standards.¹⁷
65. Respondent made an initial application for a TUE prior to the competition, but was informed that due to his recreational athlete status, it was not necessary unless he was notified of an AAF. Once he was required to complete the TUE application, he failed to do so. Specifically, after several emails and telephone calls, Respondent never submitted a complete TUE application with supporting documentation, as required.
66. Further, Claimant was never able to formally interview Respondent due to his non-responsiveness.
67. Dr. Fedoruk's testimony contained the adoption of his expert report. He opined that Respondent's declared use of 10mg D-amphetamine salt combo medication on the day of competition is consistent with the reported AAF for amphetamine.
68. Dr. Fedoruk explained in his report that amphetamine is a pharmaceutical drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States and can be prescribed to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. Amphetamine salt combo contains a mixture of dextroamphetamine and levoamphetamine, this tablet form is designed for immediate release. Amphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant that affects chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control.

¹⁷ Claimant Exhibit 17 (Fedoruk Expert Report).

69. Further, stimulants such as amphetamine can provide performance-enhancing physical and psychological benefits in-competition. Amphetamine can enhance alertness, concentration, resistance to fatigue, and endurance, which effects are particularly beneficial to weightlifters during competition.
70. Through USADA's TUE team and legal office, several attempts were made to obtain a complete TUE application from the Respondent once he was notified of the potential anti-doping rule violations on December 19, 2025. USADA Legal Assistant Muriel Ossip testified that she spoke to Respondent on January 13, 2026, February 9, 2026, and March 4, 2026. On February 17, 2026 and April 14, 2026, she left a voicemail for Respondent but did not receive a call back from him.
71. When Ms. Ossip spoke to Respondent on February 9, she forwarded by email the specific documentation requirements.
72. Respondent was formally charged with the ADRVs on March 4, 2026.
73. After the charging letter was issued, Ms. Ossip spoke with Respondent about the letter and status of the TUE application. During this conversation, Respondent informed Ms. Ossip that the university email address the TUE Department had been using could not receive email from outside organizations. While on the phone, Ms. Ossip forwarded the most recent email regarding the incomplete TUE application to the same email address used for the suspension and charging notices which, according to Ms. Ossip, Respondent confirmed receiving while they were on the telephone.¹⁸
74. It should be noted that on January 17, 2026, Respondent actually acknowledged receipt of the TUE Department's email when he stated, "It has been submitted, I have received an email saying that USADA needs more information."¹⁹
75. No complete TUE application was ever received by USADA.

VIII. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Claimant's Position

¹⁸ While this assertion is clear hearsay, in applying Article 3.2.5 of the Code, I draw an adverse inference since Respondent failed to answer the charges or appear to provide sworn testimony before this Arbitrator.

¹⁹ Claimant Exhibit 9 (Emails between USADA and Respondent).

76. First, Claimant argues that USADA has established that Respondent committed ADRVs for the presence and use of amphetamine following his in-competition sample collected on December 4, 2025, which returned a positive finding. Accordingly, Claimant has met its burden that Respondent committed the charged ADRV which Respondent does not dispute.
77. Second, Claimant contends that although the default sanction in this matter is a four-year period of ineligibility, two (2) years is the appropriate period of ineligibility since Respondent had a prescription for amphetamine, applied for a TUE proactively and declared the prohibited substance on his Doping Control Form. This demonstrates that the violations were not intentional.
78. Finally, Claimant requests the disqualification of all competitive results obtained by Respondent from the date of sample collection, December 4, 2025, through the date of his provisional suspension on December 19, 2025.

B. Respondent's Position

79. Respondent did not make arguments to the undersigned Arbitrator in writing or in person.

IX. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

A. Respondent Committed the Anti-Doping Rule Violations Alleged in the Charge Letter Dated March 4, 2026.

80. Claimant provided un rebutted evidence that Respondent tested positive for amphetamine based on an in-competition urine sample obtained on December 4, 2025, at the VIRUS Weightlifting Finals event. Respondent does not contest the positive result.
81. Amphetamine is considered a Non-Specified Substance prohibited in-competition under S6a Non-Specified Stimulants on the current WADA Prohibited List. Amphetamine is also specifically named on the WADA Prohibited List.
82. Dr. Fedoruk, in his expert report and through testimony, established that the WADA-accredited laboratory analysis of the sample obtained on February 24, 2024, was completed in accordance with the requisite international standards.
83. While Respondent made a proactive attempt to obtain a TUE for amphetamine, he failed to complete the application, as required. To obtain a

TUE, an athlete must establish, on a balance of probabilities, that: a) the prohibited substance is needed to treat a diagnosed medical condition supported by relevant clinical evidence; b) the therapeutic use of the prohibited substance will not, on a balance of probabilities, produce any performance enhancement beyond restoring the athlete to a normal state of health; c) the prohibited substance is an indicated treatment for the medical condition and there is no reasonable permitted therapeutic alternative; and d) the necessity for the use of the prohibited substance is not a consequence of the prior use of a substance which was prohibited at the time of such use.²⁰

84. Respondent was informed by email dated January 16, 2026, that the essential documents needed to meet the TUE criteria in this case were as follows:

- a. Complete and legible TUE application with his signature acknowledging the TUE Privacy Notice and Athlete Declaration.
- b. Thorough psychological evaluation of the athlete according to the most recent DSM Diagnostic Criteria which, among other things, must be completed by a Psychiatrist (MD).
- c. Testimonial from (a) the athlete, (b) a parent/caregiver/spouse AND, (c) a teacher/educational professional/supervisor/coach onset and effect of the symptoms across various scenarios.²¹

85. Respondent had 30 days to submit the complete application and supporting documentation or make a request for an extension. Respondent failed to do either. Consequently, Respondent failed to obtain a TUE. Therefore, there is sufficient evidence that Respondent committed ADRVs as set forth in Article 2.1 (presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites) and Article 2.2 (use/attempted use) of the Code.

B. The Sanctions for Respondent's Proven Anti-Doping Rule Violations

1. *Default Period of Ineligibility*

86. Pursuant to Article 10.2. of the Code, the default period of ineligibility for a first ADRV for presence and use of a Non-Specified Substance such as amphetamine is four (4) years unless the athlete can establish by a balance of probabilities that the ADRV was unintentional, in which case the period of ineligibility shall be two (2) years.

87. The Code at Article 10.2.3 defines "intentional" as a term "meant to identify those *Athletes* or other *Persons* who engage in conduct which they knew

²⁰ Claimant Exhibit 18 (ISTUE, Art. 4.2., January 2023).

²¹ Claimant Exhibit 10.

constituted an anti-doping rule violation or knew that there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an anti-doping rule violation and manifestly disregarded that risk.”

88. I find that because Respondent had a prescription for amphetamine, applied for a TUE proactively and declared the prohibited substance on his Doping Control Form, his violations were not intentional.

2. Period of Ineligibility

89. Because the instant ADRVs were unintentional, the appropriate sanction for the amphetamine positive test is appropriately set at two (2) years.
90. I find no mitigating circumstances applicable here that would warrant a reduction in the period of ineligibility.

3. Disqualification of Results

91. Article 9 of the Code provides that “[a]n anti-doping rule violation in *Individual Sports* in connection with an *In-Competition* test automatically leads to *Disqualification* of the result obtained in that *Competition* with all resulting *Consequences*, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.” (Emphasis in the original).
92. Additionally, Article 10.10 of the Code is clear that “all other competitive results of the *Athlete* obtained from the date a positive *Sample* was collected (whether *In-Competition* or *Out-of-Competition*), or other anti-doping rule violation occurred, through the commencement of any *Provisional Suspension* or *Ineligibility* period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be *Disqualified* with all of the resulting *Consequences* including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.” (Emphasis in the original).
93. The positive test for amphetamine was obtained while Respondent was in-competition at the VIRUS Weightlifting Finals, a USA Weightlifting-sanctioned event held on December 4, 2025. The Code requires automatic disqualification of the results from this date.
94. It is concluded that Respondent’s competitive results, including any award of medals, points, and prizes received on or after December 4, 2025, through the beginning of his provisional suspension on December 19, 2025, shall be disqualified. There is no evidence that Respondent failed to respect the

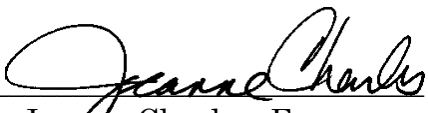
provisional suspension and, therefore, the suspension served beginning December 19, 2025, shall be credited against the total period of ineligibility.

X. AWARD

Having duly heard the evidence and the argument of the Parties, the Arbitrator awards as follows:

- A. Claimant met its burden of proving Respondent committed an ADRV under Article 2.1 of the Code for *presence* of amphetamine, a WADA prohibited substance at all times.
- B. Claimant met its burden of proving Respondent committed an ADRV under Article 2.2 of the Code for the *use* of amphetamine.
- C. This was Respondent's first ADRV. However, the record evidence establishes that the violations were not intentional. Therefore, the period of ineligibility for the violations shall be two (2) years.
- D. Pursuant to Article 10.13 of the Code, the period of ineligibility shall start on the date of the final hearing decision. Thus, Respondent's period of ineligibility is July 24, 2026 through July 22, 2028. However, under 10.13.2.1 of the Code, the period of provisional suspension, which is December 19, 2025 through July 22, 2026, already served by Respondent shall be credited against the total period of ineligibility to be served.
- E. Respondent's competitive results, including any award of medals, points, and prizes from December 4, 2025, shall be disqualified.
- F. This Award is in full settlement of all claims submitted in this arbitration. All claims not expressly granted herein are hereby denied.

Dated: July 24, 2026
Fort Lauderdale, FL


Jeanne Charles, Esq.
Arbitrator