

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**INDEPENDENT ARBITRATOR UPHOLDS SANCTION ON IRONMAN
AGE-GROUP ATHLETE MAURIZIO CARTA
FOR ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION**

TAMPA, Fla. (July 17, 2017) – Today, the IRONMAN® Anti-Doping Program announced that an independent arbitrator from McLaren Global Sports Solutions, Inc. (MGSS) has rendered a decision in the case of Italian age-group athlete Maurizio Carta, and determined that Mr. Carta committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) resulting in a four-year suspension. Mr. Carta refused to submit to an out-of-competition test, a violation of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code (the WADA Code).

On October 5, 2016, Mr. Carta was notified of his selection for an out-of-competition blood test, which was being conducted as part of the IRONMAN® Anti-Doping Program. Mr. Carta had been pre-selected for this test as part of the IRONMAN test distribution plan for athletes qualified for the IRONMAN® World Championship.

Mr. Carta's refusal resulted in his disqualification from the 2016 IRONMAN World Championship and Provisional Suspension. Mr. Carta contested IRONMAN's asserted ADRV. In accordance with the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules, his appeal was administered by McLaren Global Sports Solutions. In rejecting the athlete's claim, the arbitrator concluded that there was no compelling justification for Mr. Carta to refuse to provide a sample and that IRONMAN had provided the athlete appropriate notice that he was subject to testing. The arbitrator was satisfied that Mr. Carta understood his options and made a conscious, intentional decision to refuse to provide a sample. The arbitrator upheld IRONMAN's charge of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation and the four-year period of ineligibility imposed by IRONMAN.

All results-management proceedings and sanctions applied under the jurisdiction of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program are determined in accordance with the WADA Code and the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules. Arbitration decisions issued by the independent MGSS arbitrators are based on those rules.

"All age-group athletes who accept qualifying slots to the IRONMAN World Championship are provided specific notice regarding the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program, including what their rights and responsibilities are," said Kate Mittelstadt, Director of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program. "This decision recognizes IRONMAN's proactive efforts to ensure athletes are aware of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules and the IRONMAN Competition Rules and take responsibility for their own compliance."

As a result of this sanction, Mr. Carta was and is ineligible to participate in any IRONMAN-affiliated competition or any events organized by any other WADA Code Signatory for a period of four years beginning October 6, 2016, the date his Provisional Suspension began.

All decisions of the MGSS Arbitration Panel are made public and this decision can be found at www.ironman.com/triathlon/organizations/anti-doping/results-management.aspx

To learn more about the IRONMAN Anti-Doping program, visit www.ironman.com/triathlon/organizations/anti-doping.aspx. For more information on the IRONMAN brand and global event series, visit www.ironman.com. Media-related inquiries may contact press@ironman.com.

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About IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program

As a private corporation conducting triathlon events, IRONMAN is the first private, non-federation sports company to formally adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code. The IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in conformance with the responsibilities of IRONMAN under the Code, and are in furtherance of IRONMAN's continuing its efforts to protect and promote clean sport and the integrity of IRONMAN racing. As part of the www.ironman.com website, IRONMAN has included an Anti-Doping section. Downloads of rules, policies and forms, sanctions, as well as educational resources and links are available to all participants and the public through this site. Anti-Doping is a key component of IRONMAN's IAMTrue™ outreach initiative focused on ensuring that athletes know and understand their rights and responsibilities and the IRONMAN Competition Rules. The WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods is available at www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list.

About IRONMAN

A Wanda Sports Holdings company, IRONMAN operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, the Rock n' Roll Marathon Series®, Iron Girl®, IRONKIDS®, International Triathlon Union World Triathlon Series races, road cycling events including the UCI Velothon Majors Series, mountain bike races including the Absa Cape Epic, premier marathons including the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon and other multisport races. IRONMAN's events, together with all other Wanda Sports Holdings events, provide more than a million participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company's vast offerings. The iconic IRONMAN® Series of events is the largest participation sports platform in the world. Since the inception of the IRONMAN® brand in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines at the world's most challenging endurance races. Beginning as a single race, IRONMAN has grown to become a global sensation with more than 200 events across 50 countries. For more information, visit www.ironman.com.

About Wanda Sports Holding

Wanda Sports Holding is the world's leading sports business entity, founded to capture the opportunities in the global sports industry and to contribute to the prosperous international sports landscape – in three key areas: 1) Spectator Sports (media & marketing business), 2) Participation Sports (active lifestyle business), 3) Services (digital, production and service business). Wanda Sports Holding incorporates the international sports marketing company Infront Sports & Media, the iconic endurance brand IRONMAN, and Wanda Sports China. The headquarters are in Guangzhou, China.