

## **Summary of the decision against Algo Kärp, EST**

**On 20 January 2020, the Independent Anti-Doping Delegate of the International Ski Federation ("FIS") issued her decision in the doping matter of Algo Kärp. The Estonian cross-country skier was declared ineligible for a period of two years and six months until 5 September 2021. All competitive results obtained since 22 February 2017 are disqualified.**

On 27 February 2019, at the 2019 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Seefeld, Austria, the Austrian police raided several athletes on the suspicion of blood doping. Simultaneously, the German police searched the medical practice of Dr. Mark Schmidt in Erfurt, Germany. Following the incidents in Seefeld and Erfurt, law enforcement authorities of Germany, Austria and Estonia initiated criminal investigations and proceedings against a number of athletes and support personnel, including members of the privately sponsored Estonian sports team "Haanja". Team "Haanja" mainly consisted of Estonian cross-country skiers, including Algo Kärp.

On 4 March 2019, on his own initiative and before he became a direct subject of criminal investigations, Algo Kärp confessed in the Estonian media that he had used blood doping after he had received the contact details of the German sports physician Dr. Mark Schmidt from the Estonian ski coach Mati Alaver in 2016. His confessions concerned the withdrawal of blood from his circulatory system and the subsequent re-injection of autologous blood into his body. In order to set off the increased blood values, Algo Kärp drank large amounts of water with a high salt content after the competition and took albumin to cover up the blood doping. Furthermore, Algo Kärp admitted a treatment with insulin, a prohibited substance under the WADA Prohibited List.

On 6 March 2019, the FIS notified Algo Kärp of the opening of disciplinary proceedings and provisionally suspended him. The suspension was not challenged. On 21 November 2019, the FIS charged Algo Kärp with the commission of repeated anti-doping rule violations, in particular of Article 2.2 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2016 with reference to M1 of the WADA Prohibited List for the use of a prohibited method (i.e. manipulation of blood and blood components by withdrawals and re-injections of the athlete's own blood by several occasions between 2016 and 2018), Article 2.2 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2016, S4, para. 5.4 of the WADA Prohibited List for the use of a prohibited substance (namely Insulin), and Article 2.9 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2016 for conspiring and covering up repeated anti-doping rule violations. As a consequence, the FIS requested his ineligibility of four years as a sanction.

On 12 December 2019, Algo Kärp requested a lower sanction because of his voluntary cooperation with all investigative bodies from the very beginning. He repeated his confession of the anti-doping rule violations and did not request a hearing to be held. A hearing was therefore no longer required. Instead, based on Article 7.10 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules, the Independent Anti-Doping Delegate of

the FIS was competent to determine the period of ineligibility. Taking Algo Kärp's confession and cooperation into account, the Independent Anti-Doping Delegate of the FIS decided on 20 January 2020 to reduce Algo Kärp's period of ineligibility by one year and six months. This means that he is barred from participating in any sports competition or other activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programs) authorised or organised by FIS or any other signatory of the WADA code, a signatory's member organisation, or in any other sports-related activity as defined in Article 10.12 of the FIS Anti-Doping Rules for a period of two years and six months. The already served provisional sanction since 6 March 2019 has to be deducted. Algo Kärp is therefore banned from all sports-related activities until 5 September 2021. Algo Kärp's competitive results obtained since 22 February 2017 (i.e. the day of the first re-injection of his own blood) are disqualified with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes. This decision is still appealable by WADA.