



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

DECISION

**REGARDING MICHAEL CONLAN,
ATHLETE, IRELAND, BOXING**

I. Facts

1. Michael John Conlan (hereafter “the Athlete”), born on 19 November 1991, competed at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 as part of the team of Ireland, in the sport of boxing (AIBA), in the men’s bantamweight (56kg) event. He participated in two fights, on 14 and 16 August 2016.
2. On 17 August at approx. 10:15 Rio time, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer was informed that the Athlete had placed bets on 8 and 9 August 2016 on the Olympic Games boxing competitions.
3. The IOC Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) identified that the Athlete had bet on boxing matches; and that the cumulative bets were not on his own bouts, but that at least two of them had been placed on his own weight class. The bets placed were of a relatively low amount of money (maximum of GBP 200), yet they had created opportunities to make large amounts of money if they had been successful. All the bets had been lost.
4. Michael Conlan’s account was automatically suspended by the betting company following the alert.
5. As the likelihood of a breach was established, pursuant to Article 6 of the *Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions*, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer informed the IOC President about the situation. The IOC President immediately set up a Disciplinary Commission on 19 August 2016, consisting of:
 - Denis Oswald (Chair)
 - Angela Ruggiero
 - Karl Stoss

The IOC President also informed the Disciplinary Commission that, pursuant to Rule 59.2.4 of the Olympic Charter, as well as Article 8.1 of the above-mentioned Rules, the decision by the Disciplinary Commission in this case would constitute the decision of the IOC.

6. By letter dated 19 August 2016, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer invited the Athlete, the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) and the International Boxing Federation (hereafter “AIBA”) to attend a hearing on 20 August 2016 at 10:30 hours at the Marapendi Hotel in Rio de Janeiro.



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7. The Disciplinary Commission held the hearing on the said date and time, in the presence of the Athlete, Michael Conlan, and John Conlan, the Athlete's father; the OCI was represented by the Chef de Mission, Kevin Kilty, the Deputy Chef de Mission, Stephen Martin, and Joe Hennigan, boxing team leader.
8. AIBA was represented by Clíodhna Guy, AIBA Legal Director, and William Louis Marie, AIBA Communications Director.
9. The IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, also attended the hearing.
10. The Athlete and the OCI confirmed that they had no objection as to the disciplinary procedure.
11. Responding to the questions posed by the DC, the athlete confirmed to:
 - having bet on the Olympic Games competitions and in particular on the boxing competitions;
 - having signed the IOC eligibility condition form and the OCI team contract, both clearly mentioning the prohibition of betting on the Olympic Games competitions.
12. The Athlete, the OCI and the AIBA orally submitted their observations:
 - a) The Athlete stated that:
 - he had signed the various documents without reading them, thus he was in fact not aware of the prohibition;
 - he usually bet on sports - on horse racing, football and boxing. It was a kind of hobby for him, even if he was not addicted;
 - he engaged in betting to pass the time; he had been bored in the Olympic Village, as there was not much to do;
 - he bet just for fun;
 - he understood he had made a mistake and regretted it, and;
 - finally, he would be ready to help to educate his fellow athletes using his own experience.
 - b) The representatives of the Olympic Council of Ireland recognised that:
 - while preparing the team they had placed more emphasis on the issue of doping than on the prohibition of betting; and
 - they were aware of the IOC education apps pre-loaded on the mobile phone distributed to the athletes, but had not passed on the message, and, in the future they would better educate the athletes on this issue.
 - c) The representatives of AIBA recognised that the International Federation did not yet have any formal education programmes in place to raise awareness among the athletes or officials, but said that this was planned for the near future.

II. Applicable rules

13. The *Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions* provide that, for the purpose of the implementation of Articles 7, 9 and 10 of the IOC Code of Ethics, the following conduct constitutes a violation of the Code of Ethics and of these Rules:



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Article 4.1.1 Betting in relation to any Olympic Competitions, whether the Participant is directly participating or not.

Article 4.2 An intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a Competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of this Competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself or for others.

Article 4.4.1 Using Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of the Competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Participant or via another person and/or entity.

For the purpose of Articles 7, 9 and 10 of the IOC Code of Ethics and the present Rules,

Article 2.5 sets out that “*Sports Betting, Bet or Betting*” means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to an Olympic Competition.

Article 2.3 sets out that “*Inside Information*” means any information relating to any participant to the Olympic Games or Olympic Competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to the Olympic Games, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant competition.

III. Discussion

14. The DC observes that the Athlete bet on the Olympic Games competitions and thus breached Article 4.1.1 of the above-mentioned Rules; it also notes that, while being a member of a boxing team participating in the Olympic boxing events, he used Inside Information regarding the Olympic boxing competition to bet on such competitions and therefore breached Article 4.4.1 of the above-mentioned Rules.
15. The DC takes note that no manipulation of competition has been alleged and that no evidence of such manipulation has been identified; therefore the DC considers that there was no breach of Article 4.2 of the above-mentioned Rules.
16. The DC takes note of the willingness of the Athlete as well as of the Olympic Council of Ireland and AIBA to follow the IOC’s educational programmes.
17. To determine the sanction, the DC considers that the Athlete had bet openly, without intending to manipulate his competition and that his participation in the Olympic Games is now over; it also takes into consideration the apologies of the Athlete as well as of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

CONSIDERING the above, pursuant to the *Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions* and Rule 59.2 of the *Olympic Charter*



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THE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

DECIDES

- I. The Athlete, Michael John Conlan:
 - is found to have violated the Rules for the Application during the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions;
 - is sanctioned with a severe reprimand;
 - is required to demonstrate, in order to have his accreditation validated for the next edition of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, in the event that he is eligible for that competition, that he has successfully followed the educational programme of the IOC;
 - is required to support, through active participation, the education programmes organised by either the Olympic Council of Ireland, AIBA or the IOC.

- II. The Olympic Council of Ireland:
 - is sanctioned with a reprimand for not having properly informed its athletes about the content of the different rules applicable to them on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Rio, as well as about the content of the contract signed with them;
 - is requested to make sure that the team preparation for the Olympic Games (winter and summer) includes complete education on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions and betting on the Olympic Games, using the material provided to the NOCs by the IOC.

- III. AIBA:
 - is recommended to make sure that its rules and regulations for its own competitions are compliant with the *Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions* and to put in place education programmes on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions and betting on the Olympic Games, using the material provided to the IFs by the IOC.

Rio de Janeiro, 20 August 2016

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Members of the Disciplinary Commission

Denis Oswald