

TAS

Tribunal Arbitral du Sport



CAS

Court of Arbitration for Sport

PRESS RELEASE (13)

WRESTLING

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) confirms that the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA) is required to provide a procedure for an appeal jury

Ranking of the Mens Greco-Roman 84kg remains unchanged

Beijing, 23 August 2008 – On 20 August 2008, a dispute related to the judging of the semi-final in the Men’s Greco-Roman 84kg between Andrea Minguzzi (Italy) and Ara Abrahamian (Sweden) was referred by the NOC of Sweden and Abrahamian to the CAS ad hoc Division.

The two applicants did not seek any particular relief from the CAS regarding the ranking or the allocation of medals for this event, neither did they seek a review of the IOC decision to exclude Ara Abrahamian from the Beijing Games.

A CAS panel composed of Mr David W. Rivkin (USA) (President), Mr Michael J. Beloff QC (United Kingdom) and Mr Thomas Lee (Malaysia) was requested to consider whether FILA’s alleged failure to provide an appeal jury, or other similar mechanism, to consider issues that arise in competition violates the Olympic Charter and FILA’s own rules about “Fair Play”.

A hearing was held on 22 August 2008 in which only the NOC of Sweden was represented.

At the end of the procedure the CAS Panel issued the following decision:

“FILA is required by the Olympic Charter and its own internal rules, to provide a procedure in its rules for an appeal jury (or some equivalent) to hear promptly claims by athletes or others affected that in a competition the relevant officials have not complied with FILA rules and procedures. Article 22 of its Wrestling Rules may provide such a procedure. If so, FILA should clarify that mechanism. In any event, FILA did not follow Article 22 properly, if at all, or provide any other appropriate appeal mechanism in this case. The

Athlete is also entitled to invoke the disciplinary process contemplated by Article 36 of the Constitution.”

A copy of the full decision is published on the CAS website, section Jurisprudence (www.tas-cas.org).

For further information related to the CAS activity and procedures in general, please contact Mr Matthieu Reeb, CAS Secretary General. Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel, 97 Jinbao Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing, China. Tel: (86 10) 8522 1598; fax: (86 10) 8522 1910, or consult the CAS website: www.tas-cas.org