

Tennis Anti-Doping Programme

PRESS RELEASE

17 December 2021

Decision in the case of Matilde Paoletti

A decision has been issued under the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (the "Programme") that Matilde Paoletti has committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the 2021 Programme. No period of ineligibility was imposed.

Ms. Paoletti, an 18-year-old player from Italy, provided a urine sample as part of an In-Competition test on 19 July 2021. That sample was sent to the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA") accredited laboratory in Montreal, Canada for analysis, and was found to contain a metabolite of clostebol. Clostebol is a non-Specified Substance, which is prohibited under category S1 of the 2021 WADA Prohibited List (Anabolic Agents), and therefore is also prohibited under the Programme. Positive tests for non-Specified Substances carry a mandatory Provisional Suspension and Ms. Paoletti was provisionally suspended with effect from 7 September 2021.

Ms. Paoletti was charged with Anti-Doping Rule Violations under Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Programme (presence of a Prohibited Substance in a Player's Sample, and Use of a Prohibited Substance) on 14 September 2021. Ms. Paoletti's account of how the clostebol entered her system was accepted and it was determined that she bears No Fault or Negligence for the violation within the meaning of Programme Article 10.5. Where a finding of No Fault or Negligence is made, Programme Article 10.5 provides that any otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be eliminated entirely. Therefore, the Player's provisional suspension is lifted with immediate effect, and she will not serve any period of Ineligibility for her violation. For the avoidance of doubt, Ms. Paoletti is eligible to resume competition immediately.

This is Ms. Paoletti's first Anti-Doping Rule Violation. The decision determines that: (1) Ms. Paoletti has committed a violation of the Programme; (2) there is no period of ineligibility; and (3) Ms. Paoletti is eligible to compete with immediate effect. This decision is subject to appeal by WADA and the Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Editor's note:

The Tennis Anti-Doping Programme applies to all players competing at Grand Slam tournaments and events sanctioned by the ITF, ATP, and WTA. Players are tested for substances prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency and, upon a finding that an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has been committed, sanctions are imposed under the Programme in compliance with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code. More information on the Programme, sanctions, statistics, and related matters can be found at <https://antidoping.itftennis.com/antidoping/home.aspx>

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