



PRESS RELEASE

ATHLETICS - DOPING

THE INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS FEDERATION (IAAF) REQUESTS THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) TO INCREASE THE BANS OF SEVEN RUSSIAN ATHLETES

Lausanne, 28 November 2008 – The International Athletics Federation (IAAF) has filed appeals with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the decisions taken by the Russian Athletic Federation (ARAF) on 20 October 2008 concerning seven Russian athletes : Yuliya Fomenko, Daria Pishchalnikova, Elena Soboleva, Svetlana Cherkasova, Gulfyia Khanafeyeva, Tatiana Tomashova and Olga Yegorova. The ARAF Council has imposed a suspension of two years on each athlete starting in April or May 2007 (date of sample collection for each athlete) following an anti-doping rule violation (use of a prohibited method). The IAAF considers that the offence committed justifies a heavier sanction and requests that the athletes be declared ineligible for a period of 4 years starting from the date of the CAS decision, less any period of suspension already served by the athletes.

The directions with respect to the arbitration procedure will be issued later on by the Tribunal in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration. As a general rule, CAS delivers its decisions within four months from the filing of the appeal.