

AIU Suspended Three Track and Field Athletes for Betting on Teammates

On January 29th, the Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) confirmed the sanctioning of three track and field athletes for betting on teammates. Two German discus throwers were suspended for three months, and a French middle distance runner was suspended for six months and fined 3,000 Euros (\$3,600 USD). In all three cases, the athletes admitted wrongdoing but testified that they were not aware that their betting was in violation of rules at the time they made the bets.

They were sanctioned for breaching the World Athletics Integrity Code and Manipulation of Competition (MSC) rules. They had not previously received any education on the Integrity Code or the MSC Rules. The AIU took this into account as a mitigating factor alongside the remorse shown and the absence of prior disciplinary records. This implies that violations by those intentionally betting while aware of the rules could be harsher in the future. All three were ordered to complete the International Olympic Committee's Prevention of Competition Manipulation online training.

German discus throwers Henrik Jannsen, age 27, and Steven Richter, age 22, were given three-month suspensions as a result of placing bets on teammates prior to the World Championships in Tokyo in September. Jannsen had bet 100 Euros and Richter had bet 40 Euros. When they heard about rules prohibiting the bets after they had already placed them, they attempted unsuccessfully to cancel them and placed no more bets afterwards.

The case of French middle-distance runner Aurore Fleury was more serious in that she had wagered 2,000 Euros (\$2,400 USD) and won 5,000 Euros (\$5,970 USD) at the 2024 European Championships. She received a six-month ban that expires at the end of February and was fined 3,000 euros (\$3,600 USD) that will be donated to a charity.

Of the betting sanctions, AIU head Brett Clothier said, "World Athletics Rules regarding betting are in place to ensure that the results in our sport are determined solely on merit. The AIU maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards breaches of the betting rules as they strike at the heart of the integrity of sport. . . . These sanctions must serve as a clear reminder to all that there is no place in athletics for this prohibited activity. Athletes and other participants are on notice that stricter sanctions may apply in the future. The integrity of our sport is non-negotiable."

More detail on the sanctioning of the athletes may be found on the [Road Race Management website](#) and in a [press release from the AIU](#).