



UIAA PRESS RELEASE 13th January 2009

DECISION OF THE UIAA DISCIPLINARY PANEL CONCERNING PATRICK BLANC

Disciplinary proceedings have been concluded against French Ski Mountaineering athlete Patrick Blanc, who tested positive after the 2008 Patrouille des glaciers, the Ski Mountaineering long distance teams' world championship.

The UIAA Disciplinary Commission appointed a panel to consider the complaint and imposed a temporary suspension from competition pending determination of the complaint. The athlete appealed against the temporary suspension, but the appeal failed. The Commission dealt with all aspects of the Appeals submitted by Patrick Blanc and his representatives dated 28th October and 10th November 2008.

The Disciplinary Commission found that none of the issues raised by Mr Blanc cast any doubt on the accuracy of the Sample A or Sample B tests and therefore do not provide him with a defence to the charges set out in the notice of Complaint.

The Complaint is therefore proven. A prohibited substance, recombinant EPO, was present in Mr Blanc's bodily sample given at the Patrouille des Glaciers ski mountaineering race in Verbier, Switzerland on 19th April 2008. This is contrary to Article 2.1. of the WADA Code.

Mr Blanc's result at the Patrouille des Glaciers race on 19th April 2008 is automatically disqualified.

Mr Blanc is banned for a period of 2 years starting on 1st July 2008. He is therefore ineligible to participate in any competition or activity authorised or organised by the UIAA or any signatory to the Code or any member organisation of any signatory to the WADA Code until after 30th June 2010.

Blanc has appealed against these decisions. The case is currently sub judice and under examination.

The UIAA will report on the results of the Appeal in due course.