

UWW DISCIPLINARY CHAMBER

DECISION

Case:

United World Wrestling (UWW)

v.

Mr Rahim Hasanov (GR wrestler, AZE)

Single Member of the Panel:

Mr Belcho Goranov

Prosecutor: UWW General Secretary

I. Introduction

1. This is the final Decision of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber as between United World Wrestling (“UWW”) and Mr Rahim Hasanov (also referred to as the “Athlete”) relating to a violation arising from the Disciplinary Procedure & Dispute Resolution Regulations (“Disciplinary Regulations”) and other relevant rules.
2. United World Wrestling (UWW) is the governing body for the sport of Wrestling. It is based in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.
3. Mr Rahim Hasanov is a wrestler in Greco-Roman style, member of the U23 national team of Azerbaijan, with Azerbaijani citizenship. His best sport accomplishment is a Gold medal in the U17 European Championship in 2021 and a Bronze medal in the U15 European Championship in 2019. He is active on the international level since 2019 and held the UWW international licence in 2023 and 2021.
4. As a holder of a UWW international licence and as an athlete regularly entered in official international sanctioned events, he is subject to the jurisdiction of UWW and bound to comply with all Regulations, rules and directives.

II. Facts

5. On the occasion of the 2023 European Championship U23 in Bucharest (ROU), Mr Hasanov assaulted his opponent from Armenia at the end of the quarter final bout number 12. For this assault, the athlete was given a red card and his competition results were disqualified..

6. These facts were reported by the Refereeing delegate in his report. The video recording of these facts were forwarded to the UWW administration.
7. All these elements were gathered by the UWW administration and were referred by the UWW Secretary General to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber. The latter decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings for a violation of the UWW rules and regulations during a UWW Event.
8. On 23 March 2023, the Athlete and his Federation were formally notified of the commencement of disciplinary proceeding. The Disciplinary Regulations violations by the Athlete were described in this notification.
9. The athlete was offered a deadline of twenty-one (21) days to provide a statement of defense in response to the notification.
10. In accordance with article 18.2 (Provisional measures), and as ordered by the chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber, a provisional suspension is imposed on Mr Hasanov from the date of this notification.
11. On April 5, 2023 the National Federation of Azerbaijan replied to the notification.

III. Applicable rules

12. These proceedings are conducted in application of the UWW Regulations, rules and directives. This decision is rendered by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber acting as the sole judge in this case, in accordance with article 17 of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations and given the case and the elements at hand to review the matter.
13. Article 9.2 letter d) of the Disciplinary rules provide:

d) Assault

Any wrestler who assaults (verbally and/or physically) his/her opponent, a member of other teams or any other member of the Federation in the competition venue or in its surroundings shall be subject to suspension from international competitions held under the control of the Federation from 1 month to 3 years and is further subject to a fine of CHF 1,000 to CHF 10,000. Exclusion for life can be pronounced if the assault has caused serious injuries.

(...)

14. Article 6 (“Sanctions against the Affiliated Members, the Associated Members and their bodies and members and the Organizers of Federation controlled events”) provides:

“The following sanctions are applicable in case of violations of their obligations by the Affiliated Members, the Associated Members and their respective bodies and members, and to the Organizers of Federation controlled events, subject to specific sanctions being provided in these Regulations or in any other applicable regulations:

- warning;*
- reprimand;*
- fine, up to CHF 100,000;*
- suspension, from 1 month to 3 years;*
- prohibition to organize international events for a certain period of time;*
- prohibition to participate in international events for a certain period of time;*

- exclusion from the Federation”.

15. Article 10 (“Sanctionable Infringements”) of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations provide the following:

“Unless otherwise specified, sanctions are applicable regardless of whether infringements have been committed intentionally or negligently”.

16. Article 13 (“Determination of the sanction”) of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations provides the following:

“The disciplinary body shall determine the type and duration of the sanction based on the seriousness of such infringement and the degree of fault. The disciplinary body may take into consideration aggravating and mitigating circumstances”.

IV. Discussion

17. The facts described above and submitted to the Single Member of the Panel were evidenced by videos of the athlete during the said event. The athlete was clearly identified in the material received and pertaining to this cases.
18. There is a clear assault of the athlete against his opponent during the U23 European Championship, with a clear intention to hurt and possibly injure him. As the athlete’s opponent wanted to shake hands at the end of the bout, Mr Hasanov responded with a punch without any reason. This is confirmed by the refereeing body, which decided to impose a red card and disqualify the athlete.
19. In the explanations received by the Athlete’s national federation, it is mentioned that the athlete had some remorse and they had applied *“strict measures toward him by withdrawing him from wrestling”*. No personal excuses by the athlete were forwarded to the UWW and there was no mention of his opponent.
20. The violent behaviour of the athlete make no doubt and appears to be how he deals with the frustration of losing a match to the least, if no other considerations are to be taken into account.
21. For the reasons above, given the facts presented, the profile of the athlete and the level of the competitions where the facts occurred, the athlete should be imposed a period of ineligibility of twelve (12) months to any event under the control of United World Wrestling and a financial penalty of 5’000 Swiss Francs, to be invoice to the National Federation, being jointly liable.

V. Decision

Considering the above, pursuant to the UWW Regulations and rules as described here above, this Sole Member decides:

Mr Rahim Hasanov:

- I. Is found to have committed violation of the Dispute Resolution & Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, namely article 9.2, letter d.
- II. Is imposed a period of ineligibility of 12 months, starting from the day of imposition of the provisional suspension, until 22 March 2024 included.

- III. Is imposed a financial penalty of 5'000 Swiss Francs, to be invoiced to his national federation, which stands liable for this penalty.

VI. Right to Appeal

The conditions to appeal against this decision are described in the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations.

To be notified to the Athlete (c/o the National Federation).



Beltcho Goranov
Sole Member
Chairman of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber

Sofia, 25 April 2023