



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. JUDO ATHLETE, O'NEIL, RECEIVES SANCTION FOR DOPING VIOLATION

Colorado Springs, Colo. (December 17, 2009) -- USADA announced today that the American Arbitration Association (AAA)/North American Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has issued a written decision finding that judo athlete, Joshua O'Neil, committed a doping violation and will receive a two-year suspension for the offense.

O'Neil, 24, of Hawthorn Wood, Ill., tested positive for ritalinic acid (Ritalin), a stimulant, as a result of a urine sample collected at the U.S. Senior Judo National Championships on April 18, 2009. Ritalinic acid, a metabolite of methylphenidate, is listed as a Specified Substance and is prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Judo Federation Anti-Doping Rules, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) and the WADA Prohibited List.

Mr. O'Neil did not contest the laboratory results, admitting to taking the prohibited substance, and exercised his right to a hearing in front of the AAA/CAS seeking a reduction in the two year sanction. As reported in the AAA/CAS decision, it was found that Mr. O'Neil did not deserve a reduced sanction under Article 10.4 (Elimination or Reduction of Ineligibility for Specified Substances under Specific Circumstances) of the WADC or Article 10.5.2 (No significant Fault or Negligence) because stimulants such as Ritalin do result in benefits to performance, and because Mr. O'Neil was fully aware of his obligation to remain drug-free and had numerous resources available to ensure that he was.

Because Mr. O'Neil promptly admitted to the violation, the AAA/CAS did rule that the period of ineligibility would commence from the date his sample was collected, as opposed to the date he accepted a Provisional Suspension, as is permitted by the WADC. Accordingly, Mr. O'Neil's two-year period of ineligibility will run from April 18, 2009 through April 17, 2011. Additionally, Mr. O'Neil has been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on the date of his positive test, through and including the completion of his two-year sanction.

"Those athletes who continue to uphold the high ideals of sport, and compete drug-free, can rest assured that their interests are being protected and the rules creating a level playing field are being enforced," said Stephen Starks, Legal Affairs Director for USADA.

The AAA/CAS decision can be found on USADA's website at www.USADA.org.

In an effort to aid athletes, as well as all support team members such as coaches, trainers and parents, in understanding the rules applicable to them, USADA provides comprehensive instruction on its website on the testing process and prohibited substances, how to obtain permission to use a necessary

- more -

medication, and the risks and dangers of taking supplements as well as performance-enhancing and recreational drugs. In addition, the agency manages a drug reference phone hotline as well as the Global Drug Reference Online at www.GlobalDRO.org, conducts educational sessions with National Governing Bodies and their athletes, and proactively distributes a multitude of educational materials, such as *such as curriculums, themed brochures and nutrition and dietary guides*, the Guide to Prohibited Substances and Methods, easy-reference wallet cards, periodic newsletters, and protocol and policy reference publications, all of which can be found at www.USADA.org.

USADA is the non-profit, independent and non-governmental entity responsible for the testing and results management process in the U.S. for athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, upholding the Olympic ideal of fair play, and representing the interests of athletes. USADA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of sport through research initiatives and educational programs.

— ### —

CONTACT:

Erin Hannan, Communications & Outreach Director

Phone: (719) 785-2009

E-mail: ehannan@usada.org

United States Anti-Doping Agency

1330 Quail Lake Loop, Suite 260, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80906

Tel: 719.785.2000 • Fax: 719.785.2001

usada@usada.org • www.usada.org