

Hockey Athlete Accepts Sanction

According to a statement by the United States Anti-doping Agency (USADA), Pamela Spuehler of Chula Vista, CA, an athlete in the sport of field hockey, has tested positive for a prohibited substance.

The 25-year-old accepted a suspension for her doping offense after testing positive for Canrenone, a diuretic, as the result of an out-of-competition sample collected on September 14, 2011.

Under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Hockey Federation (FIH) anti-doping rules, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List, diuretics are prohibited.

A two-month period of ineligibility was accepted by Spuehler that began on September 28, 2011, the day USADA received notice of the adverse finding, and will end on November 30, 2011. The hockey athlete is also disqualified from all results obtained on or subsequent to September 14, 2011, the day her urine sample was collected, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes as a result of the sanction.

Pam Spuehler clarified that she accepted a sanction of two months for the inadvertent use of a prescription diuretic. She has used a used a prescription medication, under the care and instruction of her doctor, for a medical condition since 2006 and remarked that she did not know that the prescription medication contained a banned diuretic and is used for masking the presence of anabolic steroids and performance enhancing drugs. She represented her medical history to the United States Anti-doping Agency that agreed to reduce her suspension to two months, ending on November 30. Spuehler stated that her mistake is a reminder to all athletes that they need to be very careful with whatever they take even if prescribed by their family doctor. The hockey star said she is determined to come back to competition and prove that her success is because of hard work and discipline and nothing else.

She was recently hired by Ohio Field Hockey as its new assistant coach in the spring of 2012. Pamela Spuehler arrived in Athens after serving as assistant coach for the Boston University, stints with top-level hockey leagues in Australia and Germany, and playing for the USA National Team. A three-time All-American for the Terriers and the first four-time all-conference selection and one of the most decorated players in Boston University field hockey history, Spuehler was nominated as a senior for the Honda Award, given annually to the top collegiate field hockey player in the country.

Spuehler was one of four collegiate players invited to play with the USA B Team for its matches against Japan and Canada in March 2008 in San Diego and a key member of the New England HPC squad that captured its first-ever title at the National Championship in 2007. She was named the recipient of the 2008 Mildred Barnes Award, signifying the top female athlete at the Boston University and helped the Terriers claim three straight conference titles and was twice named the Most Outstanding Player of the America East Championship (2006, 2007). The midfielder, as a senior, scored a team-best 37 points on 11 goals and 15 assists to help BU reach the NCAA quarterfinals for the first time since 1991.