

Double Olympic Freestyle Wrestling Medalist Banned For Doping

The United World Wrestling (UWW) has confirmed that double Olympic freestyle wrestling medalist [Toghrul Asgarov](#) is one of two athletes suspended by the international governing body of the sport over anti-doping violations.

Asgarov, the Azerbaijani who won the gold medal in the men's 60 kilogram competition at London 2012 before picking up silver in the 65kg category last year in Rio de Janeiro, was banned for a period of 12 months after he tested positive for Higenamine.

Asgarov also won a gold medal at the 2015 European Games in Baku in the 65kg weight category. He also won a 55kg silver from the 2010 World Championships in Moscow. It was announced that Asgarov's suspension is due to run from the date of the decision until April 17 next year.

Higenamine falls under section three of the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2017 Prohibited List and is often found in supplements. In a statement, the UWW said no Therapeutic Use Exemption was delivered by UWW to justify the presence of Higenamine in system of the wrestler.

Liverpool's Mamadou Sakho was temporarily banned by UEFA last year after he tested positive for Higenamine. Sakho missed the 2016 Europa League final but was later cleared.

It was also announced by the UWW that a suspension of four years has been imposed on Russian Greco-Roman wrestler Aslan Visaitov after traces of Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor agonists were found in a test given by him at the Under-23 European Championships in Szombathely in Hungary.

The positive sample of Asgarov came from an out-of-competition test completed on February 5 and analyzed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratory in German city Cologne. The drug found in system of the Russian is a hormone and metabolic modulator prohibited by WADA. The suspension of Visaitov will run from April 24 until April 23 in 2021. The results of Visaitov from the Greco-Roman 66kg category at the competition, where he won a silver medal, have been altered following his disqualification. Ukrainian Serhii Kozub has been awarded silver with bronze medals for Bulgaria's Deyvid Tihomirov Dimitrov and Sebastian Nadj of Serbia.

In another development, Uzbekistan wrestler Artur Taymazov has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped him of his Beijing 2008 gold medal for doping. The sample of Taymazov from the Chinese capital failed for banned [steroids Turinabol and Stanozolol](#) (Winstrol). Taymazov, the men's 120 kilograms freestyle competitor, had been a triple Olympic champion until losing his Beijing medal, after also winning the title at both Athens 2004 and London 2012. A CAS statement said the Uzbekistani wrestler Artur Taymazov has filed an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the decision issued by the International Olympic Committee dated March 31, 2017 in which he was found, further to recent retesting of samples, to have committed an anti-doping rule violation (Turinabol and [Stanozolol](#)) during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games where he won the gold medal in the men's 120kg freestyle wrestling event.