

French Open Finalist Banned For Doping Violation

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has banned Italian player [Sara Errani](#) for two months for an anti-doping violation.

The 29-year-old former French Open finalist failed the out-of-competition test in February after a urine sample was found to contain [Letrozole](#). Also known as [Femara](#), Letrozole is a substance used in the treatment of breast cancer. The substance is also on the banned drug list of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The aromatase inhibitor can act as a hormonal and metabolic stimulant.

In a statement, the ITF said the former French Open finalist was charged with an Anti-Doping violation on April 18 and had promptly asked for a hearing before an Independent Tribunal.

The former world number five said she did not knowingly commit a doping violation. Errani expressed anger over the suspension of two months imposed on her. The tennis player admitted to an anti-doping rule violation when a charge was brought by the world governing body of tennis but her plea of no fault or negligence was rejected by an independent tribunal. It was argued by Errani that she ingested the prohibited substance inadvertently through the anti-cancer medication of her mother while she was staying at the house of her parents. Errani also remarked an examination of her hair suggests the quantity of the substance she ingested was less than is contained in a single 'Femara' pill. However, it was unable to be submitted as evidence in her hearing.

The Italian player added she had never used a prohibited substance in her life and in career. Errani added she has zealously stuck to the World Anti-Doping Agency program ever since she became professional and had never asked for an exemption, not even when she could have when she was ill. Errani added it has been scientifically verified that the amount of a dose even or superior of the quantity contained in a single pill of 'Femara' produces a quantity of Letrozole traceable in the hair of the one who ingested it. She went on to remark that there was no trace in her hair that proves that the quantity she involuntarily ingested was inferior to the single tablet and could reasonably lead to an accidental ingestion. Errani also commented that these results have not been admitted as evidence in her favor because of a legal issue and added she offered a detailed report to the tribunal which had said that food contamination is the cause for her failed doping test. She added there is no evidence that she had intentionally breached anti-doping laws and also remarked there is no evidence that Letrozole could enhance the performance of a female tennis player.

Errani said the independent tribunal still sanctioned her with a two-month ban which will end on October 2, 2017, including a revocation of the prize money and the ranking points earned between the February 16 and June 7. The tennis player hit out at media and said she felt her case was incorrectly reported. Errani said to media that she hopes that tomorrow the professionalism of all of them who have written false things, unleashing the rage of all those who hide behind a social media keyboard accusing her of everything and trying to ruin her reputation, have the courage and the intellectual honesty to publish a rectified version of their recent headlines.