

## **Weightlifter Provisionally Suspended For Doping Offence**

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has suspended Olympian Mohd Hafifi Mansor for an alleged doping offence.

In a statement, the IWF said the sample of Mansor had an Adverse Analytical Finding for [Oxymetholone](#). Hafifi could face a possible doping ban of four years as Oxymetholone is classified as a performance enhancing substance that promotes muscle growth.

Also known as [Anadrol](#), Oxymetholone is a synthetic, orally active anabolic-androgenic steroid (AAS) and 17a-methylated derivative of Dihydrotestosterone (DHT). The anabolic-androgenic steroid is known to increase the levels of the hormone ([erythropoietin](#)) that is involved in the production of red blood cells. Anadrol is classified under the S1 (anabolic agents) by the World Anti-Doping Agency

IWF posted on its official website it will not make any further comments on the case until it is closed. The suspension was confirmed by Malaysian Anti-Doping Agency (ADAMAS) deputy director S Nishel Kumar. Nishel remarked it is too early to comment on the matter and added we will communicate with the Malaysian Weightlifting Federation (MWF). The Malaysian Anti-Doping Agency deputy director also commented that we were asked to determine if the athlete concerned accepted the result or wish to challenge it.

Kumar raised questions over the delayed results of the doping test. The ADAMAS deputy director said we don't understand is why it has taken seven months for the result to be made known and added it usually only takes a month, so we too are wondering what has caused the delay.

Mansor, the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games gold medalist, was considered as a gold medal hope for Malaysia at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Hafifi also won the Australian Open in Melbourne in March and the sample of the positive test is believed to have been taken during the latter event.

MWF acting secretary Abu Hanapah Ismail said the cost involved in having the B sample of Hafifi tested can run up to tens of thousands of ringgit. Ismail added we are also working out how the B sample test will be paid for, either from the associations' pocket or by other means. The MWF acting secretary said the samples were tested in Delhi previously and commented it could cost more than usual, as the test had initially been conducted in Australia. The acting secretary of the Malaysian Weightlifting Federation also remarked it is a bit disappointing as Hafifi had gone on to win the gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships recently that also serves as a qualifier for the Commonwealth Games.

The 26-year-old weightlifter may decide to be present at the opening of the B sample bottle at the laboratory in Sydney, Australia at his expense, according to ADAMAS director Datuk Dr Ramlan Abdul Aziz. The ADAMAS director also remarked he cannot comment much on the ongoing case as the matter is with IWF and MWF.

In May 2014, track cyclist Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom had tested positive for Dexamethasone at the Perlis Malaysia Games. However, the result of the failed test was only made known in February 2015 because of a miscommunication between the test lab and ADAMAS.