

Doping Case Of Jamaican Runner Appears To Be A Minor Offense

The doping case involving Jamaican star runner [Veronica Campbell-Brown](#) was "minor" and suggested that the reaction has been heightened due to the athlete's international status, said an official of track and field's world governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

The runner tested positive at the Jamaica International Invitational on May 4 for a banned substance that is believed to be a diuretic, triggering widescale international reaction, much of which was disproportionate to the offense, according to IAAF spokesman Nick Davies.

Davies remarked we can acknowledge that there is a case, but also take the opportunity to urge a sense of perspective and this seems from evidence to be a minor doping offense according to our rules, so we want to remain realistic in our reaction, pending the conclusion of the case. The IAAF spokesman also added that although we would not normally comment on active cases, all evidence seems to point to this offence being a lesser one. He also added that the situation has taken on great interest because of the international profile and appeal of Campbell-Brown and said there has been a disproportionate reaction, probably due to the fact that the athlete is a prominent Jamaican sprinter and it is very unfortunate when there are leaks (of information) - as has been the case here - since this is bad both for the athlete affected and for the sport in general.

As opposed to the mandatory two-year ban for serious cases, the penalty for minor offenses can range from a public warning to a suspension of a few months. Meanwhile, the management team of the runner released a statement acknowledging the positive test while pleading the athlete's innocence of knowingly taking a banned substance while the [Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association](#) said the current 200m World champion and a seven-time Olympic medalist was suspended from competition, pending the decision of a disciplinary panel, which will shortly review the case. The JAAA release said we also wish to point out that Veronica Campbell-Brown voluntarily withdrew herself from competition and accepted the provisional suspension.

It is rumored that the banned drug was contained in a cream which Campbell-Brown, the first Jamaican athlete, male or female to win a global 100 meters title, was using to treat a leg injury and which she had declared on her doping control form. The Jamaican track and field sprint athlete who specializes in the 100 and 200 meters denied knowingly taking a banned substance Lasix, which also goes by the name Furosemide.

Veronica Campbell-Brown, one of only eight athletes to win world championships at the youth, junior, and senior level of an athletic event, is the second woman in history to win two consecutive Olympic 200 m events, after Bärbel Wöckel of Germany at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics. The Jamaican sprint legend in 2001 was awarded the Austin Sealy Trophy for the most outstanding athlete of the 2001 CARIFTA Games and she won 3 gold medals (100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay) in the junior (U-20) category the same year.

The popular runner is expected to miss the 14th IAAF World Championship in Moscow in August this year.