



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ETHICS COMMISSION

Recommendation Decision

Case of Mr Pat Beldotti, Turin Olympic Games 2006 Ethiopian NOC Chef de Mission

Facts:

According to the emails dated 10 February 2006 which TOROC sent to the IOC, the Chef de Mission of the Ethiopian team, Mr Pat Beldotti, a US national, agreed to request an accreditation for an American citizen, Mr James Greensfelder, who had offered to pay him US\$ 2,000 in cash for obtaining an accreditation in any category.

After verification, it appears that there are 13 accreditations in various categories under the name of the Ethiopian delegation, six of which have been activated: for the athlete, the chef de mission, the Secretary General and the person delegated by the Ethiopian NOC President, plus two accompanying guests of Russian nationality.

When shown a copy of these emails, Mr Beldotti justified his agreeing to request such accreditation in exchange for a cash payment by explaining that this person was a sponsor. He also explained that he had taken care of all the accreditation requests without informing the NOC leadership.

The Secretary General and person delegated by the Ethiopian NOC President said that they had been contacted by Mr Beldotti, with the support of the athlete, asking to be appointed chef de mission, but they did not know him before meeting him in Turin. They knew that the chef de mission had taken care of their accreditations, but were not aware that he had requested and obtained the other accreditations. It emerged from this conversation that Mr Beldotti had acted alone, using the possibility of accreditations issued to the NOC.

Opinion:

Apart from the clear breach of the IOC rules on issuing accreditations, there has unquestionably been a breach of part B.1 of the Code of Ethics, which states that "The Olympic parties or their representatives shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any concealed remuneration, commission, benefit or service of any nature connected with the organisation of the Olympic Games". In the framework of the Olympic Games, the participants, such as officials, leaders and other members of any delegation, must also respect the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Recommendation:

As a result of these acts, the Ethics Commission makes the following recommendations to the IOC Executive Board, pursuant to the provisions of Rules 23.2.2 and 23.2.3 of the Olympic Charter:

- concerning Mr Pat Beldotti:
 - expulsion from the Olympic Games in Turin and exclusion from all future Olympic Games;
 - withdrawal of his accreditation with immediate effect;
- concerning Mr Greensfelder, who does not hold any accreditation and is not a member of a delegation:
 - to be declared *persona non grata* for the current and all future Olympic Games;
- concerning the NOC:
 - remind it that, under the terms of the Bye-law to Rules 28 and 29 of the Olympic Charter, the NOCs are responsible for constituting, organising and leading their delegations at the Olympic Games, and recommend that it should therefore be more careful in its choice of people in the future.

Done in Turin, 16 February 2006

For the President,
The Special Representative