

**In the matter of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program;**

**And in the matter of an anti-doping rule violation by Joao Morelli asserted by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport;**

File Outcome Summary

**Introduction**

1. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) conducted an Out-of-Competition Sample collection session on August 6, 2023, in Halifax, NS.
2. Joao Morelli (“the Athlete”) was selected for Doping Control. The Athlete’s Sample code was 7088455. The Sample provided by the Athlete returned an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) for Clomiphene metabolites (hydroxy-clomiphene and hydroxymethoxyclophene) (“Clomiphene”), a Specified Substance.
3. Following receipt of the CCES’s Notice of Charge asserting an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) for the presence and Use of Clomiphene, the Athlete failed to dispute the ADRV within the timelines specified in the CADP and the Notice of Charge. As a result, the ADRV, the period of Ineligibility, plus all other applicable Consequences were thereby confirmed by way of a deemed waiver.

**Jurisdiction**

4. The CCES is an independent not-for-profit organization incorporated under the federal laws of Canada that promotes ethical conduct in all aspects of sport in Canada. The CCES also maintains and implements the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP), including providing anti-doping services to national Sport Organizations and their members.
5. As Canada’s National Anti-Doping Organization, the CCES is compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (“the Code”) and its mandatory International Standards. The CCES has implemented the Code and the International Standards through the CADP, the domestic rules which govern this proceeding. The purpose of the Code and of the CADP is to protect the rights of athletes to fair competition.
6. The CADP was issued for adoption by Canadian Sport Organizations on October 26, 2020, to be operational on January 1, 2021. Canada Soccer adopted the CADP on October 29, 2020; therefore, the CADP applies to all members, registrants, license-holders, or Participants of Canada Soccer.
7. The Athlete was a member of and participates in the activities of the Halifax Wanderers (“the Wanderers”), a member club of the Canadian Premiere League (CPL). As a member organization of Canada Soccer, the CPL is therefore subject to the CADP. By extension, as a member club of the CPL, the Wanderers, and all its members, registrants, license-holders or Participants are subject to the CADP. Therefore, as a Participant in Canada Soccer activities, the Athlete is subject to the CADP.

## **Doping Control**

8. On August 6, 2023, the CCES conducted an Out-of-Competition Sample collection session in Halifax, NS. Testing was conducted as part of the CCES's domestic test distribution plan, all pursuant to the CADP.
9. The Athlete was notified that he had been selected for Doping Control and, together with the Doping Control Officer (DCO) from the CCES, completed the Sample collection process. The Athlete's Sample code was 7088455.
10. On August 10, 2023, the Athlete's urine Sample was received for analysis by the INRS Centre Armand-Frappier Santé Biotechnologie ("the INRS"), a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory in Laval, QC.

## **Results Management**

11. The AAF was reported by the INRS on August 25, 2023. The Certificate of Analysis indicated the presence of Clomiphene.
12. Clomiphene is classified as a Specified Substance on WADA's 2023 Prohibited List.
13. The CCES commenced an initial review into the Athlete's AAF and issued a notification of a potential ADRV on August 31, 2023.
14. On September 5, 2023, the Athlete provided his explanation in response to the CCES's Notification letter.
15. On April 18, 2024, after evaluating the Athlete's explanations, the CCES formally issued a Notice of Charge asserting an ADRV against the Athlete for the presence and Use of a Specified Substance.
16. In the April 18, 2024, Notice of Charge, the Athlete was informed of the potential Consequences for their ADRV, and was provided with an additional opportunity to provide explanations, including written submissions, statements and supporting evidence in relation to the ADRV. The Athlete did not provide the CCES with any additional explanations or information.
17. In accordance with CADP Rule 10.2.1.2, the sanction for an ADRV involving the presence and Use of a Specified Substance is a two (2) year period of Ineligibility. Having assessed all of the information provided by the Athlete, the CCES asserted an eighteen (18) month period of Ineligibility in its Notice of Charge of April 18, 2024, based on the Athlete's degree of Fault.

## **Confirmation of Violation and Sanction**

18. Since the Athlete failed to dispute the CCES' assertion of an ADRV and the asserted Consequences by the deadline, effective May 8, 2024, the ADRV was confirmed against the Athlete for the presence and Use of Clomiphene, in accordance with CADP Rule 8.4.2. The sanction for this ADRV is an eighteen (18) month period of Ineligibility, which commenced on May 8, 2024 (the date the ADRV was confirmed) and will conclude on November 7, 2025, in addition to all other applicable Consequences.

19. Further, in accordance with CADP Rules 10.1 and 10.10, any competitive results obtained by the Athlete from date of Sample collection shall be Disqualified.

20. The CCES now considers this case closed.

Dated at Ottawa, Ontario this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.



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Kevin Bean  
Executive Director, Sport Integrity  
CCES