



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Ali Jafarov

DC00032021

Mr. Sadikh Bagirov, General Secretary WAKO Azerbaijan

By email: sadirad2006@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Ali Jafarov and Mr. Sadikh Bagirov

DECISION

The Disciplinary Committee of WAKO temporarily suspends Mr. Ali Jafarov for a period of THREE YEARS from exercising the following rights:

The right to compete or take part in any national or international event or Championship held by WAKO or WAKO Azerbaijan or in any other international competition recognized by WAKO.

The suspension lasts from 8th November 2021 to 8th November 2024.

REASON:

On November 11th, 2021, the WAKO Ethical Committee received a formal complaint ("Complaint") from Israel Team Manager, Mr. Nissim Yoma, whereby it was reported a serious incident occurred during the WAKO Europe Championships Older Cadets and Juniors held in Budva, Montenegro.

According to the Complaint, the incident involved girls, athletes from the Israeli Team and 17 years old (the names of the victims are known but are not mentioned in this decision for reasons of victim protection). The Complaint is specifically addressed to the Azerbaijan coach Mr. Jafarov Ali.

After being informed of the fact, WAKO's President, Mr. Roy Baker, set up an ad hoc Committee to conduct verifications and collect information on the matter from the interested parties.

The so appointed Committee prepared a written report on the incident sexual intimidation containing, as an attachment, also the written complaint from the Israel Team Manager.



According to the Report: “on November 8th, 2021, the Azerbaijan coach Ali Jafarov met the involved girls, separately with the same alleged behavior:

- Touching breasts
- Put hand inside the shirt
- Holding around them
- Asking if they live alone in the room.

The day after, on November 9th, 2021 the coach met the girls and repeated again the same behavior of the day before. The coach lived in the first floor and they had a room just above him on the second floor in the same section. The alleged behavior is of a sexual misconduct and a physical intimidation.

The Israeli team suggested an immediate reaction to move the girls to another section in the Hotel village to distance the involved persons. The Ad-Hoc Committee then met at 17:40 and introduced this issue to the Azerbaijan General Secretary Sadikh Bagirov and the Vice-President of the National Federation. The group at the same time decided to involve the Police as it is a potential criminal act and for them to take further action”.

On November 12th, 2021 the Interim Chairwoman of WAKO Ethical Committee, Mrs. Francesca Falsoni, sent a letter to WAKO Azerbaijan and Mr. Jafarov Ali, whereby the facts occurred were reported and it was given a deadline to Mr. Jafarov Ali to provide a statement of reply to the accusations contained in the Complaint with specific information about how the facts occurred and the reasons of his behavior.

On November 13th, 2021, Mr. Jafarov Ali sent a letter to WAKO and WAKO EUROPE in which he rejected the accusation and reported what happened from his point of view, “I was sitting near Palma Villa in Slavyanki Plaza [...] and saw the girl member of Israil team trying to make a warming up. I offered my support to keep a time and my help to lose a weight since, as I understood, she was trying to do so. I did not have any intention toward this girl, no sexual abuse intention, no any other meaning support in spite of support. I just wanted to support her in losing the weight in a proper manner, checked via her occiput she is wet enough. After she finished the warming up, she thanked me for the time keeping, and after some simple words, she went to the building. [...] Next morning when I met the other girl form Israil team I tried to ask if yesterday’s girl passed the weight in control successful.”

No specific information or clarifications were provided by Mr. Jafarov Ali about what happened at the hotel with the girls and on the specific accusations from the same regarding his behavior and alleged harassment.

The legal committee - chaired by Mrs. Francesca Falosni - has examined the complaint and has reached the decision that disciplinary proceedings should be carried out against Mr. Ali Jafarov. As a result, the Disciplinary Committee has decided to initiate proceedings against Mr. Ali Jafarov for violating the WAKO regulations.



The body responsible for the application and implementation of the provisions of the Code regarding disciplinary matters is the Disciplinary Committee.

Both - the Israeli Kickboxing Association and the Azerbaijan Kickboxing Association were informed of the initiation of the proceedings and asked to give the witnesses' or accused's email addresses in order to be able to invite them to a hearing. Mr. Ali Jafarov was given the opportunity to justify himself in the hearing (by video conference) on 3rd of December.

On 1st of December Mr. Sadikh Bagirov, General Secretary WAKO Azerbaijan informed the Disciplinary Committee, that he has contacted Mr. Ali Jafarov concerning the issue described. Mr. Sadikh Bagirov explained Mr. Ali Jafarov about the offer to make a statement by online meeting based on current disciplinary case. Mr. Sadikh Bagirov informed the Disciplinary Committee that Mr. Ali Jafarov had declined the invitation to a disciplinary committee hearing in this case, citing the fact that he had already given an exhaustive explanation to the police concerning the issue, as well as in a written appeal to WAKO.

Further Mr. Sadikh Bagirov, General Secretary WAKO Azerbaijan informed that, “this coach has been suspended from work in the national team due to the fact of the accusation of sexual violence and the incident in general with the involvement of the police during the European Championship in Montenegro.”

On December 3rd WAKO Disciplinary Committee held a video hearing. The victims confirmed the sexual harassment and described it in detail. Although there was no aggressive behavior, it was repeated misconduct against several female team members of the Israeli kickboxing team.

On December 3rd , the WAKO Disciplinary Committee analyzed the allegations in a video conference. Based on all the above, the Disciplinary Committee after having verified that, regards the misconduct of Mr. Ali Jafarov as a clear, deliberate violation of the WAKO Code of Ethics and the WAKO Dispute resolution and Disciplinary Code.

The punishment took into account that the victims were minors and that the violations were repeated. Mr. Ali Jafarov showed no understanding and no remorse. By refusing to testify, he made the investigation more difficult.

For your information:

Decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed before the Arbitration Committee within 30 days of notification of the decision to the parties, save for what is provided in Article 2, paragraph 3. The appeal must contain the reasons that justify the appeal. The appellant must deposit a sum of \$500 (five hundred \$) to WAKO bank account. This sum will be reimbursed to



the appellant in the case of a favourable decision. The appeal will not suspend the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, except when the Disciplinary Committee decides so, upon justified and grounded request of the appellant. The appeal procedure to be followed will be the same as for the first instance.

Yours in Sport

Mag. Nikolaus Gstättnner
Chairman WAKO Disciplinary Committee
<http://wako.sport/en/page/disciplinary-committee/27/>

Ludmannsdorf, 06.12.2021
