

UWW DISCIPLINARY CHAMBER

DECISION

Case:

United World Wrestling (UWW)

v.

Mr Erdogan Karaali (Coach, TUR)

Sole Member:

Mr Beltcho Goranov

Prosecutor: UWW General Secretary

I. Introduction and jurisdiction

1. This is the final Decision of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber as between United World Wrestling (“UWW”) and Mr. Erdogan Karaali relating to a violation arising from the Disciplinary Procedure & Dispute Resolution Regulations.
2. United World Wrestling (UWW) is the governing body for the sport of Wrestling. It is based in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.
3. Mr. Erdogan Karaali (herein after also referred as the “Coach”) is a coach of the Turkish Wrestling Federation. As a Member of the UWW affiliated wrestling federation of Türkiye, and as a participant of a UWW official event, he was subject to the jurisdiction of UWW and bound to comply with all UWW Regulations, rules and directives.

II. Facts

4. During the 2023 World Championship U23 in Tirana, Albania, the coach stepped on the mat at the end of the match number 661 (Gold medal match, Olgun vs Hlinchuk), went to the officials’ table and shouted and verbally assaulted them.

5. This incident was reported by the Technical delegate in his report. The video of the facts have been reviewed and evidence a case to answer for a violation as described below.
6. These acts were reported to the UWW Secretary General and the matter was referred to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber who decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings.
7. On 3 November 2023, the coach was formally notified of the opening of disciplinary proceedings against him for the violation of the UWW rules and regulations.
8. The Coach was offered a deadline until 18 November 2023 to provide a statement of defense in response to the charge.
9. No provisional measure was ordered by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber.
10. On 7 November 2023, the coach sent his submitted his explanations through the national wrestling federation of Türkiye.

III. Relevant rules

11. These proceedings are conducted in application of the UWW Regulations, rules and directives. This decision is rendered by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Chamber acting as the sole judge in this case, in accordance with article 17 of the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations and given the case and the elements at hand to review this case.
12. Article 7.2 letter b) of the Disciplinary rules provide:

b) Impropriety and assault

Any official or coach found guilty of impropriety and/or assault (verbal and/or physical) shall be subject to suspension from accreditation at events under the control of the Federation for a period of 1 month to 3 years and shall be subject to a fine of CHF 1,000 to CHF 20,000.

13. Article 13 of the Disciplinary rules provide:

Article 13 – Determination of the sanction

The disciplinary body shall determine the type and duration of the sanction based on the seriousness of such infringement and the degree of fault. The disciplinary body may take into consideration aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

14. The UWW Code of Ethics defines a general framework for UWW members, including National Federations, athletes and coaches, in respect to values such as ethics, integrity and dignity.

IV. Discussion

15. The coach was entered and accredited as an official coach of the wrestling team of Türkiye.

16. All facts and evidence presented to this Sole Member show an evident and intentional act of impropriety and verbal assault by the coach.
17. A report signed by the technical delegate in charge confirming these facts as well as a video were submitted.
18. In his submission, the coach informed that his intention was not to assault verbally or physically anyone but to calm down his athlete and prevent any regrettable acts. He apologized for the misunderstanding of his acts. His national federation also expressed apologies.
19. The footage show that the coach heads directly to the referees' table railing against them. It is acknowledged that he requests his athlete to leave the mat. This considered, an impropriety by the coach is clearly established with the step on the mat and his behaviour towards the referees table.
20. Given the above, considering that the facts did not escalate thanks to the intervention of the security officers; considering the poor image conveyed to the athletes and spectators present and the necessity to avoid further similar in the future, this Sole member considers that a two (2) month period of ineligibility is warranted in this matter.

V. **Decision**

Considering the above, pursuant to the UWW Regulations and rules as described here above, the Disciplinary Chamber rules that:

- I. Mr Erdogan Karaali committed a violation of the Dispute Resolution & Disciplinary Procedure Regulations, namely article 7.2, letter b.
- II. Mr Erdogan Karaali is sanctioned with a period of ineligibility of 2 months.
- III. The period of ineligibility shall commence from on 28 November 2023, which is the date of the violation, 28 January 2024 included.
- IV. A 500 Swiss Francs is imposed and shall be invoiced in the name of the national federation of Türkiye.

VI. **Right to Appeal**

The conditions to appeal against this decision are described in the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations.

To be notified to the Coach (c/o the National Federation) and the National Federation.

Sofia, 24 November 2023



Beltcho Goranov
Sole Member
Chairman of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber