Dear FEI representatives,

Dear representatives of the International Olympic Committee,

Dear WADA representatives,

I am writing to request a review of the therapeutic exemption for the rider Sára Vingrálková (FEIID 10117841) that was retroactively granted to her subsequent to a finding of an anti-doping rule violation by a decision of the Arbitration Commission of Czech Olympic Committee (COC), that was received in recent days from the COC under file no. 2/2020.

The subsequent granting of a therapeutic exemption literally shocked the entire equestrian and general public and it significantly damaged the perception of equestrian sport in the Czech Republic, especially with regard to the facts that have come to light after the decision of the Arbitration Commission (AC) of the COC.   
  
1. The Anti-Doping Committee of the Czech Republic (ADC of CZ) refused to grant a subsequent therapeutic exemption due to the inadequacy of the submitted evidence. The COC decided against the ADC's decision on the basis of the same documents.  
  
2. The AC of COC took into account exclusively the statements of the accused and the sworn statements of the witnesses that were submitted by the accused's legal representatives. No other persons that were involved were invited to the proceedings, such as the team of judges, the paramedics serving on the day of the competition, etc.

3. The defense of the accused is based on the fact that she suffered a severe fall (11.6.2020) and had to be consequently treated **following** day (12.6.2020 in the evening) in a hospital, where she was given a medication containing a prohibited substance, which was found in the tested sample the next day (13.6.2020) after completing other competitions.

Unfortunately, this defense raises many questions:

1. How is it possible that a minor athlete (at the time 17 years old) was given a substance containing cocaine without the knowledge of her legal guardian?
2. Why didn't the accused or her legal representative draw the doctor's attention to the fact that she was an active top athlete seeking to take part in the Tokyo Olympic Games?

The accused, as a member of Youth Sport Center of Czech Equestrian Federation and as a member of A national team completed anti-doping training, where everyone was acquainted with the fact that they are responsible for what may be found in their blood, so she was not an untrained athlete.

1. Why didn't the accused provide the information regarding her hospital treatment and applied medications on the day of the ADC of CZ sample taking, despite the fact that she was encouraged by the authorized sampling commissioners to do so? Information about the treatment given at the hospital after her fall appeared only after the positive analysis of sample B.
2. Please judge for yourself the seriousness of the rider's fall from the official (approved by the race organizing committee) video - publicly available in this article at the bottom:

<https://www.jezdci.cz/clanky/terapeuticka-vyjimka-na-roztok-s-kokainem-emoce-kolem-rozhodnuti-cov/?fbclid=IwAR2-xfTtRM1nk2swvlf6inMAZ2e_8KjS_vlf9CGqrEgbTEzESQRLBIyvDPY>  
The original of this official video can be requested on EquiTV.cz

1. After the fall, the accused completed another 2 starts with other horses in the same competition (1.30 m) and another 3 starts in another competition (1.35 cm) and following day (12.6.2020) next 3 competitions, see the official start list:

<https://www.jezdectvi.org/zavody/200611D1/startovni-listiny>   
and the result sheets:

<https://www.jezdectvi.org/zavody/200611D1/vysledky>, Competitions 07\_, 08\_, 11\_ a 12\_

1. She won competition No. 07\_ (1.30m) and gave an interview to the official TV station about an hour before the treatment in the hospital without any signs of pain or facial injury: <https://youtu.be/3mI0lmf45JU>

The aforementioned facts raise a serious suspicion that the statements before the AC of COC are not fully consistent with the actual course of events during day of the competition and there are other unanswered questions:

1. If the fall was so severe that it required medical treatment in the hospital, why didn't it happen immediately after the fall? How is it possible that the rider completed another 8 starts on the very same and following day prior to visiting the hospital?
2. The accused states that she was hit in her face when she fell, but this obviously did not happen based on the video of her fall - after the fall she only dusted her breeches, picked up her whip and left the arena without any signs of pain. In the later interview, she still showed no signs of pain or shock in her face, which was about an hour before the hospital treatment and a few hours after the fall, which would have required the medical treatment. Is it possible to have this reaction after hitting the face?
3. Why was a substance containing cocaine administered to the accused in the hospital when, based on inquiries to other medical facilities in the Czech Republic, due to its addictive properties the substance cocaine has been replaced by another equally active substance since about 2012 in this medicine? Why did the accused receive this treatment?
4. How is it possible that the substance in question was found in the body the next day during a doping control, is the dose of cocaine in the substance really so strong to remain in the human body treated for oven 10 hours?  
     
   The above stated facts really raise considerable mistrust in the decision of the Arbitration Commission of COC and send a very bad signal to our athletes about a possible way to achieve the circumvention of rules against drugs and doping. Equestrian sport is unique as the athlete controls a very powerful animal and if under the influence of addictive substances the person and his/her decisions may be impaired and fatal for the athlete, and are in direct conflict with the FEI Code for the treatment of horses, and the welfare of the horse may be compromised under the lead of such a rider. Furthermore, such an athlete endangers her surroundings and the danger of the situation is identical to driving a car under the influence of drugs. For this reason, I do not even agree with the new WADA directive, which is unpleasantly tolerant of social drugs.

Due to the really serious damage to the good name of equestrian sport, Olympic values ​​and sport in general in the Czech Republic by a person applying to participate in the Tokyo Olympics, I hereby request that WADA, FEI and IOC - in accordance with Art. 13. 2. 3. the guideline 2015 - appeal to the Lausanne Arbitration Court for Sport (CAS) and thus provide the opportunity to re-evaluate the whole case at the international level.

Thank you.   
With kind regards,

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