



## TENNIS - DOPING

### THE SUSPENSION OF ROBERT KENDRICK IS REDUCED TO EIGHT MONTHS BY THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

*Lausanne, 22 August 2011* - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has rendered its decision in the arbitration between the US tennis player Robert Kendrick and the International Tennis Federation (ITF): the CAS has confirmed that Robert Kendrick was guilty of a doping offence but has decided to reduce his suspension to eight months, starting from 22 May 2011. Furthermore, Robert Kendrick is disqualified from the French Open 2011.

Robert Kendrick tested positive with the specified substance methylhexaneamine (MHA), on 22 May 2011 at the French Open 2011. He was subsequently sanctioned with a twelve-month suspension by the ITF Anti-Doping Tribunal, starting from the date of the sample collection. Robert Kendrick then filed an appeal with the CAS on 3 August 2011. With the agreement of all parties concerned, the CAS conducted an expedited procedure and held a hearing in New York on 18 August 2011, in the presence of the parties, their representatives and witnesses.

The CAS Panel composed of Mr Graeme Mew, Canada (President), Mr Jeffrey Benz, United States, and Mr Michael Beloff QC, United Kingdom, decided to partially uphold the appeal filed by Robert Kendrick, who has explained that the specified substance MHA was the result of the ingestion of a “Zija XM3” pill intended to counteract the effects of jet lag. The CAS Panel noted that it was not disputed by the parties that there was no intent to enhance sporting performance.

In contrast to the recent CAS case involving Cesar Cielo and other Brazilian swimmers, Robert Kendrick did not show a comparable degree of caution as the Brazilian swimmers, who had used a product obtained on pharmaceutical advice. Instead, he relied only on the information given by a blog on the internet which represented that Zija XM3 was “approved” by WADA, without thereafter consulting a doctor or other appropriately qualified person, checking the composition of the product, or using the anti-doping resources provided by the ITF. For among other reasons, the CAS Panel found that the eight-month suspension was appropriate to the degree of fault borne by the player.

The CAS will issue its full reasoned award in a few weeks.