

PRESS RELEASE

Brianna Rollins-McNeal Response to Statement of Athletics Integrity Union

June 4, 2021 (Los Angeles, CA) – Today, the Athletics Integrity Union (“AIU”) announced that Brianna McNeal has been sanctioned for 5 years for an alleged violation of Article 2.5 of the World Anti-Doping Code; that the sanction has been appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (“CAS”); and that CAS has ordered that Ms. McNeal is allowed to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials while her appeal proceeds. The AIU also stated today that it has not published the appealed decision for confidentiality reasons.

This case involves a misunderstanding related to an explanation that Brianna McNeal voluntarily provided to the AIU about a January 2020 missed test. The AIU has not accused Brianna McNeal of ever using any banned substances, has not accused Brianna McNeal of evading doping control; and has not accused Brianna McNeal of tampering with any urine sample or blood sample. The January 2020 missed test would not have been Brianna McNeal’s third missed test in a 12-month period, and had she ignored the AIU’s request that she explain the circumstances of that missed test, there would have been no consequences.

Brianna McNeal appealed the April 21, 2021 Decision of the AIU’s Disciplinary Tribunal to CAS because she is not a doper, and firmly believes that she did not violate any anti-doping rule. On May 20, 2021, she requested that her appeal be expedited so that it could be fully decided before the U.S. Olympic Trials, and the AIU opposed that request. As a result of the AIU’s refusal to agree to an expedited hearing, Brianna McNeal requested that CAS allow her to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials while her appeal proceeds. Having considered the arguments of both parties, the CAS agreed that the circumstances of this case are such that Brianna McNeal should be permitted to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials while the appeal is under consideration.

Brianna McNeal does not intend to discuss this matter any further as she prepares for the Olympic Trials with the goal of defending her Olympic gold medal.

For more information please contact:

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