

Case No. 2025-03

Disciplinary Commission

Final Decision

22 May 2025

In the matter of

THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Wim De Deyne, **ISU Technical Committee Representative**,
c/- International Skating Union ("ISU") Avenue Juste-Olivier 17,
1006 Lausanne, Switzerland.
Email: wim.dedeyne@isu.org;

Complainant

represented by
Prof Dr Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Advisor
email: geistlinger@isu.ch

against

Mr Sean Shuai,
seanshuai006@gmail.com

Alleged Offender

and

US Speedskating,
5662 South Cougar Lane Kearns,
UT 84118 USA
Ted Morris, Executive Director
tmorris@usspeedskating.org

Interested Member

Regarding Violations of the ISU Code of Ethics

I. History of the Procedure

- [1] On 29 March 2025, the ISU Disciplinary Commission ("the DC") received a Statement of Complaint from the ISU against the Alleged Offender Mr Sean Shuai, together with 4 Exhibits.
- [2] On 7 April 2025, following appointment of DC Panel Members, the Alleged Offender was invited in Order Number 1 to file a Statement of Reply to the DC within 21 days.
- [3] A printed copy of the Statement of Complaint and Exhibits, Declarations of Independence of the Panel Members and Order Number 1 were couriered to the Alleged Offender's address. These were signed as received by Amy Shuai on 9 April 2025.
- [4] The Alleged Offender has not responded to the email, nor to the delivered documents, and has not filed a Statement of Reply.
- [5] Mr Shuai was advised by the DC Chair by email on 18 May that since there has been no response from Mr Shuai within the requisite time period, the DC would issue a Final Decision on his case. This is that Final Decision.

II. Procedural Matters

- [6] According to Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the ISU Constitution 2024, the ISU Disciplinary Commission serves as a first instance authority to hear and decide all charges referred to it by any ISU authority against any Skater, Official, Office Holder or other participant in ISU activities (Alleged Offender) accused of a disciplinary or ethical offence.
- [7] In the "Declaration for Competitors and Officials entering ISU Events" signed on 15 May 2024, the Alleged Offender confirms *inter alia*:

I/we, the undersigned,

- I) accept and undertake to fully comply with the ISU Constitution and all ISU Statutes as defined in Art. 39 of the ISU Constitution, in particular the ISU Code of Ethics (ISU Communication 2450 and any update), the ISU Anti-Doping rules and Anti- Doping Procedures and all related and otherwise applicable anti-doping rules replicating or derived from the WADA Code including the list of prohibited substances and methods*

and all other international standards and technical documents issued by WADA, and

- II) accept the jurisdiction of the ISU Disciplinary Commission, accept the authority of any other competent National Anti-Doping Organisation disciplinary authority, accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland as the arbitration tribunal authorised to issue final and binding awards in all matters under the ISU Statutes, in particular the ISU Anti-Doping rules, and/ or other applicable national anti- doping rules...*

(Exhibit 5)

- [8] According to Article 25 Paragraph 6 a) of the ISU Constitution 2024 complaints must be filed with the Disciplinary Commission within one year of learning of the facts or events, which constitute a disciplinary or ethical offence.
- [9] The Alleged Offender is an International Short Track skater for the USA. The Statement of Complaint arrived at the ISU Disciplinary Commission via e-mail on 29th March 2025 and respects the one year time limit. The Complaint is within the jurisdiction of the DC.

III. Facts

- [10] The Complaint arises out of an incident at the ISU Short Track World Tour 6, in Milan Italy, between 14 and 16 February 2025.
- [11] The Alleged Offender is Mr Sean Shuai, an international level short track skater, entered by ISU member US speed skating. He was competing in the event, as was Mr Liam O'Brien entered by Ireland.
- [12] The ISU short Track World Tour 6 in Milan, is an ISU international competition. The announcement for this event was submitted **(Exhibit 2)**.
- [13] On 16 February 2025, the last day of the event, the Alleged Offender posted comments to Instagram about Mr. O'Brien, who was participating in the same event **(Exhibit 3)**.

[14] Those comments will not be repeated here. However, the DC records that they were abusive, derogatory and insulting to Mr O'Brien, attacking him in a very personal way including extreme name calling and the use of swear words.

[15] The Complaint alleges that Mr Shuai has violated Articles 3 and 5.2 i) and ii) of the ISU Code of Ethics 2024.

[16] The Complainant submit that US Speedskating was aware of the situation and that the post had been removed. However, the skating community had already seen and read it, which caused considerable distress.

[17] On 5 March 2025, the Alleged Offender apologised to the first ISU Vice President Mr. Tron Espeli in writing, as follows:

"I'd like to address the controversy surrounding the Instagram post I made about Liam O'Brien following the 6th world tour. First and foremost, I sincerely apologise for the inappropriate language and the nature of the post, and I take full responsibility for it. The language I chose was unprofessional and unacceptable, and I should have never shared it, regardless of the circumstances. I want to be clear that my actions were wrong, and I am truly sorry for any hurt or discomfort this may have caused. I understand that such behaviour does not align with the code of conduct expected in our sport, and I will personally make sure this never happens again. I have recently been made aware of the proper channels for reporting concerns, and I will follow those moving forward"

He added:

"At the World Tour in mention, I felt that there were dangerous conditions created by O'Brien. I hope the ISU will look into this matter to ensure a safe and fear environment for all athletes. I acknowledge that I should have addressed my concerns in a more appropriate manner, and once again, I deeply apologise for the way I handled it".

(Exhibit 4)

[18] The ISU Complaint accepts the Alleged Offender's apology as sincere.

Alleged Offender's submissions

[19] The Alleged Offender has not filed a Statement of Reply. However, the Panel notes that Mr Shuai accepted that he made the Instagram post and in his written apology attached to the ISU Complaint (**Exhibit 4**).

IV. Law

[20] Article 39(1) of the ISU Constitution 2024 confirms that the ISU Code of Ethics forms part of the ISU Statutes.

[21] According to the ISU Code of Ethics 2024 – Article 3 - General Standards of Conduct;

Persons subject to this Code of Ethics shall:

- exemplify, by their conduct and by their written and oral communications, the highest standards of honesty, respect, fairness, fair play, ethical behavior, and sporting attitude and shall not act in any manner which might damage the reputation of the ISU or the ISU sports;

- inspire internal and public confidence in the fairness, honesty and integrity of the ISU, the ISU sports and all who act under the auspices of the ISU sports. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of statement may also apply to the use of social media, especially but not limited to, by ISU Officials.

[22] Articles 5.2 i) and ii) of the ISU Code of Ethics set out that:

5.2 During ISU Events and activities subject to this Code of Ethics, Skaters and other persons to whom this Code applies have the opportunity to express their views, including

- in the zones and centres reserved for contact with media when speaking to the media;*
- during press conferences and interviews;*
- at team meetings;*
- in traditional or digital media;*
- through social media channels;*

- on the field of play prior to the start of the competition and provided that the expression (for example, gesture)

i) is consistent with the ISU Constitution and ISU Statutes, including this Code of Ethics;

ii) is not targeted, directly or indirectly against people, countries, organisations and/or their dignity...

V. Application to this case

[23] The Alleged Offender was a participant, a skater, competing in an ISU event. He is subject to the ISU Code of Ethics.

[24] The conduct of Mr Shuai contravenes the ISU Code of Ethics, Article 3 and 5.2 i) and ii). Mr Shuai is in violation of the General Standards of Conduct due to his public comments made on social media (Instagram). He has directly targeted another skater, and his post is targeted against a skater and his dignity.

[25] He has not exemplified, by his conduct and written oral communications, the highest standards of respect, fairness, fair play, ethical behavior, and sporting attitude. He has acted in a manner which might damage the reputation of the ISU or the ISU sports.

[26] The DC agrees with the Complainant that the behaviour of the Alleged Offender undermines the integrity of ISU sports and sets a harmful precedent.

[27] Skaters must not be subjected to this, or any type of abuse or personal attack.

VI. Sanction

[28] According to Article 25/9 a) iii) of the ISU Constitution, the ISU Disciplinary Commission may impose a sanction including a reprimand, a fine and suspension of participation in any specific ISU activity.

[29] A sanction is necessary in the interests of educating the Alleged Offender, and also to deter other Skaters from doing the same. This sanction will inform other skaters that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated and deter others from acting in this manner, including in person, on social media or against other skaters.

[30] The ISU submits that the appropriate sanction is suspend the alleged offender from one ISU event in Short Track speed skating. Since the 2024-2025 season has finished, the Complainant proposes a suspension from the first ISU event in Short Track speed skating in the season 2025/2026. The DC Panel is not convinced that this is adequate to reflect the seriousness of the abuse by Ms Shuai towards Mr O'Brien. Any concerns about alleged safety issues should have been raised through the proper channels. There is no excuse for the wording of the social media post towards Mr O'Brien; hence a stronger sanction is merited.

[31] The ISU Disciplinary Commission rules as follows:

VII. Decision

[32] The case against Mr Shuai is proven; he is found guilty of misconduct and violations of the ISU Code of Ethics in connection with his conduct at the ISU Short Track World Tour 6.

[33] A period of exclusion from participation in two ISU Short Track events is imposed. He is excluded from participation in the first two events listed in the ISU World Tour events in Short Track speed skating in the season 2025/2026. These are the events currently listed for Montreal (16-19 October 2025) and Salt Lake City (23-26 October 2025). This exclusion includes any change to the location of these events.

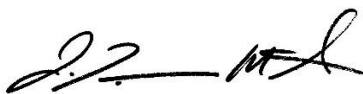
[34] In addition, a fine of 200 US dollars is imposed on Mr Shuai. This is to paid to the ISU, and added to the budget of the ISU Safeguarding group.

[35] The Parties bear their own costs.


Date : 22nd May 2025



Sue Petricevic



Jean-François Monette



Dr Allan Bohm

The present decision is subject to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Avenue de Beaumont 2, CH 1012 Lausanne, Switzerland, within 21 days upon receipt of the decision, in accordance with Article 25 Paragraph 12 and Article 26 of the ISU Constitution 2024.