

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## IRONMAN AGE-GROUP ATHLETES ACCEPT SANCTIONS FOR ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

**TAMPA, Fla.** (September 24, 2019) – Today, the IRONMAN® Anti-Doping Program announced three anti-doping rule violations resulting from out-of-competition testing of age-group athletes. The testing occurred during pre-competition at the 2018 IRONMAN® World Championship triathlon. The resolution and announcement of these three anti-doping rule violations conclude IRONMAN's Results Management for all in- and out-of-competition testing that occurred at the 2018 IRONMAN World Championship triathlon.

In each case the athlete has accepted a four-year sanction for the anti-doping rule violation. Each athlete has also been disqualified from all competitive results obtained on or subsequent to the date of the test, including results from the 2018 IRONMAN World Championship triathlon. The athletes had been previously provisionally suspended and will remain ineligible to participate in any IRONMAN® or IRONMAN 70.3® competition or any other event organized by WADA Code Signatory's for the four-year period of ineligibility.

The following athletes tested positive for substances prohibited at all times under IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules consistent with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List. All results-management proceedings and sanctions applied under the jurisdiction of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program are determined in accordance with the WADA Code and the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules.

- **Pablo Escalas (Argentina)** - Escalas's sample resulted in an Adverse Analytical Finding consistent with the exogenous administration of multiple Anabolic Androgenic Steroids which were confirmed by Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (IRMS) analysis. Escalas's period of ineligibility began October 9, 2018, the date of his out-of-competition test.
- **Flavia Rocha (Brazil)** - Rocha's sample resulted in an Adverse Analytical Finding consistent with the exogenous administration of multiple Anabolic Androgenic Steroids which were confirmed by IRMS analysis. Rocha's period of ineligibility began October 12, 2018, the date of her out-of-competition test.
- **Eduardo Solis (Costa Rica)** - Solis's samples resulted in Adverse Analytical Findings for multiple prohibited substances: Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs), including recombinant EPO's and analogues; a finding for Continuous Erythropoietin Receptor Activator (CERA); and additional findings consistent with the exogenous administration of multiple Anabolic Androgenic Steroids which were confirmed by IRMS analysis. Solis's period of ineligibility began October 12, 2018, the date of his out-of-competition test.

"These results and sanctions illustrate the importance of IRONMAN's commitment to protecting the integrity of our IRONMAN World Championship events at both the Professional and Age-Group levels," said Kate Mittelstadt, Director of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program. "First, we ensure that all qualified athletes are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the anti-doping rules and our testing program. Second, we run a comprehensive in- and out-of-competition testing program, targeting athletes using intelligence and information to inform our testing strategies. Combining urine and blood collection with the Athlete Biological Passport and advanced analytical screens, including EPO and IRMS, ensures that the testing we do supports both the deterrence and detection of qualified athletes who are in violation of the anti-doping rules."

To learn more about the IRONMAN Anti-Doping program, including the WADA Prohibited List and the risks associated with supplement use, visit [www.ironman.com/triathlon/organizations/anti-doping.aspx](http://www.ironman.com/triathlon/organizations/anti-doping.aspx).

For more information on the IRONMAN brand and global event series, visit [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com). Media-related inquiries may be sent to [press@ironman.com](mailto:press@ironman.com).

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### **About IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program**

As a private corporation conducting triathlon events, IRONMAN is the first private, non-federation sports company to formally adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code. The IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in conformance with the responsibilities of IRONMAN under the Code and are in furtherance of IRONMAN's continuing efforts to protect and promote clean sport and the integrity of IRONMAN racing. As part of the [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com) website, IRONMAN has included an Anti-Doping section. Downloads of rules, policies and forms, sanctions, as well as educational resources and links are available to all participants and the public through this site. Anti-Doping is a key component of IRONMAN's Imbrue™ outreach initiative focused on ensuring that athletes know and understand their rights and responsibilities and the IRONMAN Competition Rules. The WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods is available at [www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list](http://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list).

### **About The IRONMAN Group**

As part of Wanda Sports Group, The IRONMAN Group operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series®, IRONKIDS®, ITU World Triathlon Series, premier running events including the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon™ and The Sun-Herald City2Surf® presented by Westpac, Ultra-Trail® World Tour events including Tarawera Ultra and Ultra-Trail Australia™, mountain bike races including the Absa Cape Epic®, road cycling events, and other multisport races. The IRONMAN Group is the largest operator of mass participation sports in the world and provides more than a million participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company's vast offerings. Since the inception of the iconic IRONMAN® brand and its first event in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines around the world. Beginning as a single race, The IRONMAN Group has grown to become a global sensation with more than 235 events across 55+ countries. For more information, visit [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com).

### **About Wanda Sports Group**

Wanda Sports Group (Nasdaq: WSG) is a leading global sports events, media and marketing platform with a mission to unite people in sports and enable athletes and fans to live their passions and dreams. Through our businesses, including Infront and The IRONMAN Group, we have significant intellectual property rights, long-term relationships and broad execution capabilities, enabling us to deliver unrivalled sports event experiences, creating access to engaging content and building inclusive communities. We offer a comprehensive array of events, marketing and media services through three primary segments: Mass Participation, Spectator Sports and Digital, Production, Sports Solutions (DPSS). Our full service platform creates value for our partners and clients as well as other stakeholders in the sports ecosystem, from rights owners, to brands and advertisers, and to fans and athletes. Headquartered in Beijing, China, Wanda Sports Group has more than 60 offices and 1,600 employees around the world.