FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRONMAN PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE BARNETT ACCEPTS SANCTION FOR ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION

TAMPA, Fla. (February 3, 2017) – Today, the IRONMAN® Anti-Doping Program announced that American professional Lauren Barnett tested positive for a prohibited substance and has accepted a six-month suspension for that anti-doping rule violation. Ms. Barnett’s positive sample was collected at the 2016 IRONMAN® 70.3 Racine and she will receive credit for the period of her Provisional Suspension which began August 4, 2016.

Barnett’s sample tested positive for the presence of ostarine, a prohibited substance in the class of anabolic agents. The use of any ostarine is prohibited at all times under IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules consistent with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prohibited list.

IRONMAN applies sanctions in accordance with the WADA Code and the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules. In this case Ms. Barnett was able to establish that the prohibited substance came from a contaminated product and that there was a diminished level of fault. Her period of ineligibility was thus reduced. IRONMAN’s investigation confirmed through independent testing that ostarine was present in an electrolyte product she had purchased and in another bottle of the same product independently purchased off the shelf.

As a result of this sanction, Ms. Barnett was and is ineligible to participate in any IRONMAN-affiliated competition or any events organized by any other WADA Code Signatory for a period of six months beginning August 4, 2016, the date of her provisional suspension. All of Ms. Barnett’s results from July 17, 2016 onward are disqualified.

The product that caused Barnett’s positive test has been added to the list of high risk supplements maintained on USADA’s online dietary supplement safety education and awareness resource – Supplement 411 (www.Supplement411.org). USADA explains on Supplement 411 that dietary supplements are regulated in a post-market manner, meaning that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not evaluate these products prior to them being brought to the market. Dietary supplements may list prohibited substances on the label; they may misidentify prohibited substances on the label; or they may omit prohibited substances from the label altogether, which means that no organization can fully guarantee the safety of any dietary supplement.

“This is IRONMAN’s first case in which an athlete established that the detected prohibited substance came from a contaminated product,” said Kate Mittelstadt, Director of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program. “We remind and inform athletes of the risks associated with supplement use and this case is a perfect example of why we do that. Athletes must assess the risks carefully and always research their choices. Even with evidence that an athlete’s positive test result was caused by contamination, the athlete has still committed an anti-doping rule violation and is subject to a period of ineligibility.”

To learn more about the IRONMAN Anti-Doping program, visit www.ironman.com/triathlon/organizations/anti-doping.aspx. For more information on the IRONMAN brand and global event series, visit www.ironman.com. Media-related inquiries may contact 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 its 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 key component of IRONMAN’s IAMTrue™ 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 IRONMAN**

A Wanda Sports Holdings company, IRONMAN operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, Iron Girl®, IRONKIDS®, six of nine International Triathlon Union World Triathlon Series races, road cycling events including the UCI Velothon Majors Series, mountain bike races, premier marathons and other multisport races. IRONMAN’s events, together with all other Wanda Sports Holdings events, provide more than 680,000 participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company’s vast offerings. The iconic IRONMAN® Series of events is the largest participation sports platform in the world. Since the inception of the IRONMAN® brand in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines at the world’s most challenging endurance races. Beginning as a single race, IRONMAN has grown to become a global sensation with more than 260 events across 42 countries. For more information, visit [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com).

**About Wanda Sports Holding**

Wanda Sports Holding is the world’s leading sports business entity, founded to capture the opportunities in the global sports industry and to contribute to the prosperous international sports landscape – in three key areas: 1) Spectator Sports (media & marketing business), 2) Participation Sports (active lifestyle business), 3) Services (digital, production and service business). Wanda Sports Holding incorporates the international sports marketing company Infront Sports & Media, the iconic endurance brand IRONMAN, and Wanda Sports China. The headquarters are in Guangzhou, China.