

IN THE MATTER OF PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT BY THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS INTEGRITY AGENCY UNDER THE 2026 TENNIS ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME

Before:

Ms Grace Cheng (Chair)

Ms Cristy Cooper

Ms Lorraine Johnson

BETWEEN:

International Tennis Integrity Agency

Anti-Doping Organisation

– and –

Markéta Vondroušová

Respondent

OPERATIVE AWARD TO THE DECISION OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL

A. Introduction

1. Ms Markéta Vondroušová (the “**Player**”) is an experienced and decorated tennis player who won the Ladies’ Singles Competition at the 2023 Championships at Wimbledon and the silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. She is 26 years old and of Czech nationality. She has been a professional player since the age of 17 and held a Women’s Tennis Association (“**WTA**”) singles ranking of 34 at the end of 2025.
2. The International Tennis Integrity Agency (“**ITIA**”) is an independent body that was established in 2021 by, inter alia, the International Tennis Federation (“**ITF**”) to promote, encourage, enhance, and safeguard the integrity of the ITF’s professional tennis events worldwide. Pursuant to the World Anti-Doping Code (the “**Code**”), the

ITIA is the Delegated Third Party of the ITF (the international governing body for the sport of tennis and signatory to the Code), which is responsible for the management and administration of the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (“**TADP**”). The TADP sets out Code-compliant anti-doping rules applicable to, inter alia, all tennis players who have a WTA ranking.

3. On 27 February 2026, the Player was issued with a formal notice of disciplinary charge (the “**Charge Letter**”) in accordance with 2026 TADP Article 7.13 for the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (“**ADRV**”) under 2025 TADP Article 2.3, on the basis that she refused or failed to submit to Sample collection without compelling justification on 3 December 2025 after notification by a duly authorised Person (the “**Incident**”).
4. The Player denied the Charge on the grounds that when she was requested to submit to Sample collection on 3 December 2025, she was not properly notified since the doping control officer on the day (the “**DCO**”) failed to adhere to mandatory identification and authorisation requirements. Further, the Player argued that she had a compelling justification not to submit to testing since she was suffering from a Generalised Anxiety Disorder and Acute Stress Reaction, which significantly impaired her cognitive capacity and executive functions. This rendered the attempted Sample collection mentally and morally impossible.
5. The matter was referred to the Independent Panel. Pursuant to 2026 TADP Article 8.1 and Rule 1.1 of the Procedural Rules Governing TADP Proceedings Before an Independent Tribunal (the “**Procedural Rules**”), an Independent Tribunal (the “**Tribunal**”) was formed to hear and determine this matter. These proceedings were conducted in accordance with the substantive rules of the 2025 TADP (effective from 1 January 2025) and the procedural rules set out in the 2026 TADP (effective from 1 January 2026), construed in accordance with the Code, and the comments thereto, with English law applying subsidiarily.

B. Proceedings

6. On 10 March 2026, Ms Grace Cheng was appointed as the Chair of the Tribunal. On 5 May 2026, Ms Cristy Cooper and Ms Lorraine Johnson were appointed as members of the Tribunal in this matter.
7. Both Parties participated fully in the proceedings and did not object to the jurisdiction or constitution of the Tribunal.
8. On 11 June 2026, a Hearing was held in London on a hybrid basis.
9. Throughout the proceedings, the ITIA was represented by Ms Jane Mulcahy KC, of counsel, Ms Lauren Pagé, Ms Brianna Quinn, Mr Chris Lavey, and Ms Rebecca Hamilton of Bird & Bird LLP. The Player was represented by Mr Howard Jacobs and Dr Jan Exner. The Tribunal is grateful for the helpful assistance provided by counsel throughout the proceedings.

C. Decision

10. The Tribunal finds the Charge proven and that the Player has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation pursuant to 2025 TADP Article 2.3 on the basis that she refused to submit to Sample collection on 3 December 2025 after notification by a duly authorised Person, with no compelling justification.
11. Consequently, the Player shall be subject to a period of Ineligibility of four (4) years commencing on the date of this Operative Award pursuant to 2025 TADP Article 10.3.1. There shall be no Disqualification of any of the Player's results achieved during the period between 3 December 2025 and the date of this Operative Award.
12. Each Party shall bear its own costs incurred in bringing or defending the Charge, as the case may be. The costs of convening the Tribunal shall be borne by the ITIA in its entirety.

13. The written reasons for the decision set out in this Operative Award, issued on 22 June 2026, will follow in due course.



Ms Grace Cheng
(Chair)



Ms Cristy Cooper



Ms Lorraine Johnson

On behalf of the Independent Panel

22 June 2026
London, UK