

August 31, 2018  
Austin, Texas

### **MADISYN COX STATEMENT**

The Court of Arbitration for Sport made public earlier today that my period of ineligibility has been reduced to six months from a start date of March 3, 2018. Consequently, I'm able to return to competition September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

CAS issued this "consent award" after I was able to establish a source for the banned substance. A multivitamin that I had consistently declared on my doping control form was found – after testing – to contain traces of Trimetazidine, the substance detected in a urine sample provided on February 5, 2018.

In the aftermath of the original FINA two year ban, I wholeheartedly believed that contaminated water was the source of the Trimetazidine. I thought I had eliminated almost every other possible source. While considering whether to appeal FINA's decision, I sent the multivitamin I'd been taking since my senior year in high school to a WADA-accredited lab to be tested for contamination (in cooperation with FINA and USADA). I was beyond shocked and relieved when 4 nanograms of Trimetazidine was detected in tablets from both open and sealed bottles of the multivitamin. Though the amount was microscopic, it was enough to trigger a positive test result at WADA's gold standard lab in Montreal, though it could never have provided any performance enhancing benefit.

I did not immediately test the multivitamin as part of my FINA case because there had never been a recorded case of Trimetazidine supplement contamination in the United States. I mistakenly assumed that the supplement I was taking was extremely safe. I had been taking this multivitamin for seven years, had listed it on every doping control form since making the U.S. National team in 2014 and entering the registered athlete testing pool, and had tested clean and without incident more than 20 times during that period.

The last six months have been a grave and harrowing learning experience that I would not wish on any honest, clean, elite athlete. I know that any supplement – even a multivitamin purported to contain only those ingredients specified on the label and purchased at a local supermarket – can be suspect.

I would advise any athlete who chooses to take supplements to not only consult resources such as USADA's Supplement 411, but to also make sure that they are third party batch tested to check for any contamination.

I am excited to return to the pool. I also appreciate the support so many people have shown me throughout this trying ordeal.