

Persisi to appeal dope ban

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Persisi to appeal dope ban

Silat body to help former world champ Saiedah after failed tests earn her two-year punishment

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She had just started a new job, but was using the competition to assess whether she could make a

comeback for the South-east Asia (SEA) Games in December. Representing her club Al-Haq, Sports-

girl of the Year 2004 Saiedah Said won the Senior Female Class E title at the National Pencak Silat Championships in April.

Instead of a possible comeback, the 28-year-old, who retired after the 2011 SEA Games in Indonesia, was

slapped with a two-year ban yesterday by the Anti-Doping Singapore (ADS) for failing the in-competition drug tests.

The 2004 world champion tested positive for banned substances Nor-Sibutramine and OH-Nor Sibutramine – both appetite suppressants, after being tested on April 14 during the competition.

Sibutramine is a weight-loss medicine that is known to raise blood pressure and cause heart palpitations.

It was taken off the shelves here in 2010.

Saiedah was informed by the ADS of a possible anti-doping rule violation on May 21 and requested for her "B" sample to be analysed.

Both "A" and "B" samples tested positive for the banned substances.

The National Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, convened on Tuesday to decide on Saiedah's case.

The Singapore Silat Federation (Persisi)-accred-

ited national referee is ineligible to take part in any sport during her ban – as an athlete or official – and her results from April's championships will be declared void.

Said ADS deputy director Yeo Say Po:

“Under the World Anti-Doping

Code, the rule of strict liability – the athlete's sole responsibility states that it is ultimately – sibility to ensure that

anything that he or she ingests does not contain any prohibited substance.

“This case is a reminder to all athletes to be always mindful of what they consume to avoid falling foul of any anti-doping rule violation.”

The two-time SEA Games bronze medallist, now work- ing in the Singapore Civil Defence Force, referred

The New Paper to Persisi chief executive officer Sheik Alau'ddin when contacted last night.

Sheik said: “We met Saiedah and her parents a few days ago when we were notified about this issue.

“She had been sick around the time of the tournament and her parents gave her some traditional medicine.

“Saiedah did not need weight control pills because she was well within her weight class in the competition.”

She has until June 17 to make an appeal and Sheik said last night that Persisi would do so for her.

Tennis player Barbora Zahlavova Strycova was banned for six months earlier this year, after testing positive for sibutramine at the Luxembourg Open last year.

Former Chelsea winger Adrian Mutu was banned nine months in 2010 for testing positive for the same banned substance.

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– Persija chief executive officer Sheik Alau'ddin on Saiedah Said's (above) dope case