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Media Release

Doping Offence at 2003 IPC Table Tennis Parapanamerican Championships

Bonn, Germany - The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) today announced a doping violation, which occurred at the 2003 IPC Table Tennis Parapanamerican Championships, which took place in Brasilia (Brazil) from 14 to 22 November 2003. Mr. Carlo di Franco Michel from Brazil returned an adverse analytical finding in his urine sample taken during the competition, containing the main metabolite of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a substance on the 2003 Prohibited List.

In accordance with the IPC Medical & Anti-Doping Code, and after a hearing of the IPC Medical Committee, Mr. di Franco Michel is retrospectively disqualified from the 2003 IPC Table Tennis Parapanamerican Championships and all IPC sanctioned competitions in all sports for a period of two (2) years, commencing 19 November 2003, the day of the doping violation. All medals received since this date, including one gold medal won at the 2003 IPC Table Tennis Parapanamerican Champs, shall be returned to the IPC.

On 10 February 2004, Mr. di Franco Michel applied for early reinstatement in accordance with the IPC Medical & Anti-Doping Code, based on circumstances surrounding the doping violation. Namely that the substance is included in the category of "specified substances" on the 2004 Prohibited List and the presence of the substance in no way had any effect on his performance during the competition. As a result, the suspension of Mr. di Franco Michel from all IPC sanctioned competitions has been reduced to three (3) months. Mr. di Franco Michel is therefore eligible to compete in IPC sanctioned competitions from 19 February 2004.

This ruling is in accordance with the IPC Medical & Anti-Doping Code. As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code, the IPC remains committed to a doping free sporting environment at all levels.

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For further information, please contact Miriam Wilkens, IPC Media and Communication Director on +49 228 209 7180, e-mail: Miriam.wilkens@paralympic.org or <http://www.paralympic.org>.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the international governing body of sports for athletes with a disability. It supervises and coordinates the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games and other multi-disability competitions, of which the most important are World and Regional Championships. The IPC also supports the recruitment and development of athletes at a local, national and international level across all performance levels.