

## Sanctions and Summary of Anti-Doping Rule Violations: Georgia Rugby Union

### (i) Giorgi Chkoidze

<b>First ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	9 April 2019
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample donor	Unknown
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5)
<b>Second ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	12 July 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample donor	Lasha Khmaladze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5)
Start date of Ineligibility	24 August 2023
End date of Ineligibility	23 August 2029

On 9 April 2019, Giorgi Chkoidze was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Giorgi Chkoidze provided a urine sample. Analysis of the urine sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. A DNA analysis was conducted on this sample, which confirmed that it did not belong to Giorgi Chkoidze. The donor of the urine is unknown.

On 12 July 2022, Giorgi Chkoidze was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Giorgi Chkoidze provided a urine sample. Analysis of the urine sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. A DNA analysis was conducted on this sample, which confirmed that it did not belong to Giorgi Chkoidze.

A further DNA analysis was conducted whereby the sample collected from Giorgi Chkoidze on 12 July 2022 was compared with the DNA profile of Lasha Khmaladze. The results of the DNA analysis confirmed that the 12 July 2022 sample was a match for the DNA profile of Lasha Khmaladze.

World Rugby notified Giorgi Chkoidze of the ADRVs, and he was provisionally suspended. Giorgi Chkoidze was subsequently charged with ADRVs pursuant to Regulation 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method) and/or Regulation 21.2.5 (Tampering) for the above conduct. Giorgi Chkoidze admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned him with the period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(ii) Miriani Modebadze**

Sample collection date	4 February 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample donor	Merab Sharikadze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5)
Start date of Ineligibility	18 June 2024
End date of Ineligibility	17 June 2027

On 4 February 2022, Miriani Modebadze was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Miriani Modebadze provided a urine sample. Analysis of the urine sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis conducted on Miriani Modebadze's sample confirmed that it did not belong to him.

A further DNA analysis was conducted whereby the sample collected from Miriani Modebadze was compared with the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze. The results of the DNA analysis confirmed that the sample was a match for the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze.

World Rugby notified Miriani Modebadze of the ADRVs, and he was provisionally suspended. Miriani Modebadze was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged with ADRVs pursuant to Regulation 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method) and/or Regulation 21.2.5 (Tampering). Miriani Modebadze admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned him with the period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(iii) Lasha Lomidze**

Sample collection date	30 June 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample donor	Merab Sharikadze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5)
Start date of Ineligibility	10 September 2023
End date of Ineligibility	24 June 2024

On 30 June 2022, Lasha Lomidze was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Lasha Lomidze provided a urine sample. Analysis of the urine sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis conducted on Lasha Lomidze's sample confirmed that it did not belong to him.

A further DNA analysis was conducted whereby the sample collected from Lasha Lomidze was compared with the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze. The results of the DNA analysis confirmed that the sample was a match for the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze.

World Rugby notified Lasha Lomidze of the ADRVs, and he was provisionally suspended. Lasha Lomidze was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged with ADRVs, pursuant to Regulations 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method) and/or 21.2.5 (Tampering). Lasha Lomidze admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned him with the period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(iv) Lasha Khmaladze**

Sample collection date	12 July 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Giorgi Chkoidze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
Start date of Ineligibility	18 June 2024
End date of Ineligibility	17 June 2027

On 12 July 2022, Lasha Khmaladze's teammate, Giorgi Chkoidze, was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Giorgi Chkoidze provided a urine sample ("G.C. Sample"). Analysis of the G.C. Sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis performed on the G.C. Sample confirmed that it did not belong to Giorgi Chkoidze.

A DNA analysis was conducted whereby the G.C. Sample was compared with the DNA profile of Lasha Khmaladze. The results of the DNA analysis confirmed that the G.C. Sample was a match for the DNA profile of Lasha Khmaladze.

World Rugby notified Lasha Khmaladze of the ADRVs and he was provisionally suspended. Lasha Khmaladze was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged with the commission of ADRVs pursuant to Regulation 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method), 21.2.5 (Tampering), and/or 21.2.9 (Complicity). Lasha Khmaladze admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned him with the period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(v) Otar Lashkhi**

Sample collection date	22 June 2023
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample donor	Merab Sharikadze

ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5)
Start date of Ineligibility	18 June 2024
End date of Ineligibility	17 June 2027

On 22 June 2023, Otar Lashkhi was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample. Otar Lashkhi provided a urine sample. Analysis of the urine sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis conducted on Otar Lashkhi's sample confirmed that it did not belong to him.

Further DNA analysis was conducted whereby the sample collected from Otar Lashkhi was compared with the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze. The results of the DNA analysis confirmed that the sample was a match for the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze.

World Rugby notified Otar Lashkhi of the ADRVs, and he was provisionally suspended. Otar Lashkhi was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged with an ADRV pursuant to Regulation 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method) and/or Regulation 21.2.5 (Tampering). Otar Lashkhi admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned him with the period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(vi) Merab Sharikadze**

<b>First ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	4 February 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Miriani Modebadze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
<b>Second ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	30 June 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Lasha Lomidze
ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
<b>Third ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	22 June 2023
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Otar Lashkhi

ADRVs	Use of a Prohibited Method (Regulation 21.2.2) Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
Start date of Ineligibility	18 June 2024
End date of Ineligibility	17 June 2035

On 4 February 2022, Merab Sharikadze’s teammate, Miriani Modebadze was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample (“M.M. Sample”). Analysis of the M.M. Sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis performed on the M.M. Sample confirmed that it did not belong to Miriani Modebadze.

On 30 June 2022, Merab Sharikadze’s teammate, Lasha Lomidze, was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample (“L.L. Sample”). Analysis of the L.L. Sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis performed on the L.L. Sample confirmed that it did not belong to Lasha Lomidze.

On 22 June 2023, Merab Sharikadze’s teammate, Otari Lashkhi, was selected to provide an Out-of-Competition urine sample (“O.L. Sample”). Analysis of the O.L. Sample did not result in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding. DNA analysis performed on the O.L. Sample confirmed that it did not belong to Otari Lashkhi.

The M.M. Sample, the L.L. Sample and the O.L. Sample were compared with a DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze. The DNA comparisons confirmed that the M.M. Sample, the L.L. Sample and the O.L. Sample were a match for the DNA profile of Merab Sharikadze.

World Rugby notified Merab Sharikadze of the ADRVs and he was provisionally suspended. Merab Sharikadze was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged for ADRVs in contravention of Regulations 21.2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Method), 21.2.5 (Tampering) and 21.2.9 (Complicity), in relation to each instance of sample substitution described above. Merab Sharikadze did not accept the proposed sanction, and requested a hearing before the World Rugby Judicial Committee. Written submissions were filed by both the Player and World Rugby, and a hearing was held on 24 October 2025 before a Judicial Committee constituted of Nicholas Stewart KC (chair), Gregor Nicholson and Dr Stephen Targett. The case concluded on 16 February 2026, when the Judicial Committee sanctioned him with the Period of Ineligibility set out above.

**(vii) Dr Nutsa Shamatava**

<b>First ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	4 February 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Miriani Modebadze

ADRVs	Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
<b>Second ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	30 June 2022
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Lasha Lomidze
ADRVs	Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
<b>Third ADRV</b>	
Sample collection date	22 June 2023
Type of test	Out-of-Competition
Sample recipient	Otar Lashkhi
ADRVs	Tampering (Regulation 21.2.5) Complicity (Regulation 21.2.9)
<b>Fourth ADRV</b>	
Conduct	Advance notice of upcoming doping controls
Medium	Group-chat text messages
Period of conduct	2022-2023
ADRV	Tampering (21.2.5)
Start date of Ineligibility	18 June 2024
End date of Ineligibility	17 June 2033

*(viii) First, Second and Third ADRVs*

On 4 February 2022, on 30 June 2022, and on 22 June 2023, Dr Nutsa Shamatava assisted and/or facilitated four Players, namely Miriani Modebadze, Lasha Lomidze, Otar Lashkhi, and Merab Sharikadze in the commission of the sample substitution ADRVs described above. Each Player identified Dr Nutsa Shamatava as the organiser of the urine sample substitution. Merab Sharikadze indicated to World Rugby that Dr Nutsa Shamatava approached him on each occasion, either via text message or in person, requesting him to provide urine for the above-mentioned Players. On each occasion, Dr Nutsa Shamatava committed ADRVs in contravention of Regulation 21.2.5 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with an element of doping control); and Regulation 21.2.9 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity).

*(ix) Fourth ADRV*

Throughout 2022-2023, Dr Nutsa Shamatava provided advance notice of upcoming out-of-competition doping controls in group chats to at least twenty-six players on the Georgian men's

15s rugby team, including Giorgi Chkoidze, Lasha Khmaladze, Lasha Lomidze, Miriani Modebadze and Merab Sharikadze. These Advance Notice messages occurred on at least eight separate occasions between 2022-2023. On each occasion, Dr Nutsa Shamatava provided the advance notice upwards of 24 hours prior to the scheduled doping controls, informing the recipients of the names of the players selected for each testing mission, and the dates on which those players would be tested. This conduct severely undermined the doping controls, as no-advance notice testing is a core component of an effective anti-doping protocol. The above conduct constitutes an ADRV pursuant to Regulation 21.2.5 i.e. Tampering or Attempted Tampering with an element of doping control, namely the requirement that out-of-competition anti-doping tests are conducted with no advance notice to players, as per Articles 5.1 and 5.3 of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

(x) *Results management*

World Rugby notified Nutsa Shamatava of the ADRVs, and she was provisionally suspended. Nutsa Shamatava was interviewed by World Rugby, and was charged with ADRVs pursuant to Regulation 21.2.5 (Tampering) and Regulation 21.2.9 (Complicity) for the above conduct. Nutsa Shamatava admitted the violations, and World Rugby sanctioned her with the period of Ineligibility set out above.