

## Weightlifter Harpreet banned for testing positive

The Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Thursday banned Harpreet Singh, who tested positive for a banned substance nandrolone.

The Punjab weightlifter, in the 85 kg category, is the third lifter to test positive in four months. Harpreet was practising at the Army Sports Institute in Pune for the Commonwealth Youth Games and has been banned with immediate effect.

'We have been informed that Harpreet has tested positive for a banned substance and he has been banned with immediate effect. Random samples were collected from the lifters who were training at ASI and after tests at SAI laboratory it was confirmed that Harpreet has tested positive. He will have the right to appeal to get his 'B' sample tested,' IWF general secretary B.R. Gulati told IANS.

If Harpreet's 'B' sample tests positive he will be banned for two years.

Harpreet was training under Deodutt Sharma, who was recently named by the IWF as the Olympic coach. But pressure from the sports ministry forced the national body to replace Sharma with former international Anita Chanu as Monika Devi's coach at the Beijing Games.

Harpreet's positive testing is the third case in four months after Kavita Devi and Paritosh Upadhyay.

'It is very difficult to stop cases of doping in power sports like weightlifting. We are taking appropriate steps but it will take some time to curb this evil,' said Gulati.

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