

Bodybuilding association chairman faces additional bribery and fraud charges

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The chairman of a bodybuilding association, who was earlier charged by the ICAC for his alleged role in a bribery scam to assist a suspended athlete in competing in the 2006 Doha Asian Games, was today (Monday) laid with additional bribery and fraud charges.

Chan Siu-man, 39, chairman of Hong Kong China Bodybuilding and Fitness Association (HKCBBA), faces three additional charges - two of conspiracy for an agent to accept an advantage, contrary to Section 9(1)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance; and one of conspiracy to defraud.

Also charged was Chan Yun-to, 43, a bodybuilding athlete, who faces one of the bribery charges with Chan Siu-man.

The defendants will appear in Eastern Magistracy at 9:30 am on Thursday (December 31) for transfer to the District Court.

One of the bribery charges alleges that between January and December 2006, Chan Siu-man and Chan Yun-to conspired together with the secretary-general of the Asian Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation (ABBF) and a coach of HKCBBA for the secretary-general of ABBF to accept US\$10,000 from Chan Yun-to.

In return, the secretary-general of ABBF was said to have shortened or lifted the period of suspension of participating in any bodybuilding competition imposed on Chan Yun-to, and enabled him to participate in the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Another bribery charge alleges Chan Siu-man of having conspired together with the secretary-general of ABBF, the coach of HKCBBA and another bodybuilding athlete between January 2006 and May 2009 for the secretary-general of ABBF to accept a sum of money between HK\$100,000 odd and HK\$200,000 from the athlete for the same reason.

ICAC enquiries revealed that Chan Yun-to and the above athlete were banned from any bodybuilding competition for two years and life respectively as they had failed doping tests in October 2005 after competing in a bodybuilding championship held in South Korea.

The remaining conspiracy charge alleges that between April 2007 and May 2009, Chan Siu-man conspired together with the above athlete to defraud the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) by falsely representing that the athlete was a full-time athlete and that his occupation was a part-time personal trainer.

As a result of the alleged false representation, the HKSI was induced to approve an elite training grant to the athlete in the total sum of HK\$600,000.

The defendants have been released on ICAC bail, pending their court appearance on Thursday.