

## Pogba could face four-year ban after failed drug test

**THE GUARDIAN** – Paul Pogba could be banned from football for up to four years after testing positive for testosterone. The Juventus midfielder has been provisionally suspended following a random drugs test taken after his club's 3-0 win at Udinese on 20 August, Italy's national anti-doping tribunal (NADO Italia) announced on Monday. The test revealed elevated levels of testosterone, a hormone that can increase an athlete's endurance, meaning the 30-year-old's second sample will also need to be examined.



● REUTERS

Pogba has three days to produce a counter-analysis of the result, according to reports in Italy. If found guilty of doping, the France international could be suspended for between two and four years.

"In acceptance of the instance proposed by the National Anti-doping Prosecutor, it has provided for the provisional suspension of the athlete Paul Labile Pogba," NADO Italia said in a statement.

The tribunal said Pogba had violated anti-doping rules when they found the prohibited substance "non-endogenous testosterone metabolites", adding that the results were "consistent with the exogenous origin of the target compounds".

Pogba, who was an unused substitute in the win at Udinese, has endured a torrid time at Juventus following his return to the club from Manchester United in 2022. The 2018 World Cup winner missed most of last season with knee and hamstring injuries and was also absent from France's run to the World Cup final in Qatar due to knee surgery.

He was also dropped from a Juventus squad for disciplinary reasons and claimed to have almost quit the game after allegedly being blackmailed by an organised crime gang.

The midfielder has not started a game this season but has made two substitute appearances, last appearing in Juventus' 2-0 win at Empoli on 3 September.

The Italian club have not commented so far on the latest controversy surrounding Pogba.

# IWF World Championships: Chinese favorites stunned as Javadi bags sensational golds

Iranian Mir-Mostafa Javadi makes a lift during the men's 89kg contests at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on September 11, 2023.  
● GIORGIO SCALA/  
DEEPBLUEMEDIA



### Sports Desk

Mir-Mostafa Javadi got Iran off the mark in the medal table at the IWF World Championships by collecting a couple of surprise golds in Riyadh. On a day to forget for Chinese world record holders Li Dayin and Tian Tao, Javadi bounced back from a slow start in the snatch contest to walk away with the ultimate prizes of the clean & jerk and total events in the men's 89kg class – a massive boost for the Iranian in sealing a berth for next year's Paris Olympics.

A double world silver winner in 2021, Javadi registered 169kg to settle for the sixth spot in the snatch event, with Armenian Andranik Karapetyan (175kg), Moldova's Marin Robu (173kg), and Keydomar Vallenilla (171kg) finishing on the podiums.

Li and Tian Tao only had two successful lifts between them to end in the fourth and seventh places respectively.

It was a different story in the C&J campaign for Javadi, who began with a successful 207kg attempt. Asked later if he fancied his chances of winning double

golds, the Iranian said: "Absolutely not.

"I was just trying my best for a bronze medal, maybe a silver, and never even thought about gold. But there were so many no-lifts."

While Tian Tao bombed out with successive failed attempts, Li thought he had done enough for the remaining golds when he took the lead on 170-213-383.

However, having overcome the 212kg barrier, Javadi went on to lift 215kg for his final attempt to finish atop the C&J podium before grabbing the total gold with 384kg.

Li took double silvers, with Venezuelan Vallenilla making a clean sweep of bronzes.

"That was my best lifting in a competition," said Javadi, whose total will move him up to fourth in the Olympic rankings.

His overall tally is four kilograms better than his fellow Iranian and 2016 Olympic champion Kianoush Rostami, who made 380kg at last year's World Championships before being dropped from the national team for the tournament in the Saudi capital.

This was only a second appearance in the new

weight class for the Iranian, following May's Asian Championships, where he tallied 364kg in total to take double bronzes, with Li and Tian Tao setting three new world records for the golds. "It was the result of months of hard work," Javadi, 23, said in perfect English "learned from movies and TV."

He celebrated on the platform with Iran's large coaching staff, adding: "This was a team effort. Hopefully there will be more medals to come."

Javadi had also participated in Bogotá last year but he was far from fitness after

a back injury and failed to make the podium.

He had to take his form to a new level in an intense preparation for this year's championships, Sajjad Anoushiravani, the head of the Iranian Weightlifting Federation, explained.

"After the Asian Championships there was no day off," said Anoushiravani, and Olympic medalist in 2012.

"We have been in training camps since then, with good nutrition, good coaching, very professional, very progressive.

"Hopefully we will win more medals here."

# Djokovic's domination of tennis to continue, Murray says



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final at the US Open in Flushing Meadows, NY, US, on September 10, 2023.  
● FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

BBC – Andy Murray says Novak Djokovic is set to dominate men's tennis for years to come, with a younger generation of players still well below his level.

The Serb, 36, won a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title with victory over Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final in New York on Sunday.

He has no immediate retirement plans.

"It's up to the young guys to be pushing Novak and looking to overtake him. It doesn't look like that's close to happening," Murray told BBC Sport.

"Novak's been an incredible player for a very long time, like Roger and Rafa, it's the longevity and how long they've all been able

to do that for.

"Novak's longevity has been the greatest. He's played at this level for such a long time now." Djokovic was beaten in this year's Wimbledon final by 20-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

Three-time Grand Slam winner Murray, who was speaking on the eve of Great Britain's Davis Cup campaign, said the wrong conclusions were drawn from Djokovic's defeat at SW19.

Murray, 36, added: "I said that after Wimbledon, everyone was saying it was a changing of the guard, but it wasn't for me.

"It was quite clear Novak had won two of the first three slams and was very, very close in the final of Wimbledon.

"He proved that he's the best player in the world again yesterday and like I said it's up to the youngsters to improve enough to take him.

"I don't think he's going to stop at 24 titles, but you never know how long it will last. Physically, motivation, whether someone like Alcaraz improves – he's an amazing player Alcaraz, he's brilliant, but to do what Novak is doing on a consistent basis is different.

"It's not the same as doing it for 15-20 weeks a year like Novak is doing, every time he steps on the court. I do think that Alcaraz will soon get to that level but I don't think this is going to be the last time that Novak wins a Grand Slam."