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## China appeals cycling decision

Nation says there's no rule that should lead to riders being stripped of gold

By CHEN XIANGFENG in London chenxiangfeng@chinadaily.com.cn

One day after China was stripped of the gold medal in the women's team sprint track cycling event, the cycling team announced on Friday that it would appeal to the International Cycling Union and International Olympic Committee.

"We were relegated to the silver medal moments after the finish," the appeal letter read. "Based on the Olympic spirit and respect for the referee's rule at that time, we accepted that and attended the award ceremony because we wanted to show our sportsmanship at that time."

"We later took a close look at the video replay and studied the rules again. It's the first time this event has been included at the Olympic Games. We found the rules are not complete and do not give

a specific explanation of some offenses. That's why we appealed — because we could not find the specific rule to judge our riders' offense."

Coach Daniel Morelon of France went so far as to deny that Guo Shuang and Gong Jinjie had violated any rules.

Guo and Gong, who broke the world record twice in the preliminary rounds, had just finished a victory lap and started celebrating with officials from the Chinese team when they found out they were not Olympic champions thanks to a lane change in the final.

The organizing committee's official reports said the team had made an early relay, citing a specific regulation. China's appeal letter asserts the regulation in question was not violated.

The team claims the judges had a bad attitude when asked to watch a replay of the infraction.

On a frantic first day of competition at the Velodrome, British riders Jess Varnish and Victoria Pendleton were also disqualified for making an

early change in the first round.

Guo, the bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the keirin event on Friday, competed in the keirin event on Friday. She won a silver.

### Controversy everywhere

There have been a series of disputed judgments at the Games.

In the women's table tennis singles final, China's No 1 Ding Ning was brought to tears following a succession of refereeing decisions that went against her.

Ding was left visibly shaken when the umpire awarded a point to opponent Li Xiaoxia for illegal serving and a point for a red card for towel down without authorization.

Li went on to win, 4-1, claiming gold and sending favorite Ding to silver.

"I think the umpire was a little bit too strict with me. I asked the translator why, and she said my serving was not right. It's not high enough," Ding complained after loss. "For one or two

years, I've always served the ball like that, and she didn't even give me a warning before giving me a card."

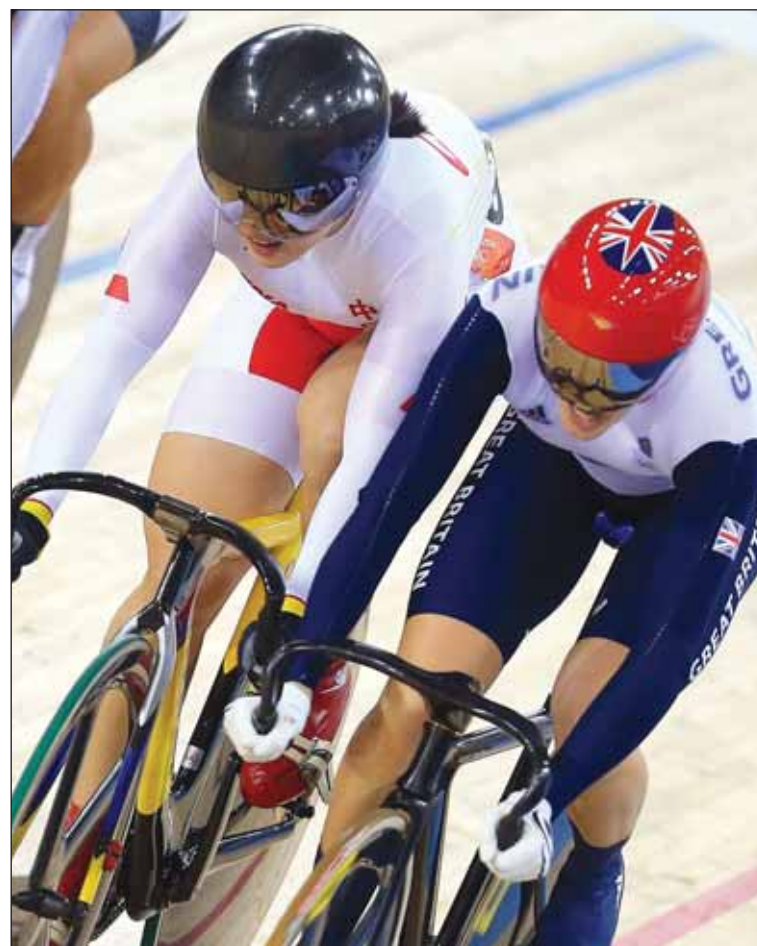
The biggest controversies came in the men's gymnastics team competition and the men's 400m freestyle swimming.

The Japanese were initially fourth after a fall by Kohei Uchimura on the pommel horse.

But they protested the score given to Uchimura, and officials decided to accept the team's appeal and award Japan the silver at the expense of Great Britain, which finished third.

In swimming, South Korean Park Tae-hwan, the defending champion in the 400m freestyle, was initially disqualified after officials ruled that he false-started in his morning heat. He won an appeal to overturn the decision.

In the first three days at the Games, there were also appeals and changes in judo, hockey, archery and epee event in fencing.



China's Guo Shuang (left) and Victoria Pendleton of Britain during the keirin event on Friday. Guo lost to Pendleton and claimed a silver.

CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

## TOUCHING MOMENT

PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States' Michael Phelps (left) touches the wall as South Africa's Chad le Clos closes in for second place during the men's 100m butterfly final at the Aquatics Centre at the Olympic Park on Friday.

See story on page 4.



## How to needle a horse to victory

More and more horses in international competition are making use of an ancient Chinese healing art to stay healthy and fit. Rebecca Lo talks to Lawrence Chan, one of two equine acupuncturists in Hong Kong.

Dr Lawrence Chan takes out his kit of acupuncture needles and considers his patient, a beautiful chestnut thoroughbred mare. After donning yellow rubber gloves, he inserts 45mm to 50mm long needles one by one into her back. He works quickly. He has a time span of 30 minutes before the mild tranquilizer begins to wear off.

In another weeks' time, he will repeat the procedure, for up to four consecutive weeks.

But most owners would prefer that he cuts down his treatment to two acupuncture sessions in as many weeks, so that their prized racing machines can return the track and win big again.

Whether it is an Olympic medal or hard cash, horseracing and equestrian sports are big businesses in Hong Kong. And they are sports that the city has been perfecting for nearly 130 years.

Chan has worked for The Hong Kong Jockey Club's Veterinary Clinical Services for 21 years. He studied veterinary science at The University of Melbourne. After returning to Hong Kong, he worked for a year in a small animal clinic before joining HKJC's team.

"After I was hired, I was sent to England for six months to observe how equestrian vets worked," Chan recalls.

The team of 14 vets at the Equine Hospital is an international smorgasbord of nationalities, with Irish, Eng-

lish, South African, Australian, New Zealand and local Hong Kong staff headed by Dr Chris Riggs. The team is subdivided into Racing Veterinary Surgeons and Equestrian Veterinary Services, with the latter responsible for retired racehorses and privately owned horses and ponies in the city's riding schools.

Together, they are responsible for some 1,800 horses across Hong Kong.

As a racing vet surgeon, Chan saw that many western medical practices were covering up injuries that some horses sustained, and he decided to look at alternative methods of healing.



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Lawrence Chan is one of two equine acupuncturists in Hong Kong.

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