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ATHLETICS_Stripped of the gold

DOPING: 4 x 400m team must return medals to SGF



File pic of Mohd Yunus Lasaleh (left), Kannathasan Subramaniam, Schzuan Ahmad Rosley and Yuvaraaj Panerselvam with their gold medal after winning 4 x 400m in the 2011 Sea Games.

MALAYSIA'S 4x400m Sea Games champions have been ordered to return their gold medals to the Sea Games Federation (SGF). The SGF made the decision following its council meeting last weekend.

Weightlifter Firdaus Razak, who won the bronze in the 105kg event, also faces the same fate.

SGF will report to the World Anti-Doping Agency and the respective international federations for further sanctions.

Relay runner Mohd Yunus Lasaleh, a member of the 4x400m team at last year's Palembang Sea Games, tested positive for metandienone, an anabolic steroid. Firdaus tested positive for drostanolone.

Both athletes now face at least a two-year ban.

P. Yuvaraaj, Schzuan Ahmad Rosely and S. Kannathasan were the other members of the relay team.

The Indonesia Sea Games Organising Committee informed the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) on Dec 21 that two of Malaysia's athletes had failed the drugs test.

OCM president Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar said yesterday: "Yes, SGF informed us officially today."