

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Ryan Forshaw

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of the Rugby Football League

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules ('ADR') of the Rugby Football League ('RFL'). It concerns Anti-Doping Rule Violations ('ADRVs') committed by Mr Ryan Forshaw contrary to the ADR.

Capitalised terms used in this Decision shall have the meaning given to them in the ADR unless otherwise indicated.

Background and Facts

1. The RFL is the national governing body for the sport of rugby league in England. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation ('NADO') for sport in the United Kingdom. The RFL has adopted the UK Anti-Doping Rules¹ as its own ADR.
2. Mr Forshaw is a 22-year-old rugby league player who, at the time of the ADRVs, played for Rochdale Hornets. At all material times in this matter, Mr Forshaw was subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL and bound to comply with the ADR. Pursuant to ADR Article 7.2, UKAD has results management responsibility in respect of all players that are subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL.
3. On 16 February 2022, UKAD Doping Control Personnel collected a urine Sample from Mr Forshaw at an Out-of-Competition squad test at a Rochdale Hornets training session at The Sports Centre at Hopwood Hall College, Manchester.
4. Assisted by a member of UKAD Doping Control Personnel in attendance, Mr Forshaw split the urine Sample into two separate bottles which were given reference numbers A1176137 (the 'A Sample') and B1176137 (the 'B Sample').
5. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory in London, the Drug Control Centre, Kings College (the 'Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the A Sample in accordance with the procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories and Technical Document – TD20221NA. Analysis of the A Sample returned Adverse Analytical

¹ (Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021)

Findings ('AAF's) for 19-norandrosterone and the following metabolites of metandienone:

- a. 17 β -methyl-5 β -androst-1-ene-3 α ,17 α -diol (epimetendiol);
 - b. 17 β -hydroxymethyl,17 α -methyl-18-nor-androst-1,4,13-trien-3-one;
 - c. 6 β -hydroxymetandienone;
 - d. 17-epimetandienone
6. 19-norandrosterone and metandienone are both listed under S1.1 of the 2022 WADA Prohibited List as Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. 19-norandrosterone and metandienone are non-Specified Substances that are prohibited at all times.
 7. Mr Forshaw does not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ('TUE') for 19-norandrosterone and / or metandienone.
 8. On 6 May 2022 UKAD sent Mr Forshaw a letter (the 'Notice Letter'). The Notice Letter confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Forshaw, in accordance with ADR Article 7.8, that he may have committed ADRVs pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and ADR Article 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method).
 9. Mr Forshaw did not provide a substantive response to the Notice Letter.
 10. On 26 July 2022, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Forshaw with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of ADRVs pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and Article 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method).

Admission and Consequences

11. ADR Article 2.1 provides that the following is an ADRV:

2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample, unless the Athlete establishes that the presence is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.

12. ADR Article 2.2 provides that the following is an ADRV:

2.2 Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, unless the Athlete establishes that the Use or Attempted Use is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.

13. ADR Article 10.2 provides:

10.2 Imposition of a Period of Ineligibility for the Presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance and/or a Prohibited Method.

The period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.1, 2.2 or 2.6 that is the Athlete's or other Person's first anti-doping offence shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction or suspension pursuant to Article 10.5, 10.6 or 10.7:

10.2.1 Save where Article 10.2.4(a) applies, the period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years where:

(a) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation does not involve a Specified Substance or a Specified Method, unless the Athlete or other Person can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was not intentional.

(b) [...]

10.2.2 If Article 10.2.1 does not apply, then (subject to Article 10.2.4(a)) the period of Ineligibility shall be two (2) years.

14. In accordance with ADR Article 10.2.1(a), since this matter concerns non-Specified Substances, the period of Ineligibility to be imposed shall be four (4) years, unless Mr Forshaw can establish on a balance of probability, that the ADRVs were not intentional.

15. Within his response to UKAD, Mr Forshaw has accepted responsibility for the Prohibited Substances detected in his Sample and admits the ADRVs. At no stage has Mr Forshaw sought to adduce evidence to establish that his ADRVs were not intentional (as that term is defined within ADR Article 10.2.3). Accordingly, Mr Forshaw is not entitled to a two (2) year period of Ineligibility pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.2 or any reduction pursuant to ADR Article 10.5 (No Fault or Negligence) or ADR Article 10.6 (No Significant Fault or Negligence) thereafter.

16. For the purposes of imposing a sanction, the ADRVs will be considered together as a single first violation, pursuant to ADR Article 10.9.4 which states as follows:

10.9.4 Additional rules for certain potential multiple offences:

(a) For the purposes of imposing sanctions under Article 10.9, except as provided in Articles 10.9.4(b) and 10.9.4(c) an Anti-Doping Rule Violation will only be considered a second (or third, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation if UKAD can establish that the Athlete or other Person committed the additional Anti-Doping Rule Violation after they received notice, or after UKAD or its designee made a reasonable attempt to give notice, of the first (or the second, as

applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Otherwise, the first and second Anti-Doping Rule Violations (or the second and third Anti-Doping Rule Violations as applicable shall be considered as one single first Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries the most severe sanction...

17. The applicable period of Ineligibility is therefore four (4) years.

Application of ADR Article 10.8.1

18. ADR Article 10.8.1 provides:

10.8.1 One (1) year reduction for certain Anti-Doping Rule Violations based on early admission and acceptance of sanction:

Where UKAD sends an Athlete or other Person a Charge Letter for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Article 10.4), if the Athlete or other Person admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than twenty (20) days after receiving the Charge Letter, they shall receive a one (1) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD. Where the Athlete or other Person receives the one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Article 10.8.1, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other Article.

19. Mr Forshaw admitted the ADRVs and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years on 15 August 2022. Accordingly, ADR Article 10.8.1 applies and Mr Forshaw shall receive a one (1) year reduction to the applicable period of Ineligibility of four (4) years. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore three (3) years.

Commencement of the period of Ineligibility

20. ADR Article 10.13 requires that the period of Ineligibility starts on the date Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed where there is no hearing.

21. However, ADR Article 10.13.2 allows for credit to be given against the total period of Ineligibility to be served where an Athlete has been provisionally suspended and has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.

22. Mr Forshaw was Provisionally Suspended on 6 May 2022 and as far as UKAD is aware, he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.

23. The period of Ineligibility is therefore deemed to have commenced on 6 May 2022 and will expire at midnight on 5 May 2025.

Status during Ineligibility

24. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr Forshaw shall not be permitted to participate in any capacity (or assist any Athlete participating in any capacity) in a Competition, Event or other activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programmes) organised, convened, authorised, or recognised by:
- a) The RFL;
 - b) Any Signatory;
 - c) Any club or other body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by, a Signatory or a Signatory's member organisation;
 - d) Any professional league or any international or national-level Event organisation; or
 - e) Any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.
25. Mr Forshaw may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a RFL club or a Signatory's member organisation during the last two months of his period of Ineligibility (i.e. from midnight on 5 March 2025) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b).

Summary

26. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2 and records that:
- a) Mr Forshaw has committed ADRVs pursuant to ADR Articles 2.1 and 2.2;
 - b) In accordance with ADR Article 10.9.4(a) the ADRVs are considered as one single ADRV for the purposes of imposing a sanction;
 - c) This constitutes Mr Forshaw's first ADRV and in accordance with ADR Article 10.8.1, Mr Forshaw is entitled to a one (1) year reduction to the applicable period of Ineligibility of four (4) years. A period of Ineligibility of three (3) years is therefore imposed;
 - d) Acknowledging Mr Forshaw's Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 6 May 2022 and will expire at midnight on 5 May 2025; and
 - e) Mr Forshaw's status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.
27. Mr Forshaw, the RFL, International Rugby League and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.

28. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

21 October 2022