



## Decision

by

the FIBA Disciplinary Panel established in accordance with  
Article 8.1 of the  
FIBA Internal Regulations governing Anti-Doping  
in the matter

**Ricardo Leshawn Hill**  
(born 14 February 1977)

hereafter:

**(“the Player”)**

(Nationality: USA)

**Whereas**, in 2003 the Player was suspended for a one-year period for a doping offence in Italy on the basis of a positive test for cannabis;

**Whereas**, the Player underwent an in-competition doping test on 24 January 2009 in Barreiro (Portugal) on the occasion of the Final-Four of the Portuguese Cup (*Taça de Portugal*);

**Whereas**, the analysis of the Player's sample was conducted at the Laboratory of Lisbon (Portugal), which is a WADA-accredited laboratory. On 26 March 2009 the Laboratory informed the National Anti-doping Council of Portugal (Conselho Nacional Antidopagem) and the

Portuguese Basketball Federation (Federação Portuguesa de Basquetebol, hereinafter the “PBF”) that the sample showed the presence of metabolites of cannabis in a quantity of 167.6 ng/ml;

**Whereas**, the Player exercised his right to request an analysis of the “B” sample, which confirmed the presence of cannabinoids in the Player’s urine;

**Whereas**, on 17 April 2009 the PBF provisionally suspended the Player with immediate effect;

**Whereas**, in September 2009 the Appeals’ Body of the PBF imposed a sanction of one-year ineligibility on the Player, starting from 16 April 2009;

**Whereas**, on 12 October 2009 the Player together with his agent, Mr. Justin Hoeverler, were heard via telephone conference by a FIBA Disciplinary Panel composed of Mr. Antonio Mizzi, President of FIBA's Legal Commission and of Dr. Heinz Günter, Vice President of FIBA's Medical Commission. Mr. Amir Ibrahim from FIBA’s Eligibility Department and Dr. Dirk-Reiner Martens, FIBA Legal Advisor, were also in attendance;

**Whereas**, the Player

- did not contest the result of the test;
- admitted that he smoked cigarettes containing cannabis during a period of seven days in early January 2009;
- stated that he had no intention to enhance his performance and that he regrets the use of cannabis;
- affirmed that he takes full responsibility for his actions;

Now, therefore, the Panel takes the following:



## DECISION

**A period of one-year ineligibility, i.e. from 21 April 2009 to 20 April 2010, is imposed on Mr. Ricardo Leshawn Hill.**

### Reasons:

1. The Player has committed an anti-doping-rule violation pursuant to Article 2.1 of the FIBA ADR, since cannabis, a specified substance listed in WADA's 2009 Prohibited List under letter S.8 (Cannabinoids), was found in his urine sample. This fact remained uncontested.
2. Considering that the Player had been sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation in 2003, the provisions on Multiple Violations are applicable to this case. Article 10.7 of the FIBA ADR in its relevant part reads as follows:

*“10.7.1 Second Anti-Doping Rule Violation*

*For a Player’s or other Person’s first anti-doping rule violation, the period of Ineligibility is set forth in Articles 10.2 and 10.3 (subject to elimination, reduction or suspension under Articles 10.4 or 10.5, or to an increase under Article 10.6). For a second anti-doping rule violation the period of Ineligibility shall be within the range set forth in the table below.*

<i>Second Violation</i>	<b>RS</b>	<b>FFMT</b>	<b>NSF</b>	<b>St</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>TRA</b>
<i>First Violation</i>						
<b>RS</b>	1-4	2-4	2-4	4-6	8-10	10-life
<b>FFMT</b>	1-4	4-8	4-8	6-8	10-life	life
<b>NSF</b>	1-4	4-8	4-8	6-8	10-life	life
<b>St</b>	2-4	6-8	6-8	8-life	life	life
<b>AS</b>	4-5	10-life	10-life	life	life	life
<b>TRA</b>	8-life	life	Life	life	life	life

*Definitions for purposes of the second anti-doping rule violation table:*

*RS (Reduced sanction for Specified Substance under Article 10.4): The antidoping rule violation was or should be sanctioned by a reduced sanction under Article 10.4 because it involved a Specified Substance and the other conditions under Article 10.4 were met.”*

3. In view of the fact that:

- the Player admitted at the hearing to have used cannabis in January 2009 after an acquaintance had provided him with a small quantity of cannabis during the Christmas holidays;
- the Player asserted that he used cannabis only for personal reasons and not in order to improve his athletic performance;
- the Player affirmed that in 2003 he had committed a first anti-doping rule violation involving the same substance but that he has decided not to use cannabis ever again;
- the Player has expressed his deep regret for the violations committed;

the Panel holds that it is appropriate to impose on the Player a sanction of one year.

4. This decision is subject to an Appeal according to the FIBA Internal Regulations governing Appeals as per the attached “Notice about Appeals Procedure”.

Geneva, 15 October 2009

On behalf of the FIBA Disciplinary Panel



Antonio Mizzi  
President of the Disciplinary Panel