

IN THE MATTER OF RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
CONCERNING RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION REGULATION 20 AND THE
INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD, REGULATION 21

B E T W E E N:

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

-and-

AARON MASON

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL OFFICER'S DECISION

Judicial Officer: Christopher Quinlan QC

Date: 7 July 2013

1. Mr Mason (the Player), aged 17 years was charged by the RFU with a breach of IRB regulation 21.2.2 by letter dated 18 April 2013.
2. The charge was brought following notification to the RFU by the Player's coaches that the Player had admitted to them by telephone of use on the morning of the doping control test 15 April 2013 of Dianabol (*S1.1.a – Anabolic Agents, Anabolic Androgenic Steroids*). The coaches agreed to and did submit written statements to that effect.
3. The player was informed in the same letter of 18 April 2013 that he may also be charged with a breach of IRB regulation 21.2.1 pending the results of the doping control test.
4. The player formally responded by letter dated 18 April 2013 (received 22 April 2013) admitting to use of Dianabol on the morning of the doping control test.
5. The results of the player's A-sample analysis subsequently returned an adverse analytical finding for methandienone (commonly known as Dianabol).

6. The Player was charged by the RFU with a breach of IRB regulation 21.2.1 by letter dated 30 April 2013.
7. In relation to both the charge made on 18 April 2013 and that made on 30 April 2013, the Player made a prompt admission in relation to the commission of the charge.
8. By email on 7 July 2013 the Player indicated he did not wish to attend an oral hearing and was content for a single Judicial Officer to deal with the case, without such a hearing.
9. The period of ineligibility in this case is two years unless the conditions for eliminating or reducing it as provided in IRB Regulation 21.22.4 (No Fault or Negligence) or 21.22.5 (No Significant Fault or Negligence) are met.
10. The only submissions received made by the Player are those in the said letter of 18 April. Nothing in that letter gets close to establishing no or no significant fault or negligence.
11. A period of ineligibility of two years was imposed.
12. Under Regulation 21.22.12 the period of ineligibility was set to commence on 19 April 2013, the date on which the Player was provisionally suspended and is due to expire at midnight on 18 April 2015.
13. The Player's status during the period of ineligibility is as provided by Regulation 21.22.13.
14. The Player has a right of appeal as provided by RFU Regulation 20.12.