

Case Study

Name: Nathan Jones
Country: Wales
Position: Wing
Team: Ebbw Vale RFC



Twenty-two year-old rugby player Nathan Jones was selected for a random in-competition drugs test after playing in a Welsh Premiership Rugby match for Ebbw Vale against Neath in September 2009.

Jones was notified of his selection for testing at the conclusion of the match; however he was under time pressure to travel to Bristol to work for his father's building contractors and left the ground without providing a sample. As a semi-professional player, his main income came from his work as builder and the company was due to lose £5,000 if it did not complete this contract.

At the time of the test the player was re-assured by the clubs director (and former Welsh Rugby Union Chief Executive) Steve Lewis that he should leave the ground and go to work in Bristol.

However, the panel found that the player committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, namely failing without compelling justification to submit to sample collection after notification of testing as authorised in the UKADR.

About Failure to Comply

- A 'Failure To Comply' is an Anti-Doping Rule Violation defined as refusing or failing to submit to sample collection or otherwise evading sample collection.
- The sanction for a 'Failure to Comply' is a mandatory two (2) years for a first offence and a life ban for a second offence.
- All rugby players are advised to fully comply with any request by an authorised testing body to provide a urine sample.

Doping Violation:

- Refusing, or failing without compelling justification, to submit to sample collection or otherwise evading sample collection.

Consequences:

- Two (2) year ban from rugby, including playing, training and acting in any official capacity within the sport.

National Anti-Doping Panel says:

- "It would appear that neither the player nor Mr Lewis, who the player relied on for advice, were sufficiently acquainted with the applicable requirements of the anti-doping regulations.
- "The player's lack of anti-doping education and that of some of the other individuals involved in the events that occurred at the Doping Control Station is a regrettable feature of this case.

Headlines:

- *"Welsh Player's Doping Offence Ban*
- BBC News

