

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Rangi Chase

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 Rugby Football League's Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR'). It concerns a violation of the ADR committed by Mr Rangi Chase and records the applicable Consequences.

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

Background and Facts

1. The Rugby Football League ('RFL') is the governing body for the sport of rugby league in the UK. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation for the United Kingdom.
2. Mr Chase is a 31 year-old rugby league player. At all material times Mr Chase was subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL and bound to comply with the ADR. Pursuant to the ADR, UKAD has results management responsibility in respect of all athletes subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL.
3. On 14 July 2017, UKAD collected a urine Sample from Mr Chase In-Competition, following a match between Widnes Vikings and Wakefield Trinity.
4. The Sample was submitted for analysis at the Drug Control Centre, Kings College London, a World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory ('the Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the Sample in accordance with the procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories.
5. This analysis returned an Adverse Analytical Finding for benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of Cocaine).
6. Under s.6a of the WADA Prohibited List 2017, cocaine is classed as a non-specified stimulant that is prohibited In-Competition.
7. Mr Chase does not have, nor has he ever held, a Therapeutic Use Exemption in relation to Cocaine (or its Metabolites).
8. On 4 August 2017, UKAD issued Mr Chase with a Notice of Charge ('the Charge') and provisionally suspended him from rugby league and other WADA Code-compliant sport. The Charge alleged the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample).

Admission and Consequences

9. Mr Chase has admitted committing an ADRV in violation of ADR Article 2.1.
10. ADR Article 2.1 provides as follows:

The following constitute Anti-Doping Rule Violations:

- 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**

11. ADR Article 10.2 provides as follows:

10.2 Imposition of a Period of Ineligibility for the Presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance and/or 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 reduction or suspension pursuant to Article 10.4, 10.5 or 10.6:

10.2.1 The period of Ineligibility shall be four years where:

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

10.2.2 If Article 10.2.1 does not apply, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years.

12. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed shall therefore be four (4) years, unless Mr Chase can establish that the commission of the ADRV was not intentional. The meaning of 'intentional' for these purposes is set out in ADR Article 10.2.3 as follows:

10.2.3 As used in Articles 10.2 and 10.3, the term "intentional" is meant to identify those Athletes or other Persons who cheat. The term, therefore, requires that the Athlete or other Person engaged in conduct which he or she knew constituted an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or knew that there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and manifestly disregarded that risk. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall be rebuttably presumed to be not "intentional" if the substance is a Specified Substance and the Athlete can establish that the Prohibited Substance was used Out-of-Competition. An Anti-Doping Rule Violation for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall not be considered "intentional" if the substance is not a Specified Substance and the Athlete can establish that the Prohibited Substance was used Out-of-Competition in a context unrelated to sports performance.

(Emphasis added)

13. In admitting the ADRV, Mr Chase explained that his use of cocaine took place Out-of-Competition in a context unrelated to sports performance. UKAD accepts that explanation and therefore accepts that Mr Chase has not acted intentionally, as that term is defined in ADR Article 10.2.3. The period of Ineligibility to be applied in these circumstances is reduced from four (4) to two (2) years.

14. Mr Chase has not sought to reduce the period of Ineligibility further on the basis of ADR Article 10.4 (No Fault or Negligence) or 10.5.2 (No Significant Fault or Negligence).

15. Pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.2, a period of Ineligibility of two (2) years is therefore imposed.
16. UKAD issues this Decision pursuant to ADR Article 7.7.4.
17. ADR Article 7.7.4 provides:

7.7.4 In the event that UKAD withdraws the Notice of Charge, or the Athlete or other Person admits the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) charged and accedes to the Consequences specified by the NADO (or is deemed to have done so in accordance with the last sentence of Article 7.7.1), neither B Sample analysis nor a hearing is required. Instead, UKAD shall promptly issue a reasoned decision confirming the commission of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) and the imposition of the specified Consequences, shall send notice of the decision to the Athlete or other Person and to each Interested Party, and shall Publicly Disclose the decision in accordance with Article 8.4.

Period of Ineligibility

18. ADR Article 10.11.2 provides as follows:

10.11.2 Timely Admission:

Where the Athlete or other Person promptly (which means, in any event, before he/she competes again) admits the Anti-Doping Rule Violation after being confronted with it by UKAD, the period of Ineligibility may start as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another Anti-Doping Rule Violation last occurred. In each case, however, where this Article is applied, the Athlete or other Person shall serve at least one-half of the period of Ineligibility going forward from the date the Athlete or other Person accepted the imposition of a sanction, the date of a hearing decision imposing a sanction, or the date the sanction is otherwise imposed. This Article shall not apply where the period of Ineligibility has already been reduced under Article 10.6.3.

19. Mr Chase has made a timely admission for the purposes of ADR Article 10.11.2. Therefore, the period of Ineligibility to be imposed on Mr Chase shall be deemed to have started on 14 July 2017 and will expire at midnight on 13 July 2019.
20. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.12.1, Mr Chase shall not be permitted to participate in any capacity in a Competition, Event or other activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programmes) organised, convened or authorised by:
 - the RFL or any body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by the RFL;
 - any Signatory;
 - any club or other body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by, a Signatory or a Signatory's member organisation;
 - any professional league or any international or national-level Event organisation; or
 - any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.
21. Mr Chase may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a club or other member organisation of the RFL or a Signatory's member organisation during the last two months of his period of Ineligibility (i.e. from midnight on 13 May 2019) pursuant to ADR Article 10.12.4(b).

22. Mr Chase, the RFL, the RLIF and WADA have a right of appeal against this decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
23. The disposition of these proceedings on the terms set out above will be publicly announced via UKAD's website.

01 November 2017