

## WORLD RUGBY

### IN THE MATTER OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS BY ESTEFANO ARANDA CACERES (THE "PLAYER") CONTRARY TO REGULATION 21 OF THE WORLD RUGBY ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS (THE "REGULATIONS")

#### *Reasoned Decision*<sup>1</sup>

- [1] The Player underwent an In Competition<sup>2</sup> Doping Control on 5 March 2023 as part of his participation in the 2023 Super Rugby Americas when he played for Yacare Rugby Club against Cobras Brazil, conducted under the Testing Authority of World Rugby.
- [2] The Player's urine sample was sent to the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Utah, USA for analysis and returned an Adverse Analytical Finding ("AAF") for Carboxy-THC, a metabolite of Tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC").
- [3] THC is classified as a Specified Substance under S8 (Cannabinoids) of the WADA 2023 Prohibited List. THC is also specifically identified as a Substance of Abuse under Section 8.
- [4] The Player did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption approving the use of THC to treat a legitimate medical condition.
- [5] The Player was notified by World Rugby, the Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management Authority, of the AAF and his Provisional Suspension by letter on 8 May 2023.
- [6] The Player did not request an analysis of his B Sample.
- [7] On 2 June 2023 the Player offered a written explanation in which he admitted to unintentionally ingesting THC.
- [8] World Rugby considered it appropriate under Regulation 21 and the WADA International Standard for Results Management to commence proceedings against the Player. There was no departure from any WADA International Standard in the analysis of the Player's Sample.
- [9] By letter dated 17 July 2023, the Player was given formal notice that he was being charged with two Anti-Doping Rule Violations, namely a breach of Regulation 21.2.1 and a breach of Regulation 21.2.2 on the basis that (i) THC was present in the Player's sample (together with the presence of the metabolite, Carboxy-THC) and (ii) the Use by the Player of a Prohibited Substance (the "ADRVs").
- [10] The Player was notified that it was World Rugby's position that, as the ADRVs relate to a Substance of Abuse, it would be seeking a period of Ineligibility of three months which would be shortened to one month subject to the Player completing a Substance of Abuse treatment approved by World Rugby, in accordance with Regulation 21.10.2.4.1.
- [11] On 24 July 2023 the Player admitted the ADRVs and waived his right to a hearing. The Player also accepted the associated sanction of a period of Ineligibility of three months from all rugby activity at all levels.

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<sup>1</sup> This reasoned decision has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations and the WADA International Standard for Results Management.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalised terms that are not otherwise defined bear meaning attributed to them in the Regulations or the relevant WADA International Standard.

[12] Consequently, the Player was sanctioned to a period of Ineligibility of three months. In accordance with Regulation 21.10.13.2.1 of the Regulations, the period of Ineligibility ran from the date of the Player's Provisional Suspension on 8 May 2023, and ended at midnight 7 August 2023.

[13] This decision is final, subject to an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Regulation 21.13.2 of the Regulations). The Player has 21 days to appeal in accordance with Regulation 21.13.6 of the Regulations. The Player is considered an International-Level Athlete for the purposes of any appeal. CAS can be contacted using the email address [procedures@tas-cas.org](mailto:procedures@tas-cas.org) and the CAS Rules are available here: [https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/CAS\\_Code\\_2021\\_EN\\_.pdf](https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user_upload/CAS_Code_2021_EN_.pdf).



David Ho

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20 September 2023