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**Tribunal dismisses appeal against non-nomination for
2020 Youth Olympic Games**

The Sports Tribunal has dismissed an appeal by Samuel Hadley against a decision of Snow Sports New Zealand (SSNZ) not to nominate him for the Alpine male place for the 2020 Youth Olympic Games to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland next month.

Initially, the basis of the appeal was that the selectors erred in placing undue weight on one-off performances of the other athlete, which disadvantaged the Mr Hadley as he had not attended these events in order to concentrate on his end-of-year school exams.

Mr Hadley contended that his combined results over an extended season spanning three months clearly established that he was the number one ranked male athlete available for selection. He further argued that he regularly beat the nominated athlete in “key events”, and that he is the New Zealand National Under 21 Overall Champion and he held all available New Zealand Under 21 titles (Giant Slalom and Slalom).

The Tribunal noted that this case had been considered under extreme urgency, with a multitude of material made available to it in its consideration of the appeal. It determined that the combination of events that were considered for the nomination decision made clear that the athlete chosen, and not Mr Hadley, was the athlete with the best results.

The Tribunal dismissed claims of cherry picking by the selectors, bias, an appearance of bias or any unfairness. It determined that the exercise undertaken within the sport and by the New Zealand Olympic Committee were in accordance with the prevailing protocols, and that the discretions exercised were available and rational.

The Tribunal held that it had no option but to dismiss the appeal.

The decision in this case is available from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Samuel Hadley v Snow Sport New Zealand* (ST 10/19). Copies can also be obtained directly from The Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).