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Powerlifter suspended for two years for anti-doping rule violation

The Sports Tribunal has suspended Jason Anderson, a powerlifter, for a period of two years for returning a positive test result for tamoxifen, which is a specified substance prohibited at all times.

Mr Anderson elected not to have his 'B' sample tested. He was provisionally suspended without opposition on 18 July 2019.

He subsequently admitted the violation.

On 25 November 2019, the parties filed a joint memorandum proposing an appropriate sanction. The presumptive two year period of ineligibility applied in circumstances where it was a first violation and intention was not established. The memorandum submitted that it was appropriate to backdate the period of ineligibility to the date of the test, based on Mr Anderson's timely admission of the violation.

The Tribunal considered the violation and the evidence provided by Mr Anderson. It concluded that while his taking of the prohibited substances was imprudent, he had taken them for general health reasons and not to gain a performance advantage.

Having considered all available material, the Tribunal imposed a two year sanction period backdated to commence from 13 May 2019, being the date that the test was conducted.

The decision in this case is available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Jason Anderson* (ST 08/19). 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).