

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**17 August 2010**

**Sports Tribunal suspends Powerlifter for refusing to provide a sample**

The Sports Tribunal has suspended Khalid Slaimanrel from participating in sport because of an anti-doping violation. Mr Slaimanrel refused to provide a specimen for drug testing during an in competition test at a powerlifting event on 28 November 2009.

The New Zealand Powerlifting Federation made an application to the Sports Tribunal for Mr Slaimanrel's provisional suspension on 16 June 2010. He was provisionally suspended by the Sports Tribunal on 22 June. On 12 August, The Tribunal heard the substantive anti-doping proceedings brought by Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFS) and issued its decision on 13 August.

Mr Slaimanrel admitted the violation. He stated that he only participated in the competition for fun and did not intend to participate in future powerlifting competitions. He also stated he intended to compete in bodybuilding and believed that any period of suspension imposed by the Tribunal would not prevent him from doing so. The Tribunal warned him that any period of suspension it imposed here would also apply to any sporting body that is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code.

The usual sanction for such a violation is two years' ineligibility (suspension), commencing from the date of provisional suspension. However, DFS acknowledged that there had been a period of delay between Mr Slaimanrel's refusal to take the test and their notification to Mr Slaimanrel that they were going to pursue the matter before the Tribunal. The delay was the consequence of consideration of some other issues that could not be attributed to Mr Slaimanrel. The Tribunal considered that the sanction should be reduced by 3 months to take into account the period of delay.

The Sports Tribunal therefore suspended Khalid Slaimanrel from participating in sport until 22 March 2012.

The decision in this case will be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal ([www.sporttribunal.org.nz](http://www.sporttribunal.org.nz)). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Khalid Slaimanrel* (ST 06/10). Copies can also be obtained directly from Brent Ellis, Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: [info@sporttribunal.org.nz](mailto:info@sporttribunal.org.nz)).