

MEDIA RELEASE

10 October 2007

Sports Tribunal suspends basketball player for cannabis violation

The Sports Tribunal has suspended Hawks national league basketball player Clifton Bush Junior for 2 months for committing an anti-doping violation involving cannabis.

Mr. Bush tested positive for cannabis while competing in the semi-final of the national league competition on 24 June 2007. Cannabis is a prohibited substance under the Prohibited List of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Mr Bush admitted the violation and explained he had used cannabis when feeling depressed on the anniversary of his father's death. The Tribunal accepted that Mr. Bush did not use cannabis with the intention of enhancing his sports performance.

Mr Bush stated he has subsequently retired from competitive basketball. Notwithstanding Mr Bush's retirement, the Tribunal considered it appropriate in the circumstances to impose a suspension on Mr Bush from competing in any events and competitions conducted by Basketball New Zealand for a period of two months. Such a sanction will give other basketballers notice of the Tribunal's position in such matters.

The decision in this case will soon be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Basketball New Zealand v Clifton Bush Junior* (ST 15/07). Copies of the decision can also be obtained directly from Brent Ellis, Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).