

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sports Tribunal suspends Otago Nuggets basketball player for cannabis violation

The Sports Tribunal has suspended Otago Nuggets NBL basketball player, Nat Connell, from participating in sport because of an anti-doping violation relating to cannabis.

Upon receiving an application for provisional suspension from Basketball New Zealand, the Sports Tribunal imposed a provisional suspension on Mr Connell on 24 April 2008.

The Sports Tribunal has heard the matter. Mr Connell admitted the violation.

The Tribunal advises its decision that Mr Connell is suspended from participating in sport up to and including 1 June 2008.

The Tribunal has taken the provisional suspension into account in reaching its decision and the overall effect is of a six week suspension.

Full reasons for the decision will follow in due course and will be made publicly available.

The advice of the Tribunal's decision and the provisional suspension decision in this case will be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Nat Connell* (ST 04/08). Copies 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).