

MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2009

Sports Tribunal issues reasons for its decision to suspend Wellington rugby league player for cannabis violation

On 8 December 2009, the Sports Tribunal advised of its decision to suspend Wellington rugby league player, Greig Dean, from participating in sport up to and including 29 January 2010. This was due to Mr Dean committing an anti-doping violation relating to cannabis.

The Tribunal has now issued its Reasons for the Decision. Please find the Reasons for the Decision of the Tribunal attached to the e-mail containing this media release.

Mr Dean tested positive for cannabis after representing Wellington against Auckland. He was provisionally suspended by the Sports Tribunal from 28 October 2009.

Mr Dean admitted the violation and gave corroborated evidence that the cannabis was used at a party to celebrate his club team winning its competition. The Tribunal considered that Mr Dean was aware that cannabis was prohibited in sport. His statement that, at the time of his cannabis use, he did not think he would be chosen to represent his provincial team was no excuse. The Tribunal considered that there were no mitigating circumstances.

The Tribunal noted that Mr Dean was active in a number of sports apart from rugby league. A sanction of ineligibility (suspension) will prevent him participating in rugby league and other sports. Mr Dean is ineligible to participate in sport up to and including 29 January 2010.

The Reasons for the Decision in this case will also be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sporttribunal.org.nz). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Greig Dean* (ST 12/09). 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).