

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 August 2006**

**Tribunal warns and reprimands NZ Basketball representative Mark Dickel for a cannabis violation**

The Sports Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand has considered the cannabis anti-doping violation brought by Basketball New Zealand against Mark Dickel.

Mr Dickel tested positive to cannabis after playing a match for New Zealand against Australia. He subsequently admitted to using cannabis, which is banned under the World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List 2006.

The Tribunal held a hearing this afternoon and concluded that the appropriate penalty was a warning and reprimand.

The Tribunal concluded that Mr Dickel did not use cannabis to enhance sports performance. The cannabis had been used recreationally at a party in the USA five weeks before the positive drug test. Mr Dickel was not under contract to any basketball organisation at the time of the cannabis use.

The Tribunal found that there were no aggravating circumstances to warrant imposing a suspension.

The Tribunal noted that Mr Dickel had already been suspended for two matches by Basketball NZ and had missed the recent test matches against Qatar. He had also suffered financial penalty as a result of being suspended for these two matches. He expressed considerable remorse, and has been exposed to adverse publicity.

The penalty is in line with recent decisions of the Tribunal including: *Softball New Zealand v Justin Karaitiana* (SDT 12/06); *Softball New Zealand v Curtis Ames* (SDT 10/06); and *Softball New Zealand v Lance Abbot* (SDT 11/06). Basketball New Zealand's anti-doping code also allows the Tribunal to impose this penalty.

Copies of the decision can be obtained from Brent Ellis, Registrar, Sports Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: [info@sportstribunal.org.nz](mailto:info@sportstribunal.org.nz)). Please request *Basketball New Zealand v Mark Dickel* (SDT 18/06). The decision will also soon be made available for download from the website of the Sports Disputes Tribunal ([www.sportstribunal.org.nz](http://www.sportstribunal.org.nz))