

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**28 August 2009**

**New Zealand representative marathon runner suspended for EPO anti-doping violation**

The Sports Tribunal has suspended marathon runner, Liza Hunter-Galvan, from participating in sport because of an anti-doping violation involving the prohibited substance erythropoietin (EPO).

Ms Hunter-Galvan underwent an out-of-competition drug test on 23 March 2009. A laboratory report of 21 May confirmed her "A" sample had tested positive for EPO.

On 26 May, Athletics New Zealand applied to the Tribunal requesting that the Tribunal consider provisionally suspending Ms Hunter-Galvan. The Tribunal provisionally suspended Ms Hunter-Galvan on 29 May.

Ms Hunter-Galvan then requested that her "B" sample be analysed. A laboratory report of 29 June confirmed that the B sample had also returned a positive test for EPO.

Drug Free Sport filed an application for anti-doping rule violation proceedings with the Tribunal on 2 July. On 11 August, Ms Hunter-Galvan filed her notice of response with the Tribunal. The Tribunal heard the matter on 27 August and issued its decision today.

Ms Hunter-Galvan admitted taking the EPO to the Tribunal.

The Tribunal imposed the mandatory sanction of two years ineligibility on Ms Hunter-Galvan, which commences from the date of her provisional suspension, 29 May 2009.

The decision also refers to confidentiality and privacy obligations in the Sports Anti-Doping Rules 2009 which prevent the Tribunal and the parties to anti-doping proceedings publicly disclosing information relating to those proceedings until the Tribunal has made and publicly issued a final decision.

The decision in this case will be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal ([www.sportstribunal.org.nz](http://www.sportstribunal.org.nz)). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Liza Hunter-Galvan* (ST 07/09). 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](mailto:info@sportstribunal.org.nz)).