

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Sports Tribunal suspends body builder for 2 years**

The Sports Tribunal has suspended body builder Mike Pearson for 2 years for committing an anti-doping violation.

Mr Pearson refused to supply a sample for drug testing at the Auckland Body Building Championships on 30 June 2007.

Mr Pearson advised the Tribunal that he admitted the anti-doping violation and did not want to participate in the hearing. He acknowledged that the Tribunal may impose a penalty on him without holding a hearing of the parties.

### **Principles applied**

Unless a defendant can establish the defences of “no fault or negligence” or “no significant fault or negligence”, the mandatory penalty for a first anti-doping violation involving a refusal to provide a sample is a 2 year suspension.

### **Tribunal’s Conclusions**

Mr Pearson did not participate in the hearing and provided no information other than admitting the violation. Therefore, the Tribunal suspended him for 2 years from participating in sport.

The full decision in this case is available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal ([www.sporttribunal.org.nz](http://www.sporttribunal.org.nz)). See *New Zealand Federation of Body Builders Inc v Mike Pearson* (ST 09/07). 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@sporttribunal.org.nz](mailto:info@sporttribunal.org.nz)).