



MEDIA RELEASE

SDT/12/04 - New Zealand Rugby League v Barry Tawera

The Sports Disputes Tribunal has imposed a one year ban on a rugby league player for failing without reasonable cause to provide a sample for testing by the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency.

The Tribunal heard that, after initially failing to provide a sample (by discarding a sample down a toilet during the sampling process), Barry Tawera left the drug control room but returned a few minutes later. Mr Tawera then provided a second sample which proved negative on analysis.

The Tribunal said that in all but exceptional circumstances a failure to supply a sample would be punished as severely as providing a sample which returned a positive result.

The Tribunal held that, although the initial refusal to provide a sample amounted to a clear breach of the anti-doping code, there were truly exceptional circumstances which justified the imposition of a ban for a period of less than the usual two years.

For further information, contact Brent Ellis, Registrar, Sports Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; mobile 021 228 5742; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).