

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sports Tribunal suspends rugby league player for anti-doping violations

The Sports Tribunal has suspended rugby league player Duane Wineti from participating in sport for two years because of anti-doping violations relating to the prohibited substances D-Methamphetamine, D-Amphetamine and Cannabis.

Mr Wineti tested positive after playing in the Bartercard Premiership Final on 28 September 2008.

He admitted using cannabis in a social setting two days before the final but was unable to explain how the methamphetamine and amphetamine came to be in his system, and denied knowing use. He speculated that the positive test may have resulted from passive inhalation, but he gave no further evidence on this point.

A suspension of two years is mandatory for methamphetamine and amphetamine violations unless the athlete can establish no fault or negligence or no significant fault or negligence under the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (2007). The athlete must first establish how the prohibited substances entered the bodily system. Mr Wineti's speculation fell far short of this.

The mandatory penalty of two years' suspension was imposed for violations involving methamphetamine and amphetamine, and for the cannabis violation, the Tribunal imposed a concurrent two months' suspension.

The decision in this case will be made available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Duane Wineti* (ST 14/08). 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).