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**Tribunal dismisses appeal against non-nomination for
2018 Commonwealth Games Men's Cycling team**

The Sports Tribunal has dismissed an appeal by Jason Christie against a decision of Cycling New Zealand (CNZ) not to select him to be part of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games team. Mr Christie sought to replace a member selected for the New Zealand men's road race cycling team.

Mr Christie appealed on the grounds that CNZ's nomination criteria had not been properly implemented or followed, he was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the applicable criteria and there was no material on which the nomination decision could reasonably be based.

Based on results and his performance, Mr Christie believed he should have been selected ahead of five other riders. Given the overall likely athlete quota available for cycling, the selectors considered only five riders from the men's road discipline would be able to be selected. The Tribunal considered that CNZ's selectors undertook a careful, comprehensive and exhaustive analysis of each rider's performances and results. It was clear to the Tribunal that the selectors were expert in the field with extensive knowledge and experience and there was detailed consideration of the relevant selection criteria and the strengths and weaknesses of all the cyclists were identified and evaluated. Also, of note, during the course of the proceedings an additional potential place for a cyclist emerged, allowing CNZ to reassess Mr Christie's material filed in support of his appeal, but he was still not recommended ahead of those riders already selected.

The Tribunal concluded that:

Ultimately, while acknowledging Mr Christie is undoubtedly a talented cyclist who deserved and received serious consideration, the Tribunal cannot conclude that his omission was irrational or beyond the properly available discretion of the Discipline Panel. There is no material to suggest that regard was had to matters which were not relevant or that all his history and experience were not properly assessed.

The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

The decision in this case is available from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See Jason Christie *v* Cycling New Zealand (ST 02/18). Copies can also be obtained directly from The Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).