



SPORTS TRIBUNAL
of New Zealand

ANNUAL REPORT
2022 / 23

MISSION OF THE SPORTS TRIBUNAL OF NEW ZEALAND

The mission of the Sports Tribunal is to ensure that national sport organisations, athletes and other parties to a sports dispute have access to a fair, objective and just means of resolving sports disputes within the Tribunal's jurisdiction that is also affordable, timely and efficient.

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022/23 Annual Report of the Sports Tribunal reports on activities and cases decided during the time period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.



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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Despite it being a relatively quiet year for the Tribunal, we considered a variety of cases, often under urgency and some quite complex, ranging from an Olympic middle- and long-distance runner who tested positive for the banned substance EPO to a dispute concerning the eligibility of a rugby player to play for the first XV of the school to which he had transferred.

The Tribunal had anticipated receiving some non-selection cases in respect of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham but that did not eventuate. Whether that will be the same for the Olympic Games in Paris next year will remain to be seen. We expect the new Integrity Sports and Recreation Commission will be the source of appeals once it launches next year.

A huge change for the Tribunal was the retirement of Chair Sir Bruce Robertson on 31 August 2022. Sir Bruce was first appointed to the Tribunal as a Deputy Chair in 2011 before being appointed Chair in 2013. He was highly respected by members and those in the sporting and legal professions alike. In his deliberations he was always fair and measured, often assisting the parties to reach agreement without the need for a formal appearance before the Tribunal. He was a strong advocate for open communication and sensible decision making. He was always supportive and encouraging of the members and made the law accessible to all.

In June 2023 one of the two Deputy Chairs, Hon Nicholas Davidson KC, retired from the Tribunal. Nick first became a member in 2003 and was later appointed a Deputy Chair before retiring in 2010, only to be reappointed to that same position in 2019. With his vast experience both in the law and in the sporting dispute arena he was an invaluable member of the Tribunal and like, Sir Bruce, he will be sorely missed.

Also finishing with the Tribunal during the year was the Registrar, Neela Clinton. Neela was first Registrar for several months in 2017 before moving to Australia. She returned to her former position in early 2021 before embarking on a new journey in September 2022. Neela was highly regarded by the members for her efficiency and helpfulness. Indeed, when I replaced Sir Bruce as Chair on 1 November 2022 there was concern as to whether a suitable replacement could be found.

The new Registrar, Helen Gould, quickly demonstrated that there was no need for concern. Helen, who had a legal background in criminal defence, employment law and law reform and advocacy, adapted quickly to her new role.

Ngā mihi

John Macdonald
Chair

ABOUT THE SPORTS TRIBUNAL

The Sports Tribunal is an independent statutory body that determines certain types of disputes for the sports sector. It was established in 2003 by Sport and Recreation New Zealand (now known as Sport New Zealand) in response to recommendations of a 2001 Taskforce which identified a need to help National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) avoid lengthy and costly legal battles, and to provide athletes with an affordable forum where they could access high quality and consistent decision-making to resolve disputes.

The Tribunal was continued under the name of the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand by the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006 (the Act).

The Tribunal can hear and decide the matters set out in section 38 of the Act. These are:

- Anti-doping violations, including determining whether an anti-doping violation has been committed and imposing sanctions;
- Appeals against decisions made by a NSO or the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) if the rules of the NSO or NZOC allow for an appeal to the Tribunal. Such appeals include:
 - appeals against not being selected or nominated for a New Zealand team or squad;
 - appeals against disciplinary decisions;
- Other "sports-related" disputes that all parties to the dispute agree to refer to the Tribunal and that the Tribunal agrees to hear;
- Matters referred by the Board of Sport New Zealand.

The Act sets out the requirements for the appointment of Tribunal members including the Chair and Deputy Chair(s). These include both legal experience and substantial involvement in sport. Information about the current Tribunal membership is provided at the end of this report.

Further information about the Tribunal's procedures and decisions can be found on its website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

CASES DEALT WITH BY THE TRIBUNAL 2022/23

Fourteen cases were filed with the Tribunal during the year and the Tribunal issued eleven decisions. These are classified by proceeding type below.

	NUMBER OF PROCEEDINGS FILED	NUMBER OF DECISIONS ISSUED
Anti-Doping (Provisional Suspension)	5	5
Anti-Doping (Substantive)	5	3
Appeals against decisions of NSOs or NZOC	1	2
Sports-related disputes by agreement	2	2
Other	1	1
Total	14	11

OVERVIEW

Fourteen proceedings were filed with the Tribunal this year compared to eight last year.

The number of appeals filed against decisions of NSOs and NZOC was one in 2022/23 as opposed to three in 2021/22. We expect this number to increase in the 2023/24 period with upcoming selections for the Paris Olympics.

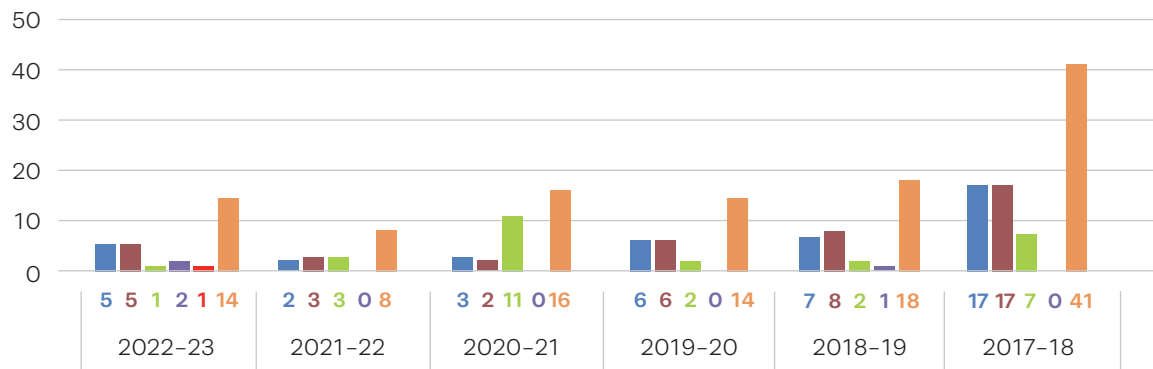
Anti-doping cases increased this year compared to last year, with five substantive anti-doping proceedings filed, three of these were decided by the Tribunal and two are awaiting a hearing. We anticipate that this number will continue to increase with the possibility of more testing now that 'sport' has returned to normal following the global pandemic.

We also anticipate an increase in future cases due to the establishment of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Commission. The Integrity Sport and Recreation Bill, which provides for the establishment of the Commission, is currently making its passage through Parliament. The Bill also amends the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006, renaming it the Sports Tribunal Act 2006 and adding to its functions. The Bill makes provision for the Tribunal to hear disputes arising from the application of the new integrity code, hear appeals against decisions of a disciplinary panel and against decisions of a disciplinary body established by an organisation that has adopted the integrity code. The Bill also removes the cap for the number of Tribunal members, so the Tribunal is likely to expand over the next few years. The Commission, which will subsume Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ), is likely to begin its work in July 2024.

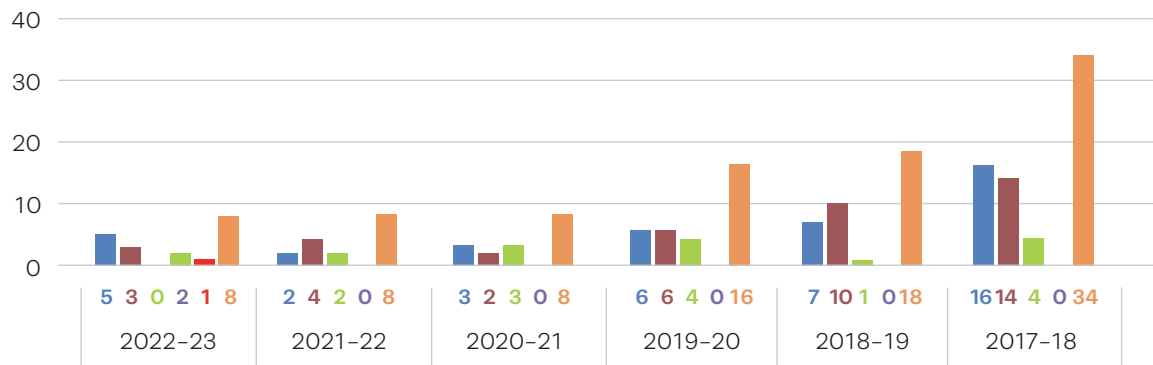
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS

The following graphs show the number of proceedings filed with the Tribunal and decisions issued (classified by proceeding type) in 2022/23 alongside each of the previous five years.

Number and type of proceedings filed – yearly comparison



Number of decisions issued – yearly comparison

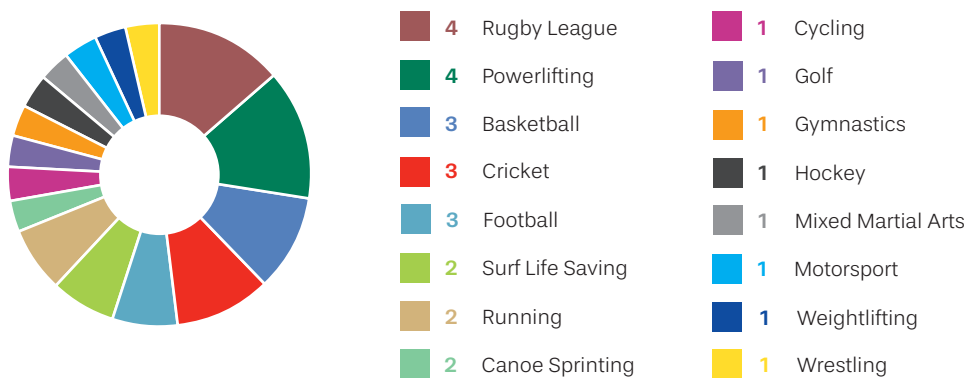


The charts below reflect the types of anti-doping cases and the sports involved over the last five years.

Anti-Doping Tribunal decisions 2018/19 to 2022/23 by Anti-Doping Rule Violation type



Anti-Doping cases heard by the Tribunal: Sports involved 2018/19 to 2022/23



ANTI-DOPING CASES

The Tribunal hears provisional suspension applications and substantive proceedings for anti-doping rule violations filed by DFSNZ, New Zealand's National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO). The Tribunal is empowered to determine whether a violation has occurred and to impose the appropriate sanction under the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (SADR) promulgated by DFSNZ. The SADR mirror the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, a revised Code took effect on 1 January 2021.

2022/2023

This year three substantive anti-doping proceedings were heard and decided by the Tribunal, with a further two substantive cases underway but not concluded by 30 June 2023. There was also a review of a previous sanction case brought before the Tribunal. These decisions are summarised in the table below.

These cases were determined under the 2021 Code and involved the intentional and unintentional presence of a prohibited substance, tampering, possession of prohibited substances and interpretation and application of reduced sanctions for "recreational athletes" and for "substances of abuse".

The 2022/23 period saw the Tribunal impose one of the toughest sanctions in its history in an ADRV case that attracted global attention.

ANTI-DOPING VIOLATION	PENALTY	SPORT
Presence of prohibited substance – Methylendioxyamphetamine (MDMA); a substance of abuse	1 month ineligibility (revised to 3 months if treatment programme not completed)	Basketball
Presence of prohibited substance – Erythropoietin (EPO) Tampering	4 years ineligibility 4 years ineligibility cumulative Total 8 years ineligibility	Athletics
Presence of prohibited substance – Enobosarm (ostarine)	Matter not heard before 30 June 2023	TBA
Attempted use/possession of prohibited substances – Trenbolone Acetate, Drostanolone Propionate, Nandrolone Decanoate, Testosterone Cypionate, Testosterone Enanthate, clenbuterol	4 years ineligibility	Cricket
Application by DFSNZ to re-sanction athlete serving lifetime ban under rule 19.3 and the doctrine of Lex Mitior to take advantage of the rule changes regarding substances of abuse.	Re-sanctioned according to rule 10.2.4.1: each of the two ADRVs to be one month ineligibility	Touch
Presence of prohibited substances – Drostanolone, Norandrostenedione, Oxandrolone and Metenolone	Matter not heard before 30 June 2022	TBA

These decisions are summarised on the following pages.

PRESENCE OF A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE – METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE (MDMA)

Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Taane Samuel

The Sports Tribunal banned Taane Samuel, a national league basketball player, for one month following an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) from an In-Competition doping control test on 17 May 2022. His sample was analysed at laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Association, which detected the presence of a prohibited substance, namely methylenedioxyamphetamine ('MDMA').

MDMA is listed under Class S6 'Stimulants' of the 2022 Prohibited List and is also classified as a Substance of Abuse. In taking MDMA, the 2021 Sports Anti-Doping Rules adopted by Basketball New Zealand were violated. The athlete admitted the violation and it was accepted by the Tribunal that he took the substance out-of-competition for a reason unrelated to sport performance.

On Friday 16 September 2022, the Sports Tribunal imposed the one month ban on the athlete, conditional on him completing an approved drug treatment programme to Drug Free Sport New Zealand's satisfaction. If the treatment programme was not completed, the Tribunal would extend the ban to three months.

PRESENCE OF A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE – ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO) AND TAMPERING

Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Zane Robertson

Athlete Zane Robertson was suspended by the Sports Tribunal for eight years for the presence and use or attempted use of the prohibited substance Erythropoietin (EPO), and for tampering, or attempted tampering, with any part of the doping control process.

Mr Robertson was provisionally suspended without opposition for the first two anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs) on 20 September 2022. This followed an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) from an In-Competition doping control test at the Manchester Great Race in May 2022. Mr Robertson elected to have his 'B' sample tested and this confirmed the original result. He subsequently accepted the presence of the prohibited substance but asked to be heard in relation to sanction.

Mr Robertson filed evidence which was contested by Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ), and which led to the allegation of tampering.

The parties subsequently filed a joint memorandum stating Mr Robertson did not contest the tampering breach and was no longer seeking a reduced sanction for the original ADRVs. The memorandum proposed a period of ineligibility of eight years, with credit for the period of provisional suspension he had already served.

The Tribunal agreed with the joint proposal given that Mr Robertson was not contesting the breaches nor offering evidence to support a reduced sanction. The eight-year period of ineligibility was the only sanction available to the Tribunal as the first two ADRVs attracted a sanction of four years, and the tampering violation attracted a four-year period to be served in addition to the four years for the original ADRVs.

ATTEMPTED USE/POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES – TRENBOLONE ACETATE, DROSTANOLONE PROPIONATE NANDROLONE DECANOATE, TESTOSTERONE CYPIONATE, TESTOSTERONE ENANTHATE CLENBUTEROL

Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Vai Sharma

Recreational cricketer Vaibhav Sharma was suspended by the Sports Tribunal for four years for the possession and attempted use of prohibited substances.

Mr Sharma was provisionally suspended without opposition for the anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs) on 28 April 2023 following New Zealand Customs Service intercepting a package addressed to Mr Sharma. The package contained prohibited substances valued at just under \$4000.

Mr Sharma denied the ADRVs and elected to attend a hearing.

Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ) had the burden to prove to the Tribunal's comfortable satisfaction that Mr Sharma had committed the alleged breaches of the Sport Anti-doping Rules (SADRs). DFSNZ relied on the fact that Mr Sharma's name, address and cell phone number were on the package, which, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, DFSNZ submitted made it highly likely that Mr Sharma had purchased the substances for his own use. The SADRs state that purchase constitutes possession.

While Mr Sharma did not have to prove anything, he offered two alternative possibilities as to why the package had his name, address, and phone number on it. The first was that a malevolent actor had purchased the substances and had them delivered to Mr Sharma so that he would be caught with them. The second was that an importer had purchased the substances with the intention of 'catching' them at Mr Sharma's address before Mr Sharma received them.

The Tribunal considered these possibilities to be implausible and rejected them both. Mr Sharma could not think of anyone who would attempt to derail his cricket career, and it seemed unlikely that anyone would go to such expense. The inclusion of Mr Sharma's phone number on the parcel undermines the proposition that someone was trying to 'catch' the substances before Mr Sharma got to them, rather it would make it more likely that Mr Sharma would be the recipient.

The Tribunal was comfortably satisfied that Mr Sharma was in possession of the prohibited substances and that he intended to use them. The Tribunal imposed a period of ineligibility of four-years which was the only sanction available given that Mr Sharma did not provide any evidence that would assist in reducing the ineligibility period.

APPLICATION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PERIODS OF INELIGIBILITY

Drug Free Sport New Zealand v William Morunga

The Sports Tribunal granted an application from Drug Free Sport NZ (DFSNZ) for New Zealand Touch Rugby Player William Morunga to be re-sanctioned on two substance of abuse anti-doping rule violations (ADVR) dating back to 2005 and 2006. DFSNZ submitted that the doctrine of Lex Mitior and Rule 19.3 allowed the Tribunal to reconsider the sanctions that were imposed, and which cumulatively led to a lifetime ban administered by Queensland Rugby League Drug Judiciary Tribunal. After careful consideration and analysis of the SADR Rules, the Tribunal accepted DFSNZ's submissions and re-sanctioned Mr Morunga. This will enable Mr Morunga to apply to Sport Integrity Australia to have his lifetime ban (imposed in 2010) lifted.

APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF NSOS OR NZOC

One appeal proceeding was filed with the Tribunal in the reporting year. The matter did not progress to a hearing because, following a pre-hearing conference, the parties resolved their dispute.

SPORTS RELATED DISPUTES – REFERRED BY AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES

The Tribunal dealt with two disputes brought before it by agreement of the parties. One required a hearing and the other was decided on the papers. The Panels sitting on these matters agreed that it is important that parties in a dispute can bring their matters before the Tribunal for resolution; both matters were dealt with under urgency.

The two cases are outlined below.

SPORTS RELATED DISPUTES – REFERRED BY AGREEMENT OF PARTIES

Central United Football Club Incorporated and Northern Region Federation

The Sports Tribunal ordered that Central United Football Club Incorporated (Central) be promoted to the LOTTO NRFL Northern Conference 2023 following a dispute between the club and Northern Region Football (Northern) about the decision not to promote them despite having won the NRF League One competition in 2022.

NRF and NRFL competition regulations provide that the winners of the NRF League One earn automatic promotion to the NRFL competition, but Northern denied Central entry because of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Central had signed with Auckland City FC.

Northern argued that a clause in the MOU provided that Central had relinquished its position in the NRFL leagues to Auckland City, precluding them from being in the NRFL. However, the clause also left the door open for Central to gain entry to the NRFL should it be appropriate and allowed.

During a hearing, the Tribunal asked Northern to explain the circumstances where it would be appropriate for Central to gain entry and where it would not be allowed. Northern said it would be appropriate if they had earned promotion and it was unable to provide any concrete reasons for Central not being allowed entry. Given there was provision for Central to enter the NRFL in the MOU and Northern could not provide rational reasons for not allowing entry, the Tribunal concluded that Northern's decision had been unreasonable.

The practical implication of inserting Central into the NRFL was raised by Northern and was explored by the Tribunal. While it was acknowledged that there would be some disruption, the Tribunal was assured that there would not be insurmountable disruption.

Taylor v King's College

On 23 June 2023 the Sports Tribunal delivered an oral decision in which it made a declaration that Tommy Taylor (Tommy), a Year 13 student at King's College in Auckland (King's), was immediately eligible to be selected for the school's First XV.

The Tribunal's reasons for the decision (which are set out in full in a reasons document) are briefly:

- (i) Tommy transferred to King's for reasons relating to his personal well-being which had nothing to do with rugby;
- (ii) Tommy had not been involved in a rugby development programme from year 8, having dropped out of the MAGS rugby academy over a year before the transfer; and
- (iii) Due regard ought to be given to the guiding principles under the College Sport Auckland Rules where the overall best interests of the student must be paramount.

The Tribunal states that its decision is confined to the parties who brought the dispute to the Tribunal, namely Tommy and King's and it is not a detailed review of the Code. The decision is not intended to create a precedent which binds the other schools in other cases involving different players.

The Tribunal agreed to a request by the parties to deal with the matter urgently and on the papers, consequently there was no time to seek the views of the principals of the other schools involved in the Auckland 1A Rugby Competition, as to how the Auckland 1A Rugby Code of Practice (the Code) that governed the competition was to be interpreted or applied.

URGENCY

The Tribunal continued this year to process cases efficiently and speedily and handle urgent applications at short notice.

MEDIATION ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT

In appropriate cases, the Tribunal offers advisory assistance and forms of mediation to parties to help settle their disputes by agreement without the Tribunal needing to adjudicate. The Tribunal can conduct mediation at the request of the parties, or in appropriate cases, it can order parties to undertake mediation.

The Tribunal suggested mediation and/or other assistance in one case which related to an ongoing sports dispute regarding club affiliation.

The Tribunal also fielded enquiries relating to disputes between players and regional sporting organisations and enquiries relating to contract disputes. Where appropriate the Tribunal recommended matters should be taken to the Sport and Recreation Complaints and Mediation Service.

OTHER MATTERS INVOLVING THE TRIBUNAL IN 2022/2023

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

The outgoing Tribunal Chair, incoming Tribunal Chair and Acting Registrar attended the 2022 Australia and New Zealand Sports Law Association conference in Queenstown.

A meeting of Tribunal members was convened in May 2023 to provide an opportunity to get to know one another, to address Tribunal matters and to learn about and discuss the kinds of matters that come before the Tribunal. The Tribunal heard presentations from DFSNZ, the New Zealand Olympic Committee, the Athlete Leaders Network and from counsel specialising in sport law.

CONSULTATION

The Tribunal was asked to review and provide feedback on the Sport Anti-Doping Rules (SADRs) for 2023.

The Tribunal was asked to review and provide feedback on the draft Integrity Sport and Recreation Bill before it was introduced in Parliament.

The Tribunal was invited to join, and to attend the launch of, Tribunals Aotearoa. Tribunals Aotearoa will enhance the sharing and development of strategy, resources, and knowledge amongst Tribunals, and will also draw on a closer relationship with our Australian counterparts through active participation on the Council of Australasian Tribunals. The launch was attended and supported by the Chief Justice and Associate Minister of Justice.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PANEL

Parties to anti-doping proceedings continue to benefit from access to support for legal services through the Tribunal's Legal Assistance Panel; an up to date list of lawyers on the Panel can be found on the Tribunal website.

EXPENDITURE

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Sport NZ and the Tribunal, Sport NZ employs the Registrar of the Tribunal, provides accommodation for the Tribunal office and funds support and information technology costs.

Sport NZ also funds the other operating costs of the Tribunal, which include those associated with hearing and deciding cases (such as the remuneration paid to Tribunal members, travel, hiring of hearing venues and teleconferencing costs) and producing information resources.

In 2022/23 the other operating costs totalled \$59,857.

SPORTS TRIBUNAL BIOGRAPHIES

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS TRIBUNAL



CHAIR:
JOHN MACDONALD, RANGITANE, NGATI RAUKAWA

John was appointed a District Court Judge in 1990 and was a member of the New Zealand Parole Board between 2002 and 2016. He played basketball for New Zealand between 1969 and 1981, captaining the first side to beat Australia in 1978. In other sports, John played cricket for the Otago Brabin Cup and under 23 sides. He also played for New Zealand Universities, scoring a century on its 1969/70 Australian tour. He has been the patron of Basketball New Zealand since 2012. John was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017 and the Māori Sports' Hall of Fame in 2019. John became a Tribunal member in late 2021 and retired from the bench in 2022.



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
WARWICK SMITH

Warwick is a former Associate Judge of the High Court (2014–2021), and a former member of the Copyright Tribunal of New Zealand (2012–2013). He currently practises as an arbitrator and mediator from chambers in Auckland and holds the offices of Legal Aid Review Authority under the Legal Services Act 2011 and assessor for the Ministry of Justice's Criminal Justice Assistance Reimbursement Scheme. He is on the international arbitration panels of the New Zealand International Arbitration Centre and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and regularly acts as a domain name panellist for the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Warwick is a lifelong sports enthusiast, having played cricket at senior club level and later serving on the management committee of the North Shore Cricket Club. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a member of Auckland Cricket's disciplinary committee.



PAULA TESORIERO MNZM

Paula was a New Zealand Paralympics racing cyclist. Among her many achievements, her world record-breaking time in the women's 500m time trial secured New Zealand's first gold medal at the 2008 Summer Paralympics and she then went on to win bronze in both the individual pursuit and the women's individual road time trial. Paula has held senior management positions in the public service. Paula is a former Board member of the Halberg Disability Sport Foundation, and the New Zealand Artificial Limb Service, and currently serves on the Boards of Sport Wellington and Paralympics New Zealand. Paula took up the role of Disability Rights Commissioner in July 2017 and during her appointment was the Acting Chief Human Rights Commissioner from 2018 to 2019. In September 2022 Paula was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive of Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



DAME RUTH AITKEN DNZM

Ruth represented New Zealand at netball in 1979 and was the Silver Ferns coach from 2002–2011, leading the team to two Commonwealth Gold Medals (2006 and 2010) and the 2003 World Netball Championship title. Named Halberg Coach of the Year in 2003 and awarded the ONZM in 2011 for services to netball, she retired as the most capped international netball coach in the world with 112 test matches to her credit. In 2021, as well as receiving a Service Award from World Netball, she was made a Life Member of Netball New Zealand. In the 2022 Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours, Ruth was promoted to Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to netball.



**GEORGINA EARL ONZM
(FORMERLY GEORGINA EVERS-SWINDELL)**

Georgina is a former New Zealand rower. She competed in the double sculls with her sister Caroline Meyer. Among her many achievements, Georgina is a double Olympic gold medalist, having won at Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008. In 2016 she and Caroline were awarded the prestigious FISA Thomas Keller Medal.



DR HELEN TOBIN

Helen is an orthopaedic surgeon working at Hutt and Boulcott Hospitals. She specialises in hip and knee replacement. She is currently the Clinical Director of Surgery, Women and Children at Hutt Hospital. She is an examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and a trustee for the Wishbone Trust (fundraising for orthopaedic research) and for the Hip Fracture Registry.



PIPPA HAYWARD

Pippa is a solicitor at Meredith Connell having obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Auckland. She represented New Zealand in hockey between 2012 and 2018, retiring after the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast where her team won gold. She was a member of the women's hockey team at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and played over 150 tests. Pippa has been a board member of the Hockey Players' Association for the past six years and is also on the committee of the New Zealand Law Society's Auckland Branch Young Lawyers. Pippa is married with two children, Harry and Jack.

RECENTLY RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS TRIBUNAL



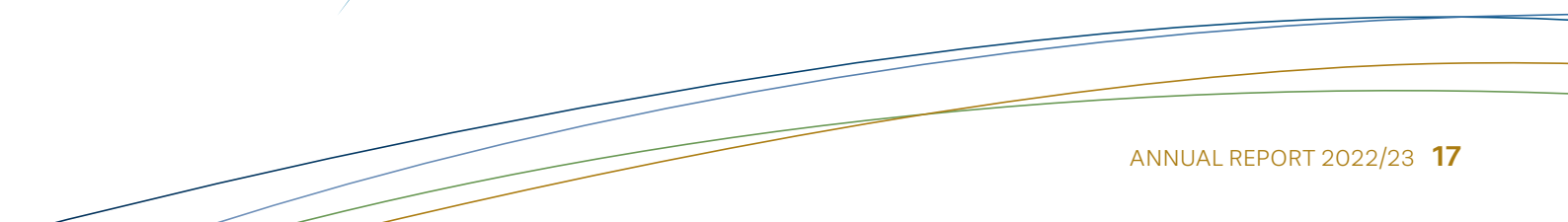
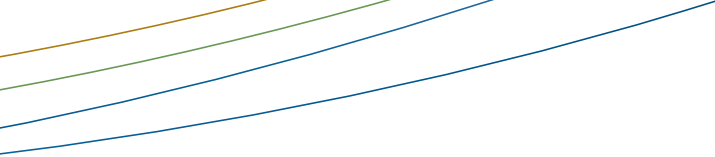
CHAIR:
HON SIR BRUCE ROBERTSON KNZM, VGSM

Sir Bruce became a High Court Judge in 1987, later was President of the Law Commission and retired as a Court of Appeal Judge in 2010. He was Chair of the Rugby World Cup Authority in 2010-11. Sir Bruce sits on some Pacific Courts of Appeal and the Qatar International Court in Doha. He has been the Chair of the Racing Integrity Board and he has held a number of governmental and community appointments.



DEPUTY CHAIR:
HON NICHOLAS DAVIDSON QC

Nicholas Davidson QC is an arbitrator, mediator and strategic advisor with Chambers in Auckland and Christchurch. He was counsel for the Serious Fraud Office at the Wine Box Royal Commission of Inquiry, and for the families at the Pike River Royal Commission. He was appointed Deputy Chair of the (then) New Zealand Sports Disputes Tribunal for the term of 2003 – 2011. He was for many years a National Commissioner for New Zealand Cricket, a member of the disciplinary structures within SANZAR and the International Rugby Board; and the FIFA Investigatory Panel. He was appointed a High Court Judge and retired in December 2018. Nicholas resigned from the Tribunal in May 2023 having made a significant contribution to the Tribunal and the development of case law, citing a desire to let someone else have a turn.



CONTACT INFORMATION

The Sports Tribunal's office is in Wellington.
Enquiries should be directed to the Registrar of the Sports Tribunal.

CONTACT DETAILS

Registrar
Sports Tribunal of New Zealand
Phone: 0800 55 66 80
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Website: www.sportstribunal.org.nz

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR FILING DOCUMENTS

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