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Powerlifter suspended for anti-doping rule violations

Powerlifter Chris Kennedy has been suspended by the Sports Tribunal for a period of two years from participating in all sports which are signatories to the Sport Anti-doping Rules (SADRs).

Mr Kennedy participated in the New Zealand Powerlifting Federation Nationals in September 2023 and underwent a drug test. His sample showed the presence of Methylphenidate metabolite Ritalinic Acid (better known as Ritalin) which is a specified substance prohibited in competition.

Mr Kennedy says he took the substance out of competition but that it was still in his system at the time that the competition began. DFSNZ submitted that there was not enough evidence to establish that Mr Kennedy had used the substance in competition and so withdrew the charge that Mr Kennedy had used the substance in competition. DFSNZ also did not seek to establish that Mr Kennedy had taken the substance intentionally to enhance his performance.

The Tribunal accepted that the presence of the prohibited substance in Mr Kennedy was sufficient to establish that an anti-doping rule violation had occurred and further accepted that Mr had no intention of using the substance in competition. Accordingly, the Tribunal imposed a sanction of a two-year period of ineligibility.

The period of ineligibility will not be backdated to the date of the provisional suspension order imposed on Mr Kennedy on 22 November 2023 because Mr Kennedy had coached his brother, a member of an organisation which is a signatory to the SADRs, during his provisional suspension period. Consequently, Mr Kennedy is suspended until 25 March 2026.

The decision in this case can be found at www.sportstribunal.org.nz *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Hinewai Hausman (ST 10/23)*.

Additional information about prohibited substances, ADVRs, and sanctions can be found in the WADA Prohibited List (www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list) and the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (www.drugfreesport.org.nz).