

BETWEEN **SPORT INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

 Applicant

AND **TUKAHA COOPER**

 Respondent

AND **BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND**

 Interested Party

PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION ORDER
28 October 2025

Parties Didier Vaai & Hayden Tapper, Sport Integrity Commission
 Ben Forbes, counsel for Applicant
 Tukaha Cooper, Respondent
 Sarah Wroe, counsel for Respondent

Interested Party Basketball New Zealand

Tribunal Warwick Smith (Acting Chair)

Registrar Luke Macris

1. Tukaha Cooper is a New Zealand basketball player and is registered with Basketball New Zealand (Basketball NZ). Basketball NZ has adopted the 2025 Sports Anti-Doping Rules (SADR) promulgated by the Sport Integrity Commission (the Commission) as its anti-doping policy.
2. A sample was collected from Mr Cooper at a National Basketball League playoff match between the Southland Sharks and Wellington Saints in Wellington on 20 July 2025. On analysis, the sample was found to contain Cannabinoids/Carboxy-THC (Cannabis) which is a Specified Substance prohibited in competition only under class S8 Cannabinoids on the 2025 Prohibited List.
3. On 10 October 2025, the Commission filed an application for provisional suspension alleging breaches of 2025 SADR 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and SADR 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method).
4. On 24 October 2025, Ms Wroe (counsel for Mr Cooper) advised that Mr Cooper voluntarily accepts provisional suspension.
5. Accordingly, the Tribunal is satisfied that there is no need for a provisional suspension hearing and no substantive reason why provisional suspension should not be imposed.

Orders

6. The Tribunal **orders that** provisional suspension of Mr Cooper will have effect from 28 October 2025, prohibiting his participation of any kind in any event or activity organised, sanctioned or authorised by Basketball NZ or any other sporting organisation that is a signatory to the SADR.
7. A copy of this Provisional Suspension Order will be sent to the parties but otherwise will remain confidential until publication of the final decision on the alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violations. All other process steps under the SADR should similarly remain confidential.

Dated: 28 October 2025



Warwick Smith
Acting Chair