



19 March 2010

DOPING VIOLATION

Rugby league player Lorenzo Ma'afu gets 15-month ban for presence of stimulants

The Queensland Rugby League (QRL) Drugs Tribunal's decision to impose a 15-month sanction on Queensland Cup Ipswich Jets player Lorenzo Ma'afu for the presence of prohibited stimulants was today acknowledged by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA).

ASADA collected an in-competition sample from Mr Ma'afu on 16 August 2009 after a Queensland Cup league match against the Redcliffe Dolphins at Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe. This sample tested positive for Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA).

On 4 February 2010, the QRL Drugs Tribunal imposed a 15 month period of ineligibility against Mr Ma'afu for the presence of MDMA and MDA.

In deciding to impose a reduced 15-month sanction, the QRL Drugs Tribunal found Mr Ma'afu had 'no significant fault or negligence' in relation to the presence of MDMA and MDA in his system. The Tribunal was satisfied that Mr Ma'afu's drink was spiked with the prohibited stimulants without his knowledge.

Mr Ma'afu is banned from taking part in recognised sports until midnight on 1 February 2011.

MDMA is commonly known as Ecstasy and MDA is a psychedelic stimulant that is mainly used as a recreational drug.

MDMA and MDA are listed as S6 Stimulants on the World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List and are prohibited in-competition. Athletes in possession, using or attempting to use these prohibited stimulants potentially face serious penalties, including a two-year ban for first offences.

-ENDS-

Media note: In matters like Mr Ma'afu's case, the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) applies the principle of strict liability. It means that each athlete is strictly liable for the substances found in his or her bodily specimen, and that an anti-doping rule violation occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in bodily specimen, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault. If an athlete or other person establishes in an individual case that he or she bears 'No Significant Fault or Negligence', then the applicable period of ineligibility may be reduced, but the reduced period of ineligibility may not be less than one-half of the period of ineligibility applicable.

ASADA media contact: 0418 450 113