



26 July 2010

DOPING VIOLATION

Karting driver Hayden Stephensen gets two-year sports ban for testosterone importation

The Australian Karting Association's (AKA) decision to issue Townsville driver, Hayden Stephensen with a two-year period of ineligibility for the attempted use of testosterone was today welcomed by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA).

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service intercepted a package containing Sustanon 250 on 1 June 2009 and notified ASADA.

Sustanon 250 is an oil-based liquid that contains testosterone compounds.

ASADA investigated the matter and a laboratory analysis of the liquid, from one of the seized vials, confirmed that the substance was testosterone.

Classed as an Anabolic Agent on the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2010 Prohibited List, testosterone is prohibited both in- and out-of-competition. In addition to a sanction, athletes abusing this substance can seriously damage their health including heart and liver problems, high blood pressure and hypertension.

The AKA considered the sanction recommendation made by the independent Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel and handed down a two-year ban from sporting competition to Mr Stephensen.

Mr Stephensen will be ineligible to participate as an athlete or support person in sport until 6 July 2012.

ASADA's partnership with Customs and Border Protection is vital in catching doping cheats who would not be detected through traditional testing alone.

Any Australian can play their part and stamp out doping by confidentially reporting suspicious doping activity to 13 000 ASADA (13 000 27232).

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