



21 June 2011

DOPING VIOLATION

WAFL player Travis Casserly receives two-year sports ban

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) acknowledges the decision of the West Australian Football League (WAFL) Anti-Doping Tribunal to impose a two-year ban on Swan Districts player Travis Casserly for testing positive to a high concentration of pseudoephedrine.

WAFL's decision to impose the ban for the presence and use of this substance had been appealed by Mr Casserly to the WAFL Appeals Board, but the appeal was dismissed on 3 June 2011.

Pseudoephedrine is commonly used in the treatment of colds and allergies but can also have performance-enhancing effects. An in-competition urine sample provided by Mr Casserly at the WAFL Grand Final between Swan Districts and Claremont on 19 September 2010 at Subiaco Oval, Perth, Western Australia, was found to contain pseudoephedrine at a concentration greater than the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prescribed threshold of 150 micrograms per millilitre.

Pseudoephedrine at such a concentration is regarded as an adverse analytical finding under the AFL Anti-Doping Code (which applies to competitions such as the WAFL) which can lead to an anti-doping rule violation and a two-year period of ineligibility, unless the athlete can establish: how the substance entered their body; and that it was not intended to enhance their sport performance, or mask the use of a performance-enhancing substance.

Mr Casserly's two-year ban, which was backdated to the commencement of his provisional suspension, means he is ineligible to participate, as an athlete or support person, in any sport which has adopted a WADA-compliant anti-doping policy until 18 October 2012.

This case is a further reminder to athletes to be mindful of the status of their medications under WADA's Prohibited List. Any athlete unaware of their responsibilities are advised to seek additional information online at www.asada.gov.au

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Media note: ASADA is aware of media reports indicating that Mr Casserly's club, Swan Districts, is planning to lodge an injunction regarding this matter in the Supreme Court of West Australia.

