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## Australian water polo player James Stanton receives two-year sports ban

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The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) today acknowledged the decision of Australian Water Polo Inc (AWPI) to impose a two-year ban on Australian water polo player, James Stanton, for the presence and use of a prohibited substance.

Mr Stanton tested positive for the anabolic agent clenbuterol in a sample collected out-of-competition at Challenge Stadium in Perth, Western Australia on 15 September 2010.

Mr Stanton's two-year ban, which was backdated to the date of his provisional suspension, means he will be ineligible to participate as an athlete or support person in sport until 23 October 2012.

Mr Stanton had referred the matter to a hearing in the Court of Arbitration for Sport, however he recently withdrew his application. Accordingly, AWPI applied a two-year ban in accordance with the provisions of its anti-doping policy.

Clenbuterol is prohibited under the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) and carries with it potentially serious penalties, including a lifetime ban for second offences.

Unsupervised use of clenbuterol can worsen pre-existing heart conditions or hypertension, and there is a risk of overdose and stroke when used at high doses. It is a potentially dangerous drug that, as well as being banned under the Code, is not approved for human use in Australia.

Any athletes unaware of their responsibilities are encouraged to seek additional information online at ASADA's website [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au)

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**Media note:** In all anti-doping matters, the Code applies the principle of strict liability. This means that all athletes are strictly liable for the substances found in their bodily specimens, and that an anti-doping rule violation occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in a bodily specimen, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

In exceptional circumstances if an athlete or other person establishes in an individual case that he or she bears 'No Fault or Negligence' or 'No Significant Fault or Negligence', then the applicable period of ineligibility may be reduced.

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