

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Elliot King

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of British Weightlifting

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules ('ADR') of British Weightlifting ('BWL'). It concerns Anti-Doping Rule Violations ('ADRVs') committed by Mr Elliot King and records the applicable Consequences.

Capitalised terms used in this Decision shall have the meaning given to them in the ADR unless otherwise indicated.

Background and Facts

1. BWL is the national governing body for the sport of weightlifting in the United Kingdom. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation ('NADO') in the United Kingdom. BWL has adopted, as its own ADR, the UK Anti-Doping Rules¹, which are issued by UKAD and are subject to updates made by UKAD, as necessary and in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code.
2. Mr King is a 20-year-old weightlifter. As an Athlete registered with BWL, at all relevant times, Mr King was subject to the jurisdiction of BWL and bound to comply with the ADR. Pursuant to ADR Article 7.2, UKAD has Results Management responsibility in respect of all Athletes that are subject to the jurisdiction of BWL.
3. On 12 April 2024 under Mission order M-2872923125, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr King, In-Competition, at the Home Nations Squads and UK Armed Forces Tournament 2024 at RAF Cosford, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3EX.
4. Assisted by the Doping Control Officer in attendance, Mr King split the urine Sample into two separate bottles which were given reference numbers A1182568 (the 'A Sample') and B1182568 (the 'B Sample').
5. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory, The Drug Control Centre, Kings College London (the 'Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the A Sample in accordance with the

¹ Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021

procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories and Testing. Analysis of the A Sample returned Adverse Analytical Findings ('AAFs') for:

- a) Nandrolone;
 - b) Nandrolone Metabolites:
 - 19-Norandrosterone;
 - 9-Noretiocholanolone;
 - c) Metandienone Metabolites:
 - 6 β -Hydroxy-metandienone;
 - 17 α - Methyl-5 β -androstan-3 α ,17 β -diol;
 - 17 β -Hydroxymethyl,17 α -methyl-18-nor-androst-1,4,13-trien-3-one;
 - d) Oxandrolone;
 - e) Oxandrolone Metabolites:
 - 17 α -Hydroxy-17 β -methyl-2-oxa-5 α -androstan-3-one (Epioxandrolone);
 - 17 β -Hydroxymethyl-17 α -methyl-18-nor-2-oxa-5 α -androst-13-en-3-one;
 - 17 α -Hydroxymethyl-17 β -methyl-18-nor-2-oxa-5 α -androst-13-en-3-one;
 - e) Drostanolone; and
 - g) Drostanolone Metabolite:
 - 3 α -Hydroxy-2 α -methyl-5 α -androstan-17-one.
6. Nandrolone, metandienone, oxandrolone and drostanolone are listed under section S1.1 of the WADA 2024 Prohibited List as Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. They are non-Specified Substances and are prohibited at all times.
7. On 12 and 20 June 2024, UKAD sent Mr King notification letters (the 'Notice Letters')². The Notice Letters confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr King, in accordance with ADR Article 7.8, that he may have committed ADRVs pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and/or ADR Article 2.2 (Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method). UKAD invited Mr King to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs.
8. Mr King responded to the Notice Letters and admitted the asserted ADRVs. Mr King confirmed that the four Prohibited Substances had entered his system through "wilful and knowing self-administration with the view of increasing muscle mass".

² Two separate Notice Letters were sent in this matter due to the AAFs being reported by the Laboratory on different dates, following the completion of further analysis.

9. On 18 July 2024, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr King with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of ADRVs pursuant to Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and/or Article 2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Substance).

Admission and Consequences

10. Mr King responded to the Charge Letter and admitted the ADRV's outlined.

11. ADR Article 2.1 provides that the following is an ADRV:

2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample, unless the Athlete establishes that the presence is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.

12. ADR Article 2.2 provides that the following is an ADRV:

2.2 Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, unless the Athlete establishes that the Use or Attempted Use is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.

13. ADR Article 10.2 provides as follows:

10.2 Imposition of a Period of Ineligibility for the Presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance and/or a Prohibited Method.

The period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.1, 2.2 or 2.6 that is the Athlete's or other Person's first anti-doping offence shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction or suspension pursuant to Article 10.5, 10.6 or 10.7:

10.2.1 Save where Article 10.2.4(a) applies, the period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years where:

(a) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation does not involve a Specified Substance or a Specified Method, unless the Athlete or other Person can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was not intentional.

(b) [...]

10.2.2 If Article 10.2.1 does not apply, then (subject to Article 10.2.4(a)) the period of Ineligibility shall be two (2) years.

14. In accordance with ADR Article 10.2.1(a), since this matter concerns non-Specified Substances, the applicable period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years, unless Mr King can establish on the balance of probabilities, that the ADRVs were not 'intentional' (within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3).

15. Within his responses to UKAD, Mr King accepted responsibility for the presence of nandrolone, metandienone, oxandrolone and drostanolone detected in his Sample and admitted the ADRVs with which he has been charged. Mr King has not sought to establish that his ADRVs were not 'intentional' (within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3). Accordingly, Mr King is not entitled to a two (2) year period of Ineligibility pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.2, or any reduction pursuant to ADR Article 10.5 (No Fault or Negligence) or ADR Article 10.6 (No Significant Fault or Negligence) thereafter. Consequently, the period of Ineligibility under ADR Article 10.2.1(a) of four (4) years applies as the standard sanction.
16. For the purposes of imposing a sanction, the ADRVs will be considered together as a single first violation, pursuant to ADR Article 10.9.4 which states as follows:

10.9.4 Additional rules for certain potential multiple offences:

- (a) *For the purposes of imposing sanctions under Article 10.9, except as provided in Articles 10.9.4(b) and 10.9.4(c) an Anti-Doping Rule Violation will only be considered a second (or third, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation if UKAD can establish that the Athlete or other Person committed the additional Anti-Doping Rule Violation after they received notice, or after UKAD or its designee made a reasonable attempt to give notice, of the first (or the second, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Otherwise, the first and second Anti-Doping Rule Violations (or the second and third Anti-Doping Rule Violations as applicable shall be considered as one single first Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries the most severe sanction...*

Aggravating Circumstances

17. The analysis of Mr King's Sample revealed the presence of four Prohibited Substances.
18. Pursuant to the definition in the ADR, circumstances which may amount to Aggravating Circumstances may include: "*the Athlete or other Person Used or Possessed multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Used or Possessed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions, or committed multiple other Anti-Doping Rule Violations*".
19. ADR Article 10.4 specifies that if UKAD establishes Aggravating Circumstances are present which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction otherwise applicable, then the period of Ineligibility shall be increased by an additional period of Ineligibility of up to two (2) years depending on the seriousness of the violation(s) and the nature of the Aggravating Circumstances.

20. UKAD has considered the circumstances of Mr King's ADRVs, which includes his admissions to having Used multiple Prohibited Substances, and considers that Aggravating Circumstances have been established which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction, pursuant to ADR Article 10.4. UKAD has determined that, in view of the Aggravating Circumstances established in the case, the standard sanction should be increased by two (2) years.
21. Therefore, the applicable period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in this case is six (6) years.

Application of ADR Article 10.8.1

22. ADR Article 10.8.1 provides:

10.8.1 One (1) year reduction for certain Anti-Doping Rule Violations based on early admission and acceptance of sanction:

Where UKAD sends an Athlete or other Person a Charge Letter for an Anti- Doping Rule Violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Article 10.4), if the Athlete or other Person admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than twenty (20) days after receiving the Charge Letter, they shall receive a one (1) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD. Where the Athlete or other Person receives the one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Article 10.8.1, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other Article.

23. Mr King admitted the ADRVs and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of six (6) years on 18 July 2024 (having been sent the Charge Letter on the same date). Accordingly, ADR Article 10.8.1 applies and Mr King shall receive a one (1) year reduction to the period of Ineligibility of six (6) years. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore five (5) years.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

24. ADR Article 10.13 requires that the period of Ineligibility starts on the date Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed where there is no hearing.
25. However, ADR Article 10.13.2 allows for credit to be given against the total period of Ineligibility to be served where an Athlete has been provisionally suspended and has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.
26. Mr King has been subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date he received UKAD's first Notice Letter, i.e., since 12 June 2024 and as far as UKAD is aware he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, affording Mr King credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is

deemed to have commenced on 12 June 2024 and will end at 11:59pm on 11 June 2029.

Status during Ineligibility

27. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr King shall not be permitted to participate in any capacity (or assist any Athlete participating in any capacity) in a Competition, Event or other activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programmes) organised, convened, authorised or recognised by:
- a) BWL;
 - b) Any Signatory;
 - c) Any club or other body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by, a Signatory or a Signatory's member organisation;
 - d) Any professional league or any international or national-level Event organisation;
or
 - e) Any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.
28. Mr King may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a BWL club or a Signatory's member organisation during the last two months of his period of Ineligibility (i.e. from 11:59pm on 11 April 2029) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b).

Summary

29. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
- a) Mr King has committed ADRVs pursuant to ADR Articles 2.1 and 2.2;
 - b) In accordance with ADR Article 10.9.4(a) the ADRVs are considered as one single ADRV for the purposes of imposing a sanction;
 - c) The applicable period of Ineligibility is six (6) years under the application of ADR Articles 10.2.1(a) and 10.4;
 - d) In accordance with ADR Article 10.8.1, Mr King is entitled to a one (1) year reduction to the asserted period of Ineligibility of six (6) years. A period of Ineligibility of five (5) years is therefore imposed;
 - e) Acknowledging Mr King's Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 12 June 2024 and will expire at 11:59pm on 11 June 2029; and
 - f) Mr King's status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.

30. Mr King, BWL, the International Weightlifting Federation, and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
31. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

5 September 2024