

## Case 18 – Lifetime Ban

### Key words

*Administration; trafficking; possession; lifetime ban; sanction; steroids; relationship; coach; athlete; [Doping](#)*

### Summary:

F, a coach, was charged with breaching the Anti-Doping Rules (“ADR”) of UK Athletics. Coach F was charged with 9 breaches of the ADR and admitted to all of the charges. The matter was referred to the National Anti-Doping Panel (“NADP”) for determination. The issue to be decided by the Tribunal was whether Coach F should be subject to a lifetime disqualification from the sport of athletics.

### Background Facts

Coach F was a member of UK Athletics (“UKA”) and the coach of Athlete N, a sprinter. The charges concerned events that took place between May and June 2011 and January and February 2015. The charges involved the administration of testosterone and other prohibited substances to Athlete N as well as possession and trafficking of prohibited substances. The applicable rules were the 2011 version of the Anti-Doping Rules, which implemented the 2009 WADA code and the 2015 Anti-Doping Rules, which implemented the 2015 WADA code.

### Reasoning and Decision of the Tribunal

In respect of the administration and trafficking charges (1, 3, 5 and 7) the applicable sanction for 2011 and 2015 was the same, and the period of ineligibility

was a minimum of 4 years up to lifetime ineligibility. The period of ineligibility for possession and tampering in 2011 was 2 years, and in 2015 was 4 years subject to the question whether the violation was intentional. It was found that all the violations committed by Coach F were intentional. The tribunal addressed the possibility of reducing the sanction in respect of charge 9. However, they held that the facts of this case did not justify any reduction in sanction.

The tribunal did not examine in detail the evidence concerning the offences of administration, possession and trafficking in the prohibited substances which included testosterone, clenbuterol, stanozolol and ephedrine in 2011, and clomiphene and stanozolol in 2015. These offences, charges 1,3,5 and 7 respectively, were clearly established in evidence and admitted by Coach F.

The tribunal examined Charges 4, 8 and 9 which dealt with the charge of Tampering contrary to IAAF Rule 32.2(e). Charge 4 concerned Tampering by knowingly providing false information in a hearing before the NADP on 12 and 13 September 2011. Charge 8 concerned Tampering by knowingly removing a letter addressed to Athlete N which was sent in the course of Anti-Doping Proceedings in April 2015. Charge 9 concerned Tampering by providing a false account in an interview with representatives from UKAD on 10 June 2015. By misleading the NADP, removing the letter, and making false statements the Tribunal found that Coach F subverted and prevented the normal process of doping control from operating properly in contravention of IAAF Rule 32.2(e).

The tribunal considered factors relevant to the exercise of its discretion as to the sanction for the administration and trafficking offences, emphasising the severity of the offences given Coach F's position of influence over Athlete N, Athlete N's lack of knowledge or consent to what she was taking and the sophistication of the doping scheme. Coach F was duly handed a lifetime ban in respect of the administration and trafficking offences under charges 1, 3, 5 and 7. With respect to the possession and tampering charges Coach F was given a two-year ban from 23 November 2015 in respect of Charges 2 and 4, and a four-year ban from 23 November 2015 in respect of Charges 6, 8 and 9.

**Learning points:**

- For the purposes of UK ADR, Athlete Support Personnel includes anyone assisting an athlete for performance
- The seriousness and gravity of administering prohibited substances, particularly where the athlete does not know or consent to the substances being administered goes to the issue of sanction.
- As indicated at paragraph 45 of the Decision, not all factors considered by the Panel in formulating an appropriate period of Ineligibility are necessary to lead to a lifetime ban.

