

Sport Ireland and Ronan Foley

Reasoned Decision of Sport Ireland

The following is the reasoned decision of Sport Ireland pursuant to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules ("**Rules**") and the International Standard for Results Management. It concerns anti-doping rule violations ("**ADRVs**") committed by Mr Ronan Foley (the "**Athlete**") and records the Consequences¹ to be applied. It is being notified to the Anti-Doping Organisations referred to in Article 14.1.2 of the World Anti-Doping Code (the "**Code**").

1. Background and Facts

- 1.1 The Athlete is a 25-year old canoeist. On 18 May 2025 the Athlete provided a urine Sample during Out-of-Competition Testing. The Sample that he provided was split into A and B Samples. The A Sample was analysed by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("**WADA**") accredited laboratory in Cologne, Germany (the "**Laboratory**").
- 1.2 Sport Ireland received a report from the Laboratory dated 5 June 2025 identifying the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in the "A" Sample – this is known as an Adverse Analytical Finding. The Prohibited Substance in question is a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator ("**SARM**"), specifically enobosarm (ostarine), which is a prohibited anabolic agent as set out in S1.2 of the Prohibited List.
- 1.3 On 17 June 2025 Sport Ireland notified the Athlete that he was Provisionally Suspended and that he was alleged to have committed the following ADRVs:
 - 1.3.1 *"Article 2.1 - the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in An Athlete's Sample"; and*
 - 1.3.2 *"Article 2.2 – Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method"*
- 1.4 By way of letter of 24 June 2025 from the Athlete's legal representatives, the Athlete requested that his "B" Sample be analysed. The B Sample analysis confirmed the "A" Sample result.

2. Charges

- 2.1 Sport Ireland issued a charge letter to the Athlete on 24 July 2025 (the "**Charge Letter**"), charging him with the following ADRVs:
 - 2.1.1 Article 2.1: – *"The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample"; and*
 - 2.1.2 Article 2.2 - *"Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method"*.
- 2.2 The Athlete signed and returned the Acceptance of Consequences Form on 13 August 2025 which was enclosed with Sport Ireland's charge letter, thereby admitting the violations and accepting the

¹ Capitalised terms used throughout this decision shall have the meaning given to them in the Rules.

sanctions proposed by Sport Ireland.

2.3 When returning the Acceptance of Consequences Form, a covering letter from the Athlete's solicitors stated that he takes the issue of anti-doping extremely seriously, and that he has never, at any time, knowingly committed an ADRV. It state that his decision to sign the form was the best option for him and his family, in order to avoid the human and financial burden of attempting to assert his innocence at a full hearing.

3. Consequences

3.1 In light of the above, Sport Ireland now publishes this reasoned decision.

3.2 The sanctions to be imposed are:

3.2.1 A period of Ineligibility (or ban) of 3 years with effect from 17 June 2025. This is reduced from 4 years based on the Athlete's early admission pursuant to Article 10.7.1 of the Rules. The Athlete's period of Ineligibility will expire at midnight on 16 June 2028.

3.2.2 Sport Ireland shall Publicly Report the details of the matter following its conclusion.

3.2.3 Any sport-related financial support, including but not limited to funding from Sport Ireland, and other sport-related benefits received by an Athlete or other Person shall be withheld by Sport Ireland, Canoeing Ireland and its affiliates, members and/or licensees².

3.2.4 The Disqualification of all results obtained by the Athlete in Competitions from (and including) 18 May 2025 until the commencement of the Athlete's Provisional Suspension on 17 June 2025, with all of the resulting consequences including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes³ during the period in question.

3.3 Pursuant to Article 10.10.1 of the Rules⁴, during the period of Ineligibility the Athlete may not participate in organised sport in any capacity. This includes training and coaching.

3.4 Pursuant to Article 10.10.2 of the Rules, the Athlete may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a club or other member organisation of a Signatory's member organisation or a National Governing Body, during the last 2 months of his period of Ineligibility.

3.5 This decision is being notified to the Athlete, the International Canoe Federation and WADA, each of whom has a right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days of receipt of this decision, subject to Article 13.2.6 of the Rules in the case of WADA and the International Canoe Federation.

² Article 10.11

³ Article 9.3

⁴ Article 10.10.1.1 provides that an Athlete who has been declared Ineligible shall not participate in any capacity "in a Competition or activity, (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programs) authorised or organised by any Signatory, Signatory's member organisation, or a club or other member organisation of a Signatory's member organisation, or by any National Governing Body or by a member or affiliate organisation or licensee of a National Governing Body or in Competitions authorised or organised by any professional league or any international or national-level Event organisation or any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency."

4. Summary

4.1 For the reasons given above, Sport Ireland has issued this decision, which records that:

- The Athlete has committed a violation of Article 2.1 and Article 2.2 of the Rules by virtue of the presence of a SARM, specifically enobosarm (ostarine) in a Sample collected from him in Out-of-Competition Testing on 18 May 2025.
- The Athlete has admitted to the ADRVs and accepted the sanctions, so the period of Ineligibility is reduced from 4 years to 3 years, pursuant to Article 10.7.1 of the Rules.
- The 3 year ban shall have effect from 17 June 2025.
- The Athlete's period of Ineligibility shall expire at midnight on 16 June 2028.

Dated the 14th of August 2025