

Sport Ireland and James Mackrel

Reasoned Decision of Sport Ireland

The following is the reasoned decision of Sport Ireland pursuant to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules (the "**Rules**") and the International Standard for Results Management. It concerns anti-doping rule violations ("**ADRV**") committed by Mr James Mackrel (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 On 18 August 2024 the Athlete provided a Sample during In-Competition Testing. The A Sample was analysed by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("**WADA**") accredited laboratory in Germany (the "**Laboratory**").
- 1.2 Sport Ireland received a report from the Laboratory dated 20 September 2024 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 cannabis / Carboxy-THC, which is listed under 'Cannabinoids' under S8 of the Prohibited List. Cannabis / Carboxy-THC is a Specified Substance and Substance of Abuse. It is Prohibited In-Competition only.
- 1.3 On 15 October 2024 Sport Ireland notified the Athlete that he was alleged to have committed a violation of Article 2.1 - "*Article 2.1 - The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample*" and Article 2.2 – "*Article 2.2 - "Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method"*" of the Rules.
- 1.4 He was notified that a ban of only 3 months would apply if he could establish that he took cannabis Out-of-Competition and that it was unrelated to sport performance.
- 1.5 The Athlete acknowledged that he smoked approximately 1 gram of cannabis between the hours of 8:00pm and 10:00pm on the night of 17 August 2024. He stated that he did not smoke cannabis for the purpose of enhancing his sport performance and that he did not smoke cannabis at all on 18 August 2024, the date that he provided the Sample.
- 1.6 He provided corroborating evidence in this regard, including signed witness statements from him and from 2 other witnesses. There was protracted correspondence with the Athlete and he ultimately appears to have ceased engaging with Sport Ireland in relation to the matter.
- 1.7 On 13 June 2025 Sport Ireland issued a letter charging the Athlete with anti-doping rule violations under Article 2.1 and Article 2.2 of the Rules. In the charge letter, Sport Ireland informed the Athlete that it was of the view that a 3 month ban is appropriate in the circumstances of the matter.
- 1.8 The Athlete did not respond to the charge letter and was deemed to have accepted the 3-month ban and waived his right to a hearing pursuant to Article 8.4.2 of the Rules.

2. Consequences

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

- 2.1 In circumstances where the Athlete has provided corroborating evidence in relation to the timing of his smoking cannabis and where the Laboratory advised Sport Ireland that it could not be excluded that his version of events is compatible with the concentration of Carboxy-THC found in his Sample, Sport Ireland is of the view that the appropriate period of Ineligibility is three months, starting from the date of this decision. This means that the period of Ineligibility will expire at midnight on 5th November 2025.
- 2.2 The Athlete's results in the Competition on 18 August 2024 are Disqualified automatically pursuant to Article 9.1. Further, since no Provisional Suspension was imposed on the Athlete, any results he may have achieved from the date of Sample collection (18 August 2024), up to the commencement of his period of Ineligibility are Disqualified (Article 9.3).
- 2.3 Sport Ireland is also required to Publicly Report details of the matter following its conclusion², including the sport, the violation in question, the name of the Athlete, the Prohibited Substance involved and the Consequences imposed.
- 2.4 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, Motor Cycling Ireland and its affiliates, members and/or licensees.
- 2.5 Pursuant to Article 10.10.1 of the Rules, during the period of Ineligibility he may not participate in organised sport in any capacity. This includes training and coaching.
- 2.6 Pursuant to Article 10.10.2, 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 23 days of his period of Ineligibility.
- 2.7 This decision is being notified to the Athlete, the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme and WADA, each of whom has a right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration with 21 days of receipt of this decision, subject to Article 13.2.6 of the Rules in the case of WADA and the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme. A copy of the decision will also be provided to Motorcycling Ireland.

3. Summary

- 3.1 Sport Ireland issues this decision pursuant to the Rules and International Standard for Results Management.
- 3.2 For the reasons given above, Sport Ireland has issued this decision, which records that:
- The Athlete has committed a violation of Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Rules by virtue of the presence of cannabis / Carboxy-THC in a Sample collected from him in In-Competition Testing on 18 August 2024.
 - A three-month ban has been imposed on the Athlete pursuant to Article 10.1.4.
 - The Athlete's period of Ineligibility shall expire at midnight on 5th November 2025.

² Article 15.3.



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Dated the 5th of August 2025

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Sport Ireland