

## **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 ("**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 Consequences<sup>1</sup> 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 5 August 2025 the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (the "**Panel**") issued a decision which found that the Athlete had committed anti-doping violations arising out of testing on 18 August 2024. The Panel imposed a three-month ban (the "**Original Ban**"), with the period of Ineligibility commencing on 5 August 2025 and expiring at midnight on 5 November 2025. A copy of the Panel's decision was issued to the Athlete and was published by Sport Ireland.
- 1.2 The Athlete was advised by Sport Ireland that he should not participate in organised sport in any capacity during the Original Ban, including but not limited to motor cycling.
- 1.3 On 16 August 2025, while still subject to the Original Ban, the Athlete competed in a Motorcross event at Saul, Downpatrick Co Down. He entered this event by taking out a "One Day, One Event Licence" on the morning of the event.
- 1.4 Sport Ireland investigated the matter and received confirmation in writing from the Motorcycle Racing Association ("**MRA**") that the Athlete had competed in the event, although the MRA was not aware at the time that the Athlete was subject to a period of Ineligibility.
- 1.5 Sport Ireland informed the Athlete of this matter by letter dated 12 September 2025 and gave him 14 days to provide an explanation for his alleged violation of the Original Ban. The letter further stated that if he did not provide a response after the expiration of 14 days, Sport Ireland would promptly charge him if it was satisfied that he had committed the ADRV.
- 1.6 No response was received from the Athlete by Sport Ireland.

#### **2. Charges**

- 2.1 Sport Ireland issued a charge letter to the Athlete on 13 October 2025 (the "**Charge Letter**"), charging him with the following ADRV:
  - 2.1.1 Article 10.10.1 – *"Prohibition Against Participation During Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension"*;
- 2.2 The charge letter also notified the Athlete that it was seeking the following sanctions as set out in Article 10.10.3:

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

2.2.1 the Disqualification of any results from his participation in the event on 16 August 2025; and

2.2.2 a new ban (period of Ineligibility) equal in length to the original ban i.e. 3 months.

2.3 The Charge Letter notified the Athlete of the ways in which he could respond to the ADRV, and informed him that if he did not challenge Sport Ireland's assertion of the ADRV, the proposed sanctions, or request a hearing within 15 days of receipt of the letter, Sport Ireland would be entitled to deem that he waived his right to a hearing and accept the sanctions proposed by Sport Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

2.4 Sport Ireland received no response from the Athlete to the Charge Letter.

### **3. Consequences**

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

3.2 The sanctions to be imposed are:

3.2.1 the Disqualification of any results from his participation in the event on 16 August 2025;

3.2.2 a new ban (period of Ineligibility) equal in length to the original ban i.e. 3 months.

3.2.3 Public Disclosure<sup>3</sup> of the details of the matter. The details of the case will be made available on the Sport Ireland website and will be the subject of a press release.

3.3 Pursuant to Article 10.10.1 of the Rules<sup>4</sup>, 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 one-quarter of his period of Ineligibility.

3.5 This decision is being notified to the Athlete, Motorcycling Ireland 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 Motorcycling Ireland.

### **4. Summary**

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

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<sup>2</sup> Article 8.4.2.

<sup>3</sup> Article 10.13 and 15

<sup>4</sup> 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."



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- The Athlete has committed a violation of Article 10.10.1 of the Rules by participating in Competitions and activities while subject to a period of Ineligibility.
- The Athlete's results shall be Disqualified arising from his participation in the Motorcross event at Saul, Downpatrick Co Down, on 16 August 2025.
- A new ban of 3 months has been imposed on the Athlete pursuant to Article 10.10.3, which has been added to the end of the original 3-month ban. In effect, this means a total of a 6-month ban which expires at midnight on 5 February 2026.

**Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.**