

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Jordan Cotterill

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of the Football Association of Wales

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR') of the Football Association of Wales (the 'FAW'). It concerns an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') committed by Mr Jordan Cotterill 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. The FAW is the national governing body for the sport of football in Wales. The FAW has adopted the UK Anti-Doping Rules as its anti-doping rules¹, which are issued by UKAD and subject to updates made by UKAD, as necessary and in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code.
2. Mr Cotterill is a 35-year-old football player who played for Barry Town United F.C. At all material times in this matter, Mr Cotterill was subject to the jurisdiction of the FAW 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 the FAW.
3. On 13 April 2024, UKAD collected a urine Sample from Mr Cotterill, In-Competition, at the JD Cymru Premier relegation play-off match between Barry Town United F.C. and Aberystwyth Town F.C.
4. Assisted by a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') in attendance, Mr Cotterill split the urine Sample in two separate bottles, which were given reference numbers A1194190 (the 'A Sample') and B1194190 (the 'B Sample').
5. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory in London, the Drug Control Centre, King's 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 Technical Document TD2022MRPL.

6. Analysis of the A Sample returned an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') for benzoylecgonine, a Metabolite of cocaine, at an estimated concentration of 87 ng/mL.
7. Cocaine is listed under section S6A of the WADA 2024 Prohibited List as a Stimulant. It is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only. Cocaine is also identified as one of four '*Substances of Abuse*' in the WADA 2024 Prohibited List.
8. On 17 May 2024, UKAD sent to Mr Cotterill a letter (the 'Notice Letter'). The Notice Letter confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Cotterill, 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).
9. Mr Cotterill provided his responses to the Notice Letter and UKAD's follow-up queries on 28 May 2024, 3 June 2024, and 6 June 2024. Mr Cotterill admitted to taking cocaine, stating that he had taken it during the evening of 10 April 2024 whilst consuming alcohol.
10. Following receipt of Mr Cotterill's responses, UKAD instructed Professor David Cowan OBE to review the account provided in conjunction with the estimated concentration of benzoylecgonine detected in Mr Cotterill's Sample. On 19 July 2024, Professor Cowan provided an expert report in which he concluded that it was more likely than not that Mr Cotterill's last ingestion of cocaine took place Out-of-Competition (i.e. before 23:59 on 12 April 2024).
11. On 22 July 2024, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Cotterill with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2.
12. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1² (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) in respect of benzoylecgonine, a Metabolite of cocaine.

Admission and Consequences

13. 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.

² Mr Cotterill was not charged with an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) as cocaine is prohibited In-Competition only and, in light of his account and the opinion of Professor Cowan, there is insufficient evidence to suggest Mr Cotterill ingested the substance after 11:59 pm on 12 April 2024 (i.e., within the In-Competition period).

14. ADR Article 10.2.4 provides:

10.2.4 Notwithstanding any other provision in Article 10.2, where the Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Substance of Abuse:

(a) If the Athlete can establish that any ingestion or Use occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance, the period of Ineligibility shall be three (3) months; provided that it may be further reduced to one (1) month if the Athlete satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse treatment program approved by UKAD. The period of Ineligibility established in this Article 10.2.4(a) is not subject to any reduction pursuant to Article 10.6.

15. On 25 July 2024, 2 August 2024, and 5 August 2024 Mr Cotterill provided his responses to the Charge Letter. Within his responses Mr Cotterill admitted to the ADRV charged and acceded to the three (3) month period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

16. 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.

17. However, ADR Article 10.13.2 allows 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.

18. Mr Cotterill has been subject to a Provisional Suspension from the date of the Notice Letter, 17 May 2024. As far as UKAD is aware, Mr Cotterill has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.

19. Therefore, affording Mr Cotterill credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility will expire at 11:59pm on 16 August 2024.

Summary

20. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:

- a) Mr Cotterill has committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1;
- b) A period of Ineligibility of three (3) months is imposed pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.4(a); and
- c) In accordance with ADR Article 10.13.2, affording Mr Cotterill credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 17 May 2024, and will expire at 11:59pm on 16 August 2024.

21. Mr Cotterill, the FAW, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
22. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

9 August 2024