

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT UNDER RUGBY FOOTBALL
UNION REGULATION 20 AND WORLD RUGBY REGULATION 21**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING PANEL

Before: Matthew Lohn

BETWEEN:

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

the National Governing Body

-and-

JOSEPH STAFFORD

-and-

RUPERT KAY

the Respondents

CONSENT ORDER

With the agreement of the Rugby Football Union (“RFU”) and Joseph Stafford (“the Player”), and in full and final resolution of these proceedings in respect of the Player, it is ordered and declared that:

1. The Player was selected by UK Anti-Doping to undergo an anti-doping test on the evening of 21 February 2019 at Hull RFC training ground. Upon doping control personnel attending the training ground of Hull RFC to collect the Player’s Sample, the Player left the training ground with the assistance of Rupert Kay in order to avoid his Sample being collected.
2. The Player was charged by the RFU on 10 September 2019 with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (“ADRV”) of evading Sample collection in breach of World Rugby Regulation 21.2.3 (Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection).
3. The Player admitted the ADRV on 2 October 2019.
4. This is the Player’s first violation.
5. World Rugby Regulation 21.10.3.1 states that for a violation of Regulation 21.2.3 (Evading) the period of Ineligibility shall be four years unless, in the case of failing to submit to Sample collection, the Player can establish that the commission of the anti-

doping rule violation was not intentional (as defined in World Rugby Regulation 21.10.2.3), in which case the period of Ineligibility shall be two years.

6. The Player has sought a reduction in the period of Ineligibility for his prompt admission of the ADRV pursuant to World Rugby Regulation 21.10.6.3:

A Player or other Person potentially subject to a four-year sanction under Regulation 21.10.2.1 or 21.10.3.1 (for evading or refusing Sample Collection or Tampering with Sample Collection), by promptly admitting the asserted anti-doping rule violation after being confronted by World Rugby (or the Association, Union or Tournament Organiser handling the case as applicable), and also upon the approval and at the discretion of both WADA and World Rugby (or the Association, Union or Tournament Organiser handling the case as applicable), may receive a reduction in the period of Ineligibility down to a minimum of two years, depending on the seriousness of the violation and the Player or other Person's degree of Fault.

7. WADA, UKAD and the RFU have agreed at their discretion that the Player should receive a **six-month** reduction in the period of Ineligibility under World Rugby Regulation 21.10.6.3.
8. The Player's period of Ineligibility shall therefore run for a period of three and a half years from 16 July 2019 (the date of the Player's provisional suspension) to 15 January 2023.
9. Each party shall bear itself the costs that it has incurred in connection with this matter.
10. Non signatories to this Consent Order may appeal as per World Rugby Regulation 21.13.



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Matthew Lohn
National Anti-Doping Panel Chair
London

Date: 14 July 2020

Each of the following parties, by its undersigned, confirms its agreement to the terms of the Consent Order set out above, and waives any right it has to appeal or challenge the Consent Order.



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Angus Bujalski, Legal and Governance Director, for and on behalf of the RFU



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Joseph Stafford