

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Taylor Baddeley

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of the Rugby Football League

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR') of the Rugby Football League ('RFL'). It concerns an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') committed by Mr Taylor Baddeley 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 RFL is the national governing body for the sport of rugby league in England. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation ('NADO') for sport in the United Kingdom. The RFL has adopted, as its own ADR, the UK 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 Baddeley is an 18-year-old rugby league player for Castleford Tigers. At all material times in this matter, Mr Baddeley was subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL and bound to comply with the ADR. Pursuant to ADR Article 7.2, UKAD has Results Management responsibility in respect of all players that are subject to the jurisdiction of the RFL.
3. On 08 April 2023 UKAD Doping Control Personnel collected a urine Sample from Mr Baddeley, In-Competition at a game between Castleford Tigers Academy and Wakefield Trinity Academy.
4. Assisted by a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') in attendance, Mr Baddeley split the urine Sample into two separate bottles, which were given reference numbers A1185033 (the 'A Sample') and B1185033 (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 ('the Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the A Sample in accordance with the

¹ Version 1.0 (in effect 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 approximately 73 ng/mL. The Laboratory also detected cocaine within Mr Baddeley's Sample at an estimated concentration of 3.6 ng/mL. Due to the concentration of cocaine being below the minimum required reporting level, this was not reported as an AAF.
7. Cocaine is listed under S6.A of the WADA 2023 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 2023 Prohibited List.
8. Mr Baddeley does not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ('TUE') for cocaine.
9. On 19 May 2023 UKAD sent Mr Baddeley a letter (the 'Notice Letter'). The Notice Letter confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Baddeley in accordance with ADR Article 7.8, that he may have committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athletes Sample) and/or an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 (Use or attempted use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method).
10. On 2 June 2023 Mr Baddeley responded to the Notice Letter and admitted that he had ingested cocaine on 1 and 2 April 2023 for recreational purposes in a social setting.
11. On 08 June 2023 UKAD requested from Mr Baddeley further information concerning his ingestion of cocaine and alcohol consumption. Mr Baddeley responded to UKAD reiterating that he ingested the cocaine for recreational purposes, within a social setting on 1 and 2 April 2023. Mr Baddeley provided UKAD with information concerning his alcohol consumption and stated that he ingested his first 'line' of cocaine on or around 21:30 – 22:00 on 1 April 2023, thereafter he consumed another three (3) 'lines' of cocaine with his last line being consumed during the early hours of 2 April 2023, and ingested around half of a £40 bag of cocaine.
12. UKAD instructed Professor David Cowan OBE, former Director of the Laboratory to review the account provided by Mr Baddeley. On 05 July 2023 Professor Cowan provided his expert report. He confirmed that, whilst Mr Baddeley's explanation of the quantity of cocaine ingested was likely inaccurate and that the cocaine must have been used later than Mr Baddeley stated, it was Professor Cowan's scientific opinion that the cocaine was still likely consumed within the WADA defined "Out-of-Competition" period, which ended at 11:59 p.m. on Friday 7 April 2023.
13. On 11 July 2023 UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Baddeley with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of

an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athletes Sample) (the 'Charge').²

Admission and Consequences

14. 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.

15. 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.*

(b) [...]

16. On 20 July 2023 Mr Baddeley responded to the Charge Letter. Mr Baddeley accepted the Charge and the asserted period of Ineligibility of three (3) months. Mr Baddeley also informed UKAD he had undertaken a Substance of Abuse treatment programme administered through RFL Cares. On 30 July and 10 September 2023 UKAD received reports pertaining to the Substance of Abuse treatment programme undertaken by Mr Baddeley. It was submitted that the completion of this programme would enable him to receive a further reduction to his three (3) month period of Ineligibility, down to one (1) month in accordance with ADR Article 10.2.4(a).

17. UKAD reviewed the contents of the report in accordance with its own policy 'Substances of Abuse: Policy for determining approved treatment programmes,' (the 'Policy') and concluded that the sessions attended by Mr Baddeley constituted a Substance of Abuse treatment programme, in line with the Policy. Mr Baddeley is therefore eligible for a further reduced period of Ineligibility of one (1) month pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.4(a).

18. Consequently, the applicable period of Ineligibility is one (1) month.

² Mr Baddeley was not charged with an ADRV pursuant to Article 2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) as cocaine is prohibited In-Competition only and there is no evidence to suggest that he ingested it after 11:59pm on 7 April 2023, i.e. within the In-Competition period.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

19. ADR Article 10.13 requires that the period of Ineligibility starts on the date the Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed where there is no hearing.
20. 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.
21. Mr Baddeley was subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date of the Notice Letter, i.e., since 19 May 2023 and as far as UKAD is aware, had respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, on 18 August 2023, UKAD wrote to Mr Baddeley informing him that UKAD had lifted his Provisional Suspension, acknowledging that he had served the maximum three (3) month period of Ineligibility applicable to his case. Therefore, affording Mr Baddeley credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, (which was longer than one (1) month, his period of Ineligibility is deemed served and he is eligible to participate in sport forthwith.

Summary

22. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued his decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
 - A) Mr Baddeley has committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1;
 - B) A period of Ineligibility of one (1) month is imposed pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.4(a); and
 - C) In accordance with ADR Article 10.13.2, affording Mr Baddeley credit for the time he spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 19 May 2023, and is deemed served and he is eligible to participate in sport forthwith.
23. Mr Baddeley, the RFL, IRL, and WADA have a right to appeal against the Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
24. The Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

26 October 2023