

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Sofiane Khati

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of the British Boxing Board of Control

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR') of the British Boxing Board of Control (the 'BBBoC'). It concerns an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') committed by Mr Sofiane Khati 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 BBBoC is the national governing body for the sport of professional boxing in the United Kingdom. It provides licences to domestic and international boxers, which permits them to participate in bouts held under the jurisdiction of the BBBoC, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation in the United Kingdom. The BBBoC 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 Khati is a 32-year-old French professional boxer. On 6 February 2025, the BBBoC granted Mr Khati a Foreign Boxer licence to compete in a bout on 8 February 2025 against Mr Nathan Heaney. In granting the Foreign Boxer licence, the BBBoC was provided with confirmation that Mr Khati is a licensed boxer with La Fédération Française de Boxe ('FFBoxe') the 'French Boxing Federation'.
3. As a boxer licensed with the BBBoC and a participant in Competitions and other activities organised, authorised and/or recognised by the BBBoC at all relevant times, Mr Khati was subject to the jurisdiction of the BBBoC and bound to comply with the ADR. Pursuant to ADR Article 7.2, UKAD has Results Management responsibility for anti-doping matters in respect of all Athletes that are subject to the jurisdiction of the BBBoC.

¹ Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021.

4. On 8 February 2025, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Khati, In-Competition, after his bout against Mr Heaney at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester.
5. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Khati split the urine Sample into two separate bottles, which were given reference numbers A8212359 (the 'A Sample') and B8212359 (the 'B Sample').
6. 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 procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories and Technical Document TD2022MRPL.
7. Analysis of the A Sample returned an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') for carboxy-THC at an estimated concentration of 327 ng/mL.
8. Carboxy-THC is a Metabolite of tetrahydrocannabinol ('THC'), the psychoactive compound found in cannabis. THC is classified as a Cannabinoid under section S8 of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List. It is a Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only. Pursuant to Article 4.2.3 of the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code, THC is specifically identified as a Substance of Abuse in the 2025 WADA Prohibited List.
9. On 17 March 2025, UKAD sent Mr Khati a letter (the 'Notice Letter'), formally notifying him 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 Prohibited Method). The Notice Letter also confirmed the immediate imposition of a Provisional Suspension. UKAD invited Mr Khati to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs.
10. Mr Khati provided his response to the Notice Letter and UKAD's various follow-up queries, admitting that he had ingested 1g of cannabis flower using a vaporiser, as well as a few drops of cannabis oil, on 5 February 2025 (i.e. Out-of-Competition).
11. Following receipt of Mr Khati's response, UKAD sought the opinion of an independent scientific expert, Professor David Cowan OBE, as to whether the account provided by Mr Khati was consistent with the concentration of carboxy-THC detected in the A Sample.
12. Professor Cowan requested further detail in relation to Mr Khati's ingestion of THC. UKAD therefore sent further follow-up queries to Mr Khati, who responded stating that, prior to Sample collection on 8 February 2025, he had last ingested THC on 5 February 2025 at approximately 12-1pm. Mr Khati also confirmed that, in the week prior to 5 February 2025, he had ingested THC on four occasions, ingesting approximately 1g of THC on each of those occasions.

13. Professor Cowan provided an expert report in which he concluded that it was more likely than not that Mr Khati's last ingestion of THC took place Out-of-Competition (i.e. before 11:59pm on 7 February 2025).
14. On 23 April 2025, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Khati 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 Athlete's Sample) in respect of carboxy-THC.²

Admission and Consequences

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. On 5 May 2025, Mr Khati provided his response to the Charge Letter. Mr Khati admitted to the ADRV charged and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of three (3) months but indicated that he intended to complete a Substance of Abuse treatment program approved by UKAD.
18. On 30 May 2025, having not received any further correspondence from Mr Khati, UKAD wrote to Mr Khati seeking confirmation that he intended to complete a Substance of Abuse treatment program. UKAD wrote to Mr Khati again on 17 and 24 June 2025 without reply.
19. On 2 July 2025, having not received any further correspondence from Mr Khati, UKAD wrote to Mr Khati and confirmed that UKAD would proceed to issue a written Decision in this case imposing a period of Ineligibility of three (3) months.

² Mr Khati was not charged with an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) because THC is prohibited In-Competition only and, in light of his account and the opinion of Professor Cowan, there is insufficient evidence to suggest Mr Khati ingested the substance after 11:59pm on 7 February 2025 (i.e., within the In-Competition period).

Disqualification

20. ADR Article 9.1 provides as follows:

9.1 Disqualification of Competition results as a consequence of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation committed in connection with or arising out of an In-Competition test

An Anti-Doping Rule Violation in Individual Sports in connection with or arising out of an In-Competition test automatically leads to Disqualification of the results obtained in the Competition in question, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, titles, points and prizes.

21. Pursuant to the above, Mr Khati's result in his bout against Mr Heaney on 8 February 2025 is automatically disqualified.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. Mr Khati has been subject to a Provisional Suspension from the date of the Notice Letter, 17 March 2025. As far as UKAD is aware, Mr Khati respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, on 17 June 2025, UKAD wrote to Mr Khati and informed him that UKAD had lifted his Provisional Suspension, acknowledging that he had served the maximum three (3) months period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in this case.

25. Affording Mr Khati credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility expired at 11:59pm on 16 June 2025. Mr Khati is therefore eligible to participate in sport forthwith.

Summary

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

- a) Mr Khati 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 Khati credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to

have commenced on 17 March 2025, and expired at 11:59pm on 16 June 2025.

27. Mr Khati, the BBBoC, Agence Française de lutte contre le dopage ('AFLD' – the French Anti-Doping Agency) and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
28. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

15 July 2025