

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Ryan Sweetman

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of England Lacrosse

This is an Issued Decision made by United Kingdom Anti-Doping Limited ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules ('ADR') of England Lacrosse ('EL'). It concerns Anti-Doping Rule Violations ('ADRVs') committed by Mr Ryan Sweetman 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. EL is the national governing body for the sport of lacrosse in England. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation in the United Kingdom. EL 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 Sweetman is a 32-year-old lacrosse player. As a member of EL, at all relevant times Mr Sweetman was subject to the jurisdiction of EL 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 EL.
3. On 7 April 2025, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Sweetman, Out-of-Competition, at his home address in Warrington, England.
4. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Sweetman split the urine Sample into two separate bottles which were given reference numbers A8211866 (the 'A Sample') and B8211866 (the 'B Sample').
5. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory, 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 Standards for Laboratories.

¹ Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021

6. Analysis of the A Sample returned Adverse Analytical Findings ('AAF's') for GW0742 Metabolites, GW0742-sulfone and GW0742-sulfoxide.
7. GW0742 (a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor delta (PPAR δ) agonist) falls within Section S4.4 of the WADA 2025 Prohibited List as a metabolic modulator. GW0742 is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited at all times.
8. On 16 May 2025, UKAD sent Mr Sweetman a letter (the 'Notice Letter') confirming the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notifying him, in accordance with ADR Article 7.8, that he may have committed ADRV's 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 by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance). The Notice Letter invited Mr Sweetman to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRV's.
9. On 30 May 2025, Mr Sweetman responded to the Notice Letter by admitting the Presence and Use violations but asserting that the ADRV's were not intentional and that he bore No Fault or Negligence. This was on the basis that he said he had been provided with a high-caffeine pre-workout product by an acquaintance at his gym which contained GW0742.
10. Mr Sweetman also stated that, prior to using the pre-workout product, he carried out a check to ensure that the contents were not prohibited. Specifically, Mr Sweetman searched for GW0742 on the WADA Prohibited List, however no results were returned.
11. On 2 July 2025, Mr Sweetman responded to additional questions from UKAD. Mr Sweetman said that he did not recall the brand or manufacturer of the pre-workout product; did not recall the name of the acquaintance who gave him the product; and had not retained any of the product.
12. Mr Sweetman also said that he was not aware of the Global Drug Reference Online ('Global DRO') database and, having claimed to have had no '*specific or formal training*' to use such tools, believed that the WADA Prohibited List was the '*gold standard for such substance checking*'.
13. On 8 August 2025, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Sweetman with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of ADRV's pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 and ADR Article 2.2 in respect of GW0742.

Admissions and Consequences

14. On 28 August 2025, Mr Sweetman provided his response to the Charge Letter. Mr Sweetman admitted to the ADRV's charged and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years.
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 2.2 provides that the following is also an ADRV:

2.2 *Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, unless the Athlete establishes that the Use or Attempted Use is consistent with a TUE granted in accordance with Article 4.*

17. ADR Article 10.2 provides as follows:

10.2 *Imposition of a Period of Ineligibility for the Presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance and/or a Prohibited Method.*

The period of Ineligibility for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.1, 2.2 or 2.6 that is the Athlete's or other Person's first anti-doping offence shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction or suspension pursuant to Article 10.5, 10.6 or 10.7:

10.2.1 Save where Article 10.2.4(a) applies, the period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years where:

(a) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation does not involve a Specified Substance or a Specified Method, unless the Athlete or other Person can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was not intentional.

(b) [...]

10.2.2 If Article 10.2.1 does not apply, then (subject to Article 10.2.4(a)) the period of Ineligibility shall be two (2) years.

10.2.3 As used in Article 10.2, the term "intentional" is meant to identify those Athletes or other Persons who engage in conduct which they know constitutes an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or they know that there is a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and they manifestly disregard that risk...

18. In accordance with ADR Article 10.2.1(a), as this matter concerns non-Specified Substances, the starting point for the applicable period of Ineligibility is four (4) years, unless Mr Sweetman can establish, on the balance of probabilities that the ADRVs were not 'intentional' (within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3).

19. While Mr Sweetman initially asserted (in response to the Notice Letter) that the ADRVs were not intentional within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3, and that he suspected they were caused by his ingestion of a pre-workout product given to him by an acquaintance at his gym, he did not seek to establish the same in his response to the Charge Letter.

20. Instead, Mr Sweetman admitted the ADRV^s and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility. Accordingly, Mr Sweetman has not established that the ADRV^s were not 'intentional', and he is not entitled to a two (2) year period of Ineligibility pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.2, or any reduction pursuant to ADR Article 10.5 (No Fault or Negligence) or ADR Article 10.6 (No Significant Fault or Negligence). Consequently, the period of Ineligibility under ADR Article 10.2.1(a) of four (4) years applies.
21. For the purposes of imposing a sanction, the ADRV^s are considered together as a single first violation, pursuant to ADR Article 10.9.4, which states:

10.9.4 Additional rules for certain potential multiple offences:

- (a) *For the purposes of imposing sanctions under Article 10.9, except as provided in Articles 10.9.4(b) and 10.9.4(c) an Anti-Doping Rule Violation will only be considered a second (or third, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation if UKAD can establish that the Athlete or other Person committed the additional Anti-Doping Rule Violation after they received notice, or after UKAD or its designee made a reasonable attempt to give notice, of the first (or the second, as applicable) Anti-Doping Rule Violation. Otherwise, the first and second Anti-Doping Rule Violations (or the second and third Anti-Doping Rule Violations, as applicable) shall be considered as one single first Anti-Doping Rule Violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of Aggravating Circumstances...*

Application of ADR Article 10.8.1

22. ADR Article 10.8.1 provides:

10.8.1 One (1) year reduction for certain Anti-Doping Rule Violations based on early admission and acceptance of sanction:

Where UKAD sends an Athlete or other Person a Charge Letter for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more year (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Article 10.4), if the Athlete or other Person admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than twenty (20) days after receiving the Charge Letter, they shall receive a one (1) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD. Where the Athlete or other Person receives the one (1) year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Article 10.8.1, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other Article.

23. Mr Sweetman admitted both ADRV^s and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years within twenty (20) days of receiving the Charge Letter. Therefore, ADR Article 10.8.1 applies and Mr Sweetman shall receive a one (1) year reduction to the period of Ineligibility of four (4) years. The period of Ineligibility to be imposed is therefore three (3) years.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

24. 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.
25. However, ADR Article 10.13.2 allows for 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.
26. Mr Sweetman has been subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date he received the Notice Letter (16 May 2025) and, so far as UKAD is aware, he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, affording Mr Sweetman credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 16 May 2025 and will end at 11:59pm 15 May 2028.

Status during Ineligibility

27. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr Sweetman is not be permitted to participate in any capacity (or assist any Athlete participating in any capacity) in a Competition, Event or other activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programmes) organised, convened, authorised and/or recognised by:
 - a) EL;
 - b) any Signatory;
 - c) any club or other body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by, a Signatory or a Signatory's member organisation including, but not limited to, British Lacrosse ('BL');
 - d) any professional league or any international or national-level Event organisation; or
 - e) any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.
28. Mr Sweetman may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of an EL (or BL) club, or a Signatory's member organisation, during the last two (2) months of his period of Ineligibility (i.e. from 11:59pm on 15 March 2028) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b).

Summary

29. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
 - a) Mr Sweetman has committed ADRV's pursuant to ADR Articles 2.1 and 2.2.

- b) In accordance with ADR Article 10.9.4(a), the ADRVs are considered as a single first violation for the purpose of imposing a sanction.
- c) In accordance with ADR Article 10.8.1, Mr Sweetman is entitled to a one (1) year reduction to the asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years. A three (3) year period of Ineligibility is therefore imposed.
- d) Acknowledging Mr Sweetman's Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 16 May 2025 and will expire at 11:59pm on 15 May 2028.
- e) Mr Sweetman's status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.

30. Mr Sweetman, EL, World Lacrosse and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.

31. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

2 December 2025