

## Issued Decision

# UK Anti-Doping and William Locker

### Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of England Lacrosse

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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 William Locker 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

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1. EL is the national governing body for the sport of lacrosse in England. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation for the United Kingdom. EL has adopted, as its own ADR, the UK Anti-Doping Rules<sup>1</sup>, which are issued by UKAD and subject to updates made by UKAD, as necessary and in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code (the 'Code').
2. Mr Locker is a 22-year-old lacrosse player. As a member of EL, at all relevant times Mr Locker 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 players that are subject to the jurisdiction of EL.
3. On 3 May 2025, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Locker, In-Competition, at the Nick Kehoe International tournament held at Wilmslow Lacrosse Club, Styal Rd, Wilmslow SK9 4HP.
4. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Locker split the urine Sample into two separate bottles, which were given reference numbers A8210392 (the 'A Sample') and B8210392 (the 'B Sample').
5. On being notified that he was required to submit to Sample collection, Mr Locker told the DCO that he had "*taken cocaine and cannabis while at a funeral the previous evening*". Mr Locker also declared on the Doping Control form that he had taken cocaine and cannabis in the last seven days.

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<sup>1</sup> Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021

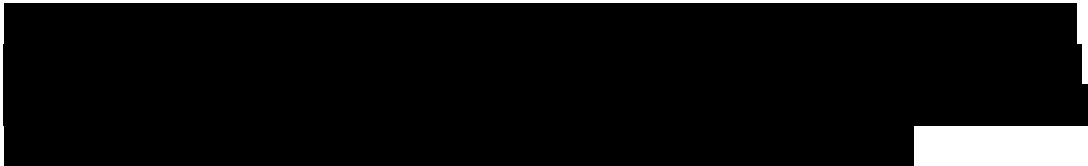
6. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory, the Drug Control Centre, King's College London (the 'Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the A Sample in accordance with the procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories and Technical Document TD2022MRPL.
7. Analysis of the A Sample returned Adverse Analytical Findings ('AAFs') for the following Prohibited Substances and/or Metabolites:
  - a) Cocaine;
  - b) Cocaine Metabolite, benzoylecgonine; and
  - c) Tetrahydrocannabinol ('THC') Metabolite, carboxy-THC.
8. Cocaine falls within section S6.A of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List as a stimulant. It is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only.
9. Carboxy-THC is a Metabolite of tetrahydrocannabinol ('THC'), the psychoactive compound found in cannabis. THC falls within section S8 of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List as a cannabinoid. It is a Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only.
10. Pursuant to Article 4.2.3 of the Code, cocaine and THC are also identified as Substances of Abuse in the 2025 WADA Prohibited List.
11. On 27 May 2025, UKAD sent Mr Locker 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 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 by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance). The Notice Letter invited Mr Locker to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs.
12. In his response to the Notice Letter and UKAD's follow-up questions, Mr Locker admitted to the Use of cocaine and THC but stated that he used the Prohibited Substances in a period of [REDACTED] and as a coping mechanism "*to get through a very difficult time*". He said that he used the Prohibited Substances "*in a moment of personal crisis and not in the pursuit of any athletic gain*".
13. Mr Locker also stated that he had stepped back from training and competition owing to [REDACTED] and provided UKAD with a copy of a 'Statement of Fitness for Work', [REDACTED]
14. In response to additional questions from UKAD, Mr Locker clarified the following details about his Use of cocaine:

- a) he used two small lines of cocaine in powder form, intranasally, between 16:00 and 23:00 on 2 May 2025 after attending a wake where he was also heavily drinking;
- b) he may have used cocaine once or twice in the weeks prior to 2 May 2025 but could not confirm this with certainty “*due to the amount [he] was drinking and the general instability of that period*”.

15. Mr Locker also clarified the following details about his Use of THC:

- a) he smoked a “*half joint*” containing approximately 0.6g-1gm of cannabis sometime between 21:00 and midnight on 2 May 2025; and
- b) in the two weeks leading up to 2 May 2025, he smoked approximately 0.6gm-1gm of cannabis in joint-form “*almost daily*”.

16.



17. UKAD subsequently sought the opinion of an independent scientific expert, Professor David Cowan OBE, as to whether the information provided by Mr Locker was consistent with the concentrations of cocaine, cocaine Metabolite benzoylecgonine and THC Metabolite carboxy-THC detected in the A Sample.

18. Professor Cowan’s expert report ultimately concluded that:

- a) the finding of cocaine and cocaine Metabolite benzoylecgonine in the A Sample was more likely than not a result of In-Competition use of cocaine;
- b) the finding of carboxy-THC in the A Sample is more likely than not a result of Out-of-Competition use of THC.

19. On 17 September 2025, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Locker with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted that Mr Locker had committed:

- a) an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1 in respect of cocaine, cocaine Metabolite benzoylecgonine and THC Metabolite carboxy-THC; and
- b) an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 in respect of cocaine.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Mr Locker was not charged with an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 in respect of THC 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 Locker ingested THC after 11:59pm on 2 May 2025 (i.e., within the In-Competition period).

## Admission and Consequences

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20. On 7 October 2025, Mr Locker provided his response to the Charge Letter. Mr Locker admitted to an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.2 but asserted that the ADRV was “*unintentional and occurred with No Significant Fault or Negligence on his part*”.
21. In his response, Mr Locker provided detailed submissions, with a view to seeking a reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in the Charge Letter (two (2) years). In particular, Mr Locker highlighted:
- a) the prompt admission of his ADRVs (having admitted to using cocaine and cannabis on his Doping Control form);
  - b) his transparency and cooperation throughout the Results Management process;
  - c) the isolated, recreational and non-performance enhancing nature of his drug use;
  - d) that he was tested at a “*friendly, social tournament*” within an amateur sport; and
  - e) that his Fault is mitigated by his “*youth and inexperience, [REDACTED] the absence of performance motive, and his subsequent exemplary conduct.*”
22. 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.**
23. ADR Article 2.2 provides that the following is 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.**
24. ADR Article 10.2 provides:
- 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) The Anti-Doping Rule Violation involves a Specified Substance or a Specified Method and UKAD can establish that the Anti-Doping Rule Violation was intentional.*

*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 [...]*

*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.*

*(b) The period of Ineligibility established in this Article 10.2.4(a) is not subject to any reduction pursuant to Article 10.6. If the ingestion, Use or Possession occurred In-Competition, and the Athlete can establish that the context of the ingestion, Use or Possession was unrelated to sport performance, the ingestion, Use or Possession shall not be considered intentional for purposes of Article 10.2.1 and shall not provide a basis for a finding of Aggravating Circumstances under Article 10.4.*

### **Applicable Consequences – THC**

25. Based on Mr Locker's account and the opinion of Professor Cowan, UKAD is satisfied that Mr Locker has established on the balance of probabilities that his Use of THC occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance.

Pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.4(a), the applicable period of Ineligibility in relation to THC is therefore three (3) months.

### **Applicable Consequences – cocaine**

#### Application of ADR Article 10.2.4(b) – Use of cocaine unrelated to sport performance

26. Where an Athlete's Use of a Substance of Abuse occurred In-Competition and the Athlete can establish (on the balance of probabilities) that their Use of the Substance of Abuse was unrelated to sport performance, such Use is not considered intentional for the purposes of ADR Article 10.2.1.
27. On being notified that he was required to submit to Sample collection, Mr Locker told the DCO that he had Used cocaine and cannabis the previous evening at a funeral wake.
28. Furthermore, in his responses to the Notice Letter and Charge Letter, Mr Locker consistently stated that he Used the Prohibited Substances to cope with grief and distress [REDACTED] was in no way linked to performance enhancement. Mr Locker provided UKAD with medical evidence [REDACTED] t the time of his Use of cocaine.
29. Having regard to Mr Locker's statements to the DCO, his responses to the Notice Letter and Charge Letter, and the supporting medical evidence, UKAD is satisfied that Mr Locker's Use of cocaine was not related to sport performance.
30. The starting point for the applicable period of Ineligibility in relation to cocaine is therefore two (2) years, in accordance with ADR Article 10.2.2.

#### Application of ADR Article 10.6.2 – No Significant Fault or Negligence

31. ADR Article 10.6 provides:

##### *10.6.2 Application of No Significant Fault or Negligence beyond Article 10.6.1*

*In an individual case where Article 10.6.1 is not applicable, if an Athlete or other Person establishes that they bear No Significant Fault or Negligence for the Anti-Doping Rule Violation asserted against them, then (subject to further reduction or elimination as provided in Article 10.7) the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be reduced based on the Athlete's or other Person's degree of Fault, but the reduced period of Ineligibility may not be less than one-half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the reduced period may be no less than eight (8) years.*

32. Fault is defined in the ADR as follows:

**Fault:**

*Fault is any breach of duty or any lack of care appropriate to a particular situation. Factors to be taken into consideration in assessing an Athlete or other Person's degree of Fault include, for example, the Athlete's or other Person's experience, whether the Athlete or other Person is a Protected Person, special considerations such as impairment, the degree of risk that should have been perceived by the Athlete and the level of care and investigation exercised by the Athlete in relation to what should have been the perceived level of risk. In assessing the Athlete's or other Person's degree of Fault, the circumstances considered must be specific and relevant to explain the Athlete's or other Person's departure from the expected standard of behaviour. Thus, for example, the fact that an Athlete would lose the opportunity to earn large sums of money during a period of Ineligibility, or the fact that the Athlete only has a short time left in a career, or the timing of the sporting calendar, would not be relevant factors to be considered in reducing the period of Ineligibility under Article 10.6.1 or 10.6.2.*

33. The term No Significant Fault or Negligence is defined in the ADR as follows:

**No Significant Fault or Negligence:**

*The Athlete or other Person's establishing that any Fault or negligence, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for No Fault or Negligence, was not significant in relation to the Anti-Doping Rule Violation. [...]*

34. UKAD has considered Mr Locker's responses and supporting medical evidence. UKAD accepts that Mr Locker's Use of the cocaine occurred within a period of [REDACTED]. UKAD is satisfied that Mr Locker has established that [REDACTED]

35. UKAD is therefore satisfied that Mr Locker's Fault was not "significant", i.e. he bore No Significant Fault or Negligence for the ADRVs. In accordance with ADR Article 10.6.2, a period of Ineligibility of between 12 months and 24 months applies, depending on Mr Locker's degree of Fault.

36. In applying ADR Article 10.6.2, UKAD has broadly followed the approach taken by the CAS panel in *Cilic v ITF* (CAS 2013/A/3327) and subsequent jurisprudence. This approach involves an assessment of Mr Locker's:

- a) *objective* Fault – the standard of care that would be expected from a reasonable person in Mr Locker's situation;
- b) *subjective* Fault – what could have been expected from Mr Locker in view of his personal circumstances (i.e. are there understandable reasons why Mr Locker departed from his core responsibilities under the ADR).

37. UKAD considers that Mr Locker's objective Fault can be characterised as 'normal':

(a) Professor Cowan's expert report does not indicate that this was a marginal case (i.e. where Mr Locker's Use of cocaine narrowly crossed over into the In-Competition period). Mr Locker admitted to ingesting two small lines of cocaine between 16:00 and 23:00 on 2 May 2025 (i.e. Out-of-Competition). In assessing the explanation provided by Mr Locker, Professor Cowan said:

*"17. I calculate that last using the cocaine at 11 pm on 2 May, which is just over 18 hours before the urine Sample was collected [...] arithmetically requires a dose of around 800 mg. Calculating for benzoylecgonine requires about the same dose. A 'small' line of cocaine is unlikely to be more than 100 mg and likely to be less, that is to say a maximum total dose of two lines will be 200 mg.*

*18. In my opinion, the concentration of benzoylecgonine and of cocaine found by the Laboratory better fits an administration (assuming a 200 mg dose of cocaine) occurring around six hours before the urine Sample was collected that is to say during the In-Competition period."*

(b) Mr Locker's Sample was collected at the Nick Kehoe International, which is not an official ranking event (at either national or international level) and was characterised by Mr Locker as "essentially a friendly, social tournament"<sup>3</sup>. Mr Locker was not training or competing at a competitive level in the month preceding Sample collection on 3 May 2025.

38. UKAD considers that Mr Locker's subjective Fault can be characterised as 'light'. In particular, UKAD notes that:

(a) as noted above, Mr Locker's Use of cocaine occurred during a period of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UKAD accepts that Mr Locker used cocaine [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(b) at the time of his Use of cocaine, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(c) Mr Locker is of a young age (21 at the time of the ADRVs) and was a relatively inexperienced, amateur athlete competing in an amateur sport;

(d) Mr Locker has not received any formal anti-doping education; and

(e) there is no indication (including in the context of the tournament) that Mr Locker sought to obtain any performance-enhancing benefit from his Use of cocaine.

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<sup>3</sup> UKAD has established that the tournament is not an officially ranked national or international event.

39. UKAD considers that these subjective factors (in particular, Mr Locker's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are exceptional, such that overall – and considered with his objective fault – Mr Locker's Fault is at the higher end of 'light' negligence overall.
40. In view of the above and in consideration of all the circumstances in this matter, UKAD considers that the appropriate period of Ineligibility in relation to Mr Locker's cocaine Use is 17 months.

#### **Application of Article 10.9.4**

41. For the purposes of imposing a sanction, the ADRVs will be considered together as a single first violation, pursuant to ADR Article 10.9.4 which states as follows:

##### ***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. Results in all Competitions dating back to the earlier Anti-Doping Rule Violation will be Disqualified as provided in Article 10.10.*

42. The total applicable period of Ineligibility is therefore 17 months.

#### **Commencement of period of Ineligibility**

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43. 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.
44. 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.
45. Mr Locker has been subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date he received the Notice Letter (27 May 2025) and, so far as UKAD is aware, he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, affording Mr Locker credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 27 May 2025 and will end at 11:59pm on 26 October 2026.

## Status during Ineligibility

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46. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr Locker is not 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 Lacross ('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.
47. Mr Locker may return to train with a team or 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 26 August 2026) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b)).

## Summary

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48. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
- a) Mr Locker has committed ADRVs 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) A period of Ineligibility of 17 months is imposed pursuant to ADR Articles 10.2.2, 10.2.4(b) and 10.6.2.
  - d) Acknowledging Mr Locker's Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 27 May 2025 and will expire at 11:59pm on 26 October 2026.
  - e) Mr Locker's status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.
49. Mr Locker, 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.

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

**3 March 2026**