

## Issued Decision

# UK Anti-Doping and Mitchell Smith

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

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This is an Issued Decision made by United Kingdom 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 Mitchell Smith 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. 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 UK. The BBBoC 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.
2. Mr Smith is a 33-year-old professional boxer. As a boxer licensed with the BBBoC and a participant in Competitions, Events and other activities organised, convened, authorised or recognised by the BBBoC, at all relevant times, Mr Smith 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.
3. On 25 October 2025, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Smith, In-Competition, after his bout against Mr Arnie Dawson at the O2 Arena in London.
4. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Smith split the urine Sample into two separate bottles, which were given reference numbers A8385137 (the 'A Sample') and B8385137 (the 'B Sample').

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

5. 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 TD2022DL.
6. Analysis of the A Sample returned an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') for carboxy-THC at an estimated concentration of 453ng/mL.
7. Carboxy-THC is a Metabolite of tetrahydrocannabinol ('THC'), the psychoactive compound found in cannabis. THC is classified as a cannabinoid under section S.8 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.
8. On 13 December 2025, UKAD sent Mr Smith 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 Smith to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs.
9. Mr Smith provided his response to the Notice Letter and UKAD's various follow-up queries, admitting that he had used THC oil and CBD balm (together, the 'CBD products') between approximately May 2025 and 17 October 2025.
10. Mr Smith stated that he had used the CBD products to treat his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ('ADHD'), as well as ongoing back and neck pain. Mr Smith provided UKAD with evidence of his diagnosis of ADHD and clinical records relating to his back and neck pain.
11. Mr Smith stated that he had not purchased the CBD products from a commercial retailer and that he had obtained the CBD products from a friend, who had been recovering from cancer and had been using the THC oil as part of their recovery. Mr Smith stated that based on his friend's experience and recovery, he believed the oil had contributed positively to his health, and that this was the reason it was offered to Mr Smith.
12. Mr Smith reiterated that the THC oil was taken solely for perceived wellbeing and pain management purposes.
13. Mr Smith advised he had ceased using the CBD products immediately upon being informed of the bout against Mr Dawson. He stated that he used the CBD products daily from approximately May 2025 until 17 October 2025 (i.e. Out-of-Competition).

14. Regarding the CBD oil, Mr Smith stated he used approximately “5-6mm” (or “*the size of a grain of rice*”) once every evening before sleeping. He stated that the oil was “*a pure, concentrated cannabis extract with no known additives*”.
15. Regarding the CBD balm, Mr Smith stated he applied approximately 1-2 cm of the balm (or, a “*generous forefinger dip on the area*”) to his neck and upper back area, on average, twice daily after training sessions. He stated the balm “*consisted of a CBD base mixed with pure THC extract. The THC concentrate was approximately 60-70%.*”
16. Following receipt of Mr Smith’s responses, UKAD sought the opinion of an independent scientific expert, Professor David Cowan OBE, as to whether the account provided by Mr Smith was consistent with the concentration of carboxy-THC detected in the A Sample.
17. While Professor Cowan did not accept on the scientific evidence available that Mr Smith ceased Use of THC eight days prior to the bout against Mr Dawson, he nevertheless concluded that it was more likely than not that Mr Smith’s last ingestion of THC took place Out-of-Competition (i.e., before 11:59pm on 24 October 2025).
18. On 10 February 2026, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Smith 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.<sup>2</sup>

## Admission and Consequences

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19. 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.***
20. 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.*

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<sup>2</sup> Mr Smith 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 conclude Mr Smith ingested the substance after 11:59pm on 24 October 2025 (i.e., within the In-Competition period).

21. In light of the expert opinion of Professor Cowan, UKAD does not accept Mr Smith's account that he ceased Use of the CBD products eight days prior to his bout with Mr Dawson. Nevertheless, having regard to the expert opinion of Professor Cowan and the remainder of the explanation provided by the Athlete, UKAD is satisfied that Mr Smith used THC Out-of-Competition. UKAD is further satisfied that Mr Smith used THC in a context unrelated to sport performance. The applicable period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in the Charge Letter was therefore three (3) months.
22. On 12 February 2026, Mr Smith provided his response to the Charge Letter. Mr Smith admitted to the ADRV and accepted the asserted period of Ineligibility of three (3) months.

## Disqualification

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23. 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.*

24. Pursuant to the above, Mr Smith's result in his bout against Mr Dawson on 25 October 2025 is automatically disqualified.

## Commencement of period of Ineligibility

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25. 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.
26. 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.
27. Mr Smith has been subject to a Provisional Suspension from the date of the Notice Letter (i.e., 13 December 2025). As far as UKAD is aware, Mr Smith has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.
28. Affording Mr Smith credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility expired at 11:59pm on 12 March 2026. Therefore, on 13 March 2026, UKAD wrote to Mr Smith and informed him that UKAD lifted his Provisional Suspension, acknowledging that he had served the maximum three (3) month period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in the Charge Letter. Mr Smith is therefore eligible to participate in sport forthwith.

## Summary

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29. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
  - a) Mr Smith has committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1;
  - b) The result of Mr Smith's bout against Mr Dawson on 25 October 2025 is automatically disqualified;
  - c) A period of Ineligibility of three (3) months is imposed pursuant to ADR Article 10.2.4(a); and
  - d) In accordance with ADR Article 10.13.2, affording Mr Smith credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 13 December 2025, and expired at 11:59pm on 12 March 2026.
30. Mr Smith, the BBBoC 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.

**13 April 2026**