

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Joseph Parker

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

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping ('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 Joseph Parker 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 (the 'UK'). It provides licences to domestic and international boxers, which permits them to participate in bouts under the jurisdiction of the BBBoC, both in the UK and abroad. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation in the UK. 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 Parker is a 34-year-old professional boxer from New Zealand. On 22 October 2025, the BBBoC granted Mr Parker a Foreign Boxer Licence to compete in a bout on 25 October 2025 against Mr Fabio Wardley. In granting Mr Parker a Foreign Boxer Licence, the BBBoC was provided with confirmation of his registration with the New Zealand Professional Boxing Association as a professional boxer.
3. As a boxer licensed with the BBBoC and a participant in Competitions and other activities organised, convened, authorised, or recognised by the BBBoC, at all relevant times Mr Parker was subject to 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 boxers that are subject to the jurisdiction of the BBBoC.

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

4. In the early hours of 26 October 2025, a UKAD Doping Control ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Parker, In-Competition, after his bout against Mr Wardley at the O2 Arena in London.
5. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Parker split the urine Sample into two separate bottles which were given reference numbers A8212855 (the 'A Sample') and B8212855 (the 'B Sample'), respectively.
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 (the 'ISL'). Analysis of the A Sample returned an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') for benzoylecgonine, a Metabolite of cocaine, at an estimated concentration level of 152 ng/mL.
7. Cocaine is listed at S6.A of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List as a Stimulant. It is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only.² Pursuant to Article 4.2.3 of the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code, cocaine is specifically identified as a Substance of Abuse in the 2025 WADA Prohibited List.
8. On 25 November 2025, UKAD sent Mr Parker a letter (the 'Notice Letter'). The Notice Letter confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Parker, in accordance with ADR Article 7.8.1, 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 a Prohibited Method). The Notice Letter informed Mr Parker of his right to request analysis of the B Sample and of the requirement to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs by 5 December 2025.
9. On 29 November 2025, Mr Parker requested that the Laboratory analyse the B Sample pursuant to ADR Article 7.9.1. On 10 December 2025, the Laboratory analysed the B Sample in accordance with the procedures set out in the ISL (with representatives for Mr Parker and UKAD in attendance) and confirmed the AAF for benzoylecgonine in respect of the A Sample. Accordingly, UKAD requested Mr Parker's explanation for the alleged ADRVs by a new deadline of 21 January 2026. Mr Parker sought (and was granted) an extension to this deadline to 28 January 2026.
10. On 28 January 2026, Mr Parker provided a response to the Notice Letter in which he averred that he "*did not knowingly or intentionally use cocaine*" and that he had "*identified the likely source of cocaine contamination and [was] in the process of compiling evidence in support of that explanation.*" Mr Parker requested that UKAD refrain from issuing a Charge Letter whilst he collected evidence relevant to his defence. UKAD considered Mr Parker's response and proceeded to issue Mr Parker

² In-Competition is defined in the ADR as the "*period commencing at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to participate through the end of such Competition and the Sample collection process related to such Competition [...]*".

with a Charge Letter on 25 February 2026, charging him with the commission of ADRVs pursuant to ADR Articles 2.1 and/or 2.2.

11. On 6 March 2026, Mr Parker provided a response to the Charge Letter in which he alleged that the AAF was the result of his exposure to cocaine from use by a nutritionist he employed in preparation for the bout on 25 October 2025 and who travelled to and stayed at a hotel in London throughout the week prior to the bout. Mr Parker enclosed with his response a written statement from the nutritionist who admitted to being a regular user of cocaine, as well as to daily use of cocaine from 17 to 24 October 2025. The nutritionist stated that his cocaine use took place in his hotel room, where he also prepared meals and drinks for Mr Parker to consume. Mr Parker provided analysis results of hair and nail samples collected from the nutritionist to an independent laboratory which indicated the presence of cocaine and its Metabolites, and an opinion from an independent scientific expert concerning those results.
12. On 14 April 2026, upon its review of the evidence submitted by Mr Parker, UKAD requested further information from Mr Parker in relation to his explanation for the AAF. On 14 May 2026, Mr Parker responded to UKAD's request, which stated (amongst other matters) that he first worked with the same nutritionist in April 2023.
13. On 22 May 2026, UKAD requested additional information from Mr Parker in relation to his explanation for the AAF. On 3 June 2026, Mr Parker provided UKAD with a response to its request for additional information.
14. On 15 June 2026, independent scientific expert, Professor David Cowan OBE provided UKAD with his written opinion in relation to Mr Parker's explanation for the AAF. In his report Professor Cowan outlined the following conclusions:

"20. It is my opinion that Mr Parker administered cocaine Out-of-Competition.

21. It is also my opinion that Mr Parker's administration of cocaine may have occurred orally from food contaminated with cocaine by his sports nutritionist who has admitted being a user of cocaine giving rise to the finding of benzoylecgonine in Mr Parker's urine Samples.

22. I cannot exclude the possibility that the finding of benzoylecgonine has arisen as the tail end of the administration of a larger pharmacologically active dose of cocaine."

15. On 22 June 2026, UKAD confirmed to Mr Parker that in light of Professor Cowan's opinion, it was satisfied that that any ingestion of cocaine occurred Out-of-Competition and for that reason any administration at that time would have occurred in a context unrelated to sport performance. Consequently, and irrespective of the merits of Mr Parker's explanation for the AAF, UKAD lifted Mr Parker's Provisional Suspension with immediate effect (i.e., on 22 June 2026) in accordance with ADR Article 7.10.3(c)(iv) on the basis that he had established entitlement to a reduced period of Ineligibility under

ADR Article 10.2.4(a). UKAD proposed a three (3) month period of Ineligibility for an ADRV under ADR Article 2.1 only, with credit afforded for the time he spent provisionally suspended in accordance with ADR Article 10.13.2(a). UKAD requested a response from Mr Parker by 26 June 2026.

Admission and Consequences

16. 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.*

17. 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.

18. In light of the expert opinion of Professor Cowan, UKAD accepts that any ingestion of cocaine by Mr Parker occurred Out-of-Competition (i.e., before 11:59pm on 24 October 2025) only and in a context unrelated to sport performance.

19. On 28 July 2026, Mr Parker confirmed to UKAD that he accepted an ADRV under ADR Article 2.1 and agreed to a three (3) month period of Ineligibility effective from 25 November 2025 to 24 February 2026 (inclusive) applying ADR Article 10.13.2(a).³

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.

³ An ADRV under ADR Article 2.2 was not pursued by UKAD following receipt of Professor Cowan's expert opinion that any ingestion of cocaine occurred Out-of-Competition.

21. Pursuant to the above, Mr Parker's result in the bout against Mr Wardley on 25 October 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 Parker has been subject to a Provisional Suspension from the date of the Notice Letter (i.e., from 25 November 2025) until the date it was lifted by UKAD (i.e., 22 June 2026). As far as UKAD is aware, Mr Parker has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension.
25. Affording Mr Parker credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed served between 25 November 2025 and 24 February 2026. Mr Parker 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 Parker has committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.1;
 - b) The result of Mr Parker's bout against Mr Wardley 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 Parker credit for the time he spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed served between 25 November 2025 and 24 February 2026.
27. Mr Parker, the BBBoC, Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui, 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.

6 August 2026