

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Evan Press

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of the Football Association of Wales

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR') of the Football Association of Wales (the 'FAW'). It concerns an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') committed by Mr Evan Press 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 FAW is the national governing body for the sport of football in Wales. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation for the United Kingdom. The FAW has implemented the Anti-Doping Regulations of the FAW, under which the FAW has in turn 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 Press is a 26-year-old, National-Level football player. As a player registered with the FAW, at all relevant times Mr Press was subject to the jurisdiction of the FAW 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 players that are subject to the jurisdiction of the FAW.
3. In May 2025, UKAD became aware through media coverage and subsequent engagement with South Wales Police ('SWP') that Mr Press had received a criminal conviction for the offence of being concerned in the supply of cocaine (a controlled drug of class A) to others (the 'Conviction').
4. Having been made aware of the Conviction, UKAD commenced an investigation and established the following facts:

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

- 4.1. Mr Press was registered with the FAW at all relevant times between 7 February 2021 and 28 November 2023, except for a three-month period between 1 June and 1 September 2021 (inclusive).
- 4.2. On 27 November 2023, SWP executed a search warrant at Mr Press' address, where his mobile phone was seized.
- 4.3. Mr Press was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of cocaine (a controlled class A drug) and cannabis (a controlled class B drug).
- 4.4. An examination of Mr Press's mobile phone found messages and notes (the latter containing lists) which, according to a Drug Expert Witness Report of 2 May 2024, were consistent with the supply of cocaine and cannabis.
- 4.5. SWP ultimately decided to charge Mr Press with the offence of being concerned in the supply of cocaine only, between 7 February 2021 and 28 November 2023.
5. In relation to the Conviction:
 - 5.1. Mr Press' case was first before Cardiff Magistrates' Court on 11 February 2025. At this hearing he indicated a guilty plea.
 - 5.2. At Cardiff Crown Court on 19 March 2025, Mr Press was given a custodial sentence of two (2) years and six (6) months.
 - 5.3. The sentencing Judge was satisfied that Mr Press had committed "*repeat drug dealing over a significant period of time*" and remarked that the messages found on his phone "*contained the evidence of the extent of [his] drug dealing*". However, the Judge acknowledged his age, immaturity and that Mr Press was at "*a particularly low ebb in [his] life*" at the time of the offence.
6. Cocaine is listed as a stimulant under section 6 of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') Prohibited Lists that applied during the period set out in paragraph 4.1 above. It is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only.
7. On 26 September 2025, UKAD sent Mr Press 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 an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.7 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by an Athlete or other Person). The Notice Letter invited Mr Press to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs.
8. Mr Press provided his response to the Notice Letter on 22 October 2025, in which he stated that he "*accept[s] the charge [the ADRV] in full*". He stated that he "*take[s] full responsibility for [his] actions*" and provided further information regarding the context of his ADRV and subsequent events; in particular, that:

- 8.1. The ADRV occurred during a period of personal and financial difficulty following the COVID-19 pandemic, where he made “*poor decisions*”;
 - 8.2. His prison sentence had a significant impact on his mental health, but he has worked hard and taken a number of steps to rehabilitate himself since being released;
 - 8.3. He understands the seriousness of what he did and the harm that trafficking Prohibited Substances causes to sport.
9. On 21 January 2026, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Press with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of a Trafficking ADRV concerning cocaine pursuant to ADR Article 2.7. The Charge Letter also informed Mr Press that the asserted period of Ineligibility for the ADRV is a minimum of four (4) years, pursuant to ADR Article 10.3.3.

Admission and Consequences

10. ADR Article 2.7 provides that the following is an ADRV:

Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by an Athlete or other Person

11. Trafficking is defined in the ADR as follows:

Selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by an Athlete, Athlete Support Person or any other Person subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation to any third party; provided, however, that this definition shall not include (a) the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification; or (b) actions involving Prohibited Substances which are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate that such Prohibited Substances were not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

12. ADR Article 10.3.3 provides as follows:

For an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.7 or 2.8 that is the Athlete's or other Person's first anti-doping offence, the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of four (4) years up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation [...].

13. Having assessed the seriousness of Mr Press' ADRV, including the factors set out at paragraph 5.3 above, UKAD considers the applicable period of Ineligibility to be four (4) years.
14. On 1 February 2026, Mr Press responded to the Charge Letter, admitting the ADRVs and accepting the Consequences asserted by UKAD, including a period of Ineligibility of four (4) years and Public Disclosure of this matter.

Application of ADR Article 10.8.1

15. 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 years (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.

16. Mr Press admitted the ADRV 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 Press shall receive a one (1) year reduction to the four (4) year period of Ineligibility asserted, meaning that after the applicable reduction, a three (3) year period of Ineligibility is imposed.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Mr Press has been subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date he received the Notice Letter (i.e. 26 September 2025) and, so far as UKAD is aware, he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, affording Mr Press credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is

deemed to have commenced on 26 September 2025 and will end at 11:59pm on 25 September 2028.

Status during Ineligibility

20. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr Press shall 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) FAW;
 - 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;
 - 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.
21. Mr Press may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a FAW club or a Signatory's member organisation during the last two (2) months of his period of Ineligibility (i.e. from 11:59pm on 25 July 2028) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b).

Summary

22. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
- a) Mr Press has committed an ADRV pursuant to ADR Article 2.7;
 - b) Mr Press 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;
 - c) Acknowledging Mr Press' Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 26 September 2025, and expires at 11:59pm on 25 September 2028; and
 - d) Mr Press' status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.
23. Mr Press, the FAW, FIFA and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.

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

12 August 2026