

Issued Decision

UK Anti-Doping and Marcus Harrison

Disciplinary Proceedings under the Anti-Doping Rules of British Weight Lifting

This is an Issued Decision made by UK Anti-Doping ('UKAD') pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR') of British Weight Lifting ('BWL'). It concerns Anti-Doping Rule Violations ('ADRVs') committed by Mr Marcus Harrison 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. BWL is the national governing body for the sport of weightlifting in the United Kingdom. UKAD is the National Anti-Doping Organisation for the United Kingdom. BWL 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 Harrison is a 33-year-old weightlifter. As an Athlete registered with BWL and a participant in Competitions and other activities organised, convened, authorised or recognised by BWL, at all relevant times Mr Harrison was subject to the jurisdiction of BWL 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 BWL.
3. On 22 October 2025, a UKAD Doping Control Officer ('DCO') collected a urine Sample from Mr Harrison, Out-of-Competition, at MBG Performance Centre, Unit 3C, Preston, PR1 7RJ.
4. Assisted by the DCO, Mr Harrison split the urine Sample into two separate bottles which were given reference numbers A8376257 (the 'A Sample') and B8376257 (the 'B Sample'), respectively.
5. Both Samples were transported to the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') accredited laboratory, the Drug Control Centre, King's College London (the

¹ Version 1.0, in effect as from 1 January 2021

'Laboratory'). The Laboratory analysed the A Sample in accordance with the procedures set out in WADA's International Standard for Laboratories.

6. At the request of UKAD and due to boldenone being detected in the A Sample, in accordance with WADA Technical Document – TD2022IRMS, the Laboratory subcontracted the WADA accredited laboratory in Rome, Laboratorio Antidoping FMSI (the 'Rome Laboratory'), to conduct Gas Chromatography / Combustion / Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry ('GC/C/IRMS') analysis of the A Sample.
7. The results of the GC/C/IRMS analysis confirmed an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') for boldenone of an exogenous origin, and its Metabolite, 17 β -hydroxy 5 β -androst-1-en-3-one (the 'First AAF').
8. Boldenone is listed at S1.1 of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List as an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid. It is a non-Specified Substance which, when administered exogenously, is prohibited at all times.
9. On 27 January 2026, UKAD sent Mr Harrison a letter (the 'First Notice Letter'). The First Notice Letter confirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Harrison, 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 by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method). The First Notice Letter informed Mr Harrison of his right to request analysis of the B Sample in relation to the First AAF and of the requirement to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs by no later than 6 February 2026.
10. The First Notice Letter also informed Mr Harrison that further GC/C/IRMS analysis of the A Sample by the Rome Laboratory had returned an additional AAF for testosterone of an exogenous origin, and its Metabolites; androsterone; etiocholanolone; 5 α -androstane-3 α , 17 β -diol; and 5 β -androstane-3 α , 17 β -diol (the 'Second AAF').
11. Testosterone is listed at section S1.1 of the 2025 WADA Prohibited List as an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid. It is a non-Specified Substance which, when administered exogenously, is prohibited at all times.
12. On 6 February 2026, UKAD sent Mr Harrison another letter (the 'Second Notice Letter'). The Second Notice Letter reaffirmed the imposition of a Provisional Suspension and formally notified Mr Harrison, 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 by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method). The Second Notice Letter informed Mr Harrison of his right to request analysis of the B Sample in relation to the Second AAF and of the requirement to provide an explanation for the alleged ADRVs by no later than 16 February 2026.

13. UKAD made numerous attempts to contact Mr Harrison via email, telephone, and text message between 26 January 2026 and 17 February 2026. UKAD did not receive any response from Mr Harrison, except for a text message on 27 January 2026 in which he confirmed the email address at which he could receive correspondence from UKAD.
14. On 27 February 2026, UKAD emailed Mr Harrison to say it had not received his response to the First or Second Notice Letters, and that if no response was received by 2 March 2026, it would proceed to issue him with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2.
15. On 12 August 2026, having still received no response to the First or Second Notice Letters, UKAD proceeded to issue Mr Harrison with a Charge Letter in accordance with ADR Article 7.11.2. The Charge Letter asserted the commission of ADRVs pursuant to Article 2.1 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample) and/or Article 2.2 (Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) and UKAD's conclusion that Aggravating Circumstances are present, on the basis that multiple Prohibited Substances were detected in the A Sample, which justify the imposition of a six (6) year period of Ineligibility in respect of Mr Harrison's ADRVs. The Charge Letter requested a response from Mr Harrison by no later than 24 August 2026.
16. On 25 August 2026, UKAD emailed Mr Harrison to say it had not received his response to the Charge Letter, and that if no response was received by 1 September 2026, it would proceed to publication of a written decision confirming the commission of the ADRVs charged.

Deemed admission and Consequences

17. UKAD received no response from Mr Harrison in respect of the Charge Letter, or otherwise. In accordance with ADR Article 7.11.4, Mr Harrison is therefore deemed to have admitted the ADRVs with which he has been charged and to have acceded to the Consequences specified in the Charge Letter. As such, this case can be resolved by way of this Decision and without the need for a hearing.
18. 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.**
19. 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.**

20. 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.

21. In accordance with ADR Article 10.2.1(a), since this matter concerns non-Specified Substances, the applicable period of Ineligibility shall be four (4) years, unless Mr Harrison can establish, on the balance of probabilities, that the ADRVs were not 'intentional' (within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3).

22. As a result of his lack of response to UKAD, as set out above, Mr Harrison is deemed to have admitted the ADRVs charged. Mr Harrison has not sought to establish that his ADRVs were not 'intentional' (within the meaning of ADR Article 10.2.3). Accordingly, Mr Harrison 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) thereafter. Consequently, the period of Ineligibility under ADR Article 10.2.1(a) of four (4) years applies as the standard sanction.

23. 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 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 most 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.

Aggravating Circumstances

24. ADR Article 10.4 provides:

10.4 Aggravating Circumstances which may increase the period of Ineligibility

If UKAD establishes, in an individual case involving an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or 2.10, that Aggravating Circumstances are present that justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction otherwise applicable in accordance with Article 10.2 or 10.3 the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable shall be increased by an additional period of Ineligibility of up to two (2) years depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of the Aggravating Circumstances, unless the Athlete or other Person can establish that they did not knowingly commit the Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

25. 'Aggravating Circumstances' are defined in the ADR as follows:

Aggravating Circumstances: *Circumstances involving, or actions by, an Athlete or other Person which may justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction.*

26. The examples of circumstances and conduct in relation to Aggravating Circumstances that are provided in the ADR are not exhaustive.

27. Pursuant to the definition in the ADR, circumstances which may amount to Aggravating Circumstances may include:

... the Athlete or other Person Used or Possessed multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Used or Possessed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions, or committed multiple other Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

28. UKAD has considered the circumstances of Mr Harrison's ADRVs, which includes the presence of two (2) different Prohibited Substances and their Metabolites, and considers that, pursuant to ADR Article 10.4, Aggravating Circumstances have been established which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction. Mr Harrison has not sought to establish that he did not knowingly commit the ADRVs charged. UKAD has determined that, in view of the Aggravating Circumstances established in the case, the standard sanction should be increased by two (2) years.

29. Therefore, the applicable period of Ineligibility asserted by UKAD in this case is six (6) years.

Commencement of period of Ineligibility

30. 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.
31. 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.
32. Mr Harrison has been subject to a Provisional Suspension since the date he received the First Notice Letter (i.e. 27 January 2026) and, so far as UKAD is aware, he has respected the terms of that Provisional Suspension. Therefore, affording Mr Harrison credit for the time he has spent provisionally suspended, his period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 27 January 2026 and will end at 11:59pm on 26 January 2032.

Status during Ineligibility

33. During the period of Ineligibility, in accordance with ADR Article 10.14.1, Mr Harrison 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 or recognised by:
 - a) BWL;
 - 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.
34. Mr Harrison may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a BWL-affiliated 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 November 2031) pursuant to ADR Article 10.14.4(b).

Summary

35. For the reasons given above, UKAD has issued this Decision in accordance with ADR Article 7.12.2, and records that:
 - a) Mr Harrison 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 one (1) single ADRV for the purposes of imposing a sanction;
 - c) The applicable period of Ineligibility is six (6) years under the application of ADR Articles 10.2.1(a) and 10.4;
 - d) Acknowledging Mr Harrison's Provisional Suspension, the period of Ineligibility is deemed to have commenced on 27 January 2026, and expires at 11:59pm on 26 January 2032; and
 - e) Mr Harrison's status during the period of Ineligibility shall be as detailed in ADR Article 10.14.
36. Mr Harrison, BWL, International Weightlifting Federation ('IWF') and WADA have a right to appeal against this Decision or any part of it in accordance with ADR Article 13.4.
37. This Decision will be publicly announced via UKAD's website in accordance with ADR Article 8.5.3 and ADR Article 10.15.

28 September 2026