

New Zealand Rugby Judicial Committee

between

**SPORT INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Applicant

and

**HOANI TUTAKANGAHAU**

Respondent

and

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY**

Interested Party

**DECISION OF COMMITTEE**

4 June 2026

## DECISION OF COMMITTEE

### Introduction

1. This Judicial Committee (**Committee**) has been appointed to determine the Anti-Doping Rule Violations (**ADRVs**) brought by the Sport Integrity Commission against Mr Hoani Tutakangahau (**Respondent**).
2. It is alleged that the Respondent committed ADRVs in breach of Rules 2.6 (Possession) and 2.2 (Use/Attempted Use) of the Sports Anti-Doping Rules 2025 (**SADR**), arising from the electronic purchase of the prohibited substances Testosterone and Oxandrolone.
3. The Respondent was, at all material times, bound by SADR through his New Zealand Rugby membership registration for the 2025 season.
4. The Respondent has not engaged in the proceedings before the Committee. Pursuant to World Rugby Rule (**WRR**) 21.8.3.2, when a Player or Person against whom an anti-doping rule violation is asserted fails to dispute that assertion in 20 days of receipt of the notice, then World Rugby shall deem the Player to admit the violation and waive rights to a hearing.
5. By Order of the Committee dated 9 April 2026, the Respondent was provisionally suspended. This decision addresses sanction for the ADRVs.

### Background

6. On or about 5 December 2025, the New Zealand Customs Service intercepted a parcel addressed to the Respondent containing:
  - (a) Testosterone Enanthate (2 vials); and
  - (b) Oxandrolone (100 tablets).
7. Testosterone and Oxandrolone are Prohibited Substances under the 2025 Prohibited List. Both are non-specified substances classified under category S1 (Anabolic Agents) and are prohibited at all times, irrespective of whether the Player is in competition.
8. The parcel was addressed to the Respondent at a Kawerau address. This address is associated with the Respondent.
9. The Respondent was registered with Te Teko Rugby Football Club on 8 April 2025 and was therefore registered with New Zealand Rugby through to 31 December 2025 pursuant to the New Zealand Rugby Registration Regulations at rule 17, and as such, subject to SADR.

### Jurisdiction

10. The Committee is satisfied that it has jurisdiction. New Zealand Rugby has adopted SADR, and all players registered with New Zealand Rugby are bound by SADR as part of their registration.

## **Findings**

### **(1) Possession (Rule 2.6)**

11. Possession includes the purchase of a Prohibited Substance by any means, including electronically, irrespective of whether the substance is ultimately received, and where the Athlete had knowledge and intended to exercise control over it.
12. The Respondent knew about purchasing the Prohibited Substances when the package was addressed directly to the Respondent and to an address with him demonstrating clear intent to exercise control over it, absent to any evidence to the contrary.
13. The Respondent's lack of response to and engagement in the proceedings before this Committee means he is deemed to have admitted Possession of Testosterone and Oxandrolone under WRR 21.8.3.2.

### **(2) Attempted Use (Rule 2.2)**

13. Attempted Use arises where an Athlete engages in conduct constituting a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in Use. The success or failure of the Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance is not material. It is sufficient that the Prohibited Substance was Attempted to be Used for an anti-doping rule violation to be committed.
14. The purchase of Prohibited Substances, absent of any other evidence, constitutes such a substantial step. Although the Prohibited Substances was intercepted at Customs, it is sufficient evidence that it was Attempted to be Used.
15. The Respondent's lack of response to and engagement in the proceedings before this Committee means he is deemed to have admitted Attempted Use of Testosterone and Oxandrolone under WRR 21.8.3.2.

## **Sanction**

### **(1) Applicable Period of Ineligibility**

16. Pursuant to Rule 10.2.1.2 SADR, the period of ineligibility for ADRVs involving non-specified substances is four (4) years, unless the Athlete establishes that the violation was not intentional.
17. The Respondent has not sought to establish that the violations were not intentional, having neither participated in any proceedings in relation to this matter nor provided any evidence to the contrary.
18. Accordingly, the applicable period of ineligibility for each violation is four (4) years.

### **(2) No Reduction**

19. The burden rests on the Respondent to establish any basis for reduction.
20. The Respondent's non-engagement in the proceedings means that no case has been advanced to support any elimination or reduction of sanction.

21. A deemed admission is not a timely admission for the purposes of any mitigation of sanction.
22. The Committee is satisfied that no reduction of sanction applies.

**(3) Single First Violation**

23. There is no evidence of prior ADRVs committed by the Respondent.
24. The ADRVs arise from the same factual matrix and are treated as a single first violation.
25. The applicable sanction for the ADRV's committed by the Respondent is a period of four (4) years' ineligibility pursuant to SADR r10.2.1.2.

**(4) Credit for Provisional Suspension**

26. The Respondent was provisionally suspended on 9 April 2026.
27. There is no evidence of non-compliance with that suspension.
28. The Respondent is entitled to credit for the period of provisional suspension served.

**Decision**

29. The decision of the Committee is that:
  - (a) The Respondent has committed ADRVs in breach of Rules 2.6 and 2.2 SADR;
  - (b) The Respondent is sanctioned to a period of four (4) years' ineligibility; and
  - (c) The period of ineligibility shall commence on 9 April 2026.

Dated 4 June 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H R Morgan', with a period at the end.

H R Morgan  
Committee Chair