

**SPORTS TRIBUNAL**  
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Dear [CEO of NSO]

**Advice that Sports Tribunal has revised its policy towards sanctions in anti-doping cases involving cannabis – starting point now four months' ineligibility**

The Sports Tribunal of New Zealand has recently reviewed and revised its policy on sanctions that it will impose in anti-doping cases involving cannabis violations.

The Tribunal has requested me to advise national sports organisations of this revised policy.

The Tribunal has generally been imposing sanctions of ineligibility (i.e. suspensions) of between one month and two months on athletes who commit violations involving cannabis, provided it is the athlete's first anti-doping violation.

However, the Tribunal has been indicating in its recent decisions that it may need to revise this approach.

The Sports Tribunal advises that it will now be imposing longer sanctions of suspension:

- The starting point for a first anti-doping violation involving cannabis will now be four months' ineligibility (suspension).
- This period may be increased or decreased depending on the presence of aggravating or mitigating factors.
- This will bring the Tribunal's sanctions in line with those recently imposed in overseas jurisdictions in cannabis cases.

Would you please advise athletes, officials, coaches and other members in your organisation of this new policy of the Sports Tribunal. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Brent Ellis  
Registrar  
Sports Tribunal of New Zealand