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Member of Surf Life Saving New Zealand suspended for 9 months for anti- doping rule violation

The Sports Tribunal has suspended John Elsmore, a member of Surf Life Saving New Zealand, for nine months for the presence of 11-nor-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid (a metabolite of THC), which is a specified substance prohibited in competition.

Mr Elsmore was provisionally suspended without opposition on 12 June 2020. He admitted the violation but asked to be heard as to the appropriate sanction.

On 28 July 2020, the parties filed a joint memorandum on sanction that suggested a period of ineligibility of nine months be imposed, backdated to the date of the test for Mr Elsmore's timely admission. The memorandum suggested that it was open to the Tribunal to find no significant fault, and stated that Drug Free Sport New Zealand did not seek to establish intention.

The Tribunal agreed with the proposal, and imposed a suspension of nine months backdated to commence from 14 March 2020 (the date of the test).

The decision in this case is available for download from the website of the Sports Tribunal (www.sportstribunal.org.nz). See *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v John Elsmore* (ST 03/20). Copies can also be obtained directly from the Registrar, Sports Tribunal of New Zealand (telephone: 0800 55 66 80; e-mail: info@sportstribunal.org.nz).