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Archer suspended for anti-doping rule violations

Competitive Archer Robert Knight has been suspended by the Sports Tribunal for a period of two years from participating in all sports which are signatories to the Sport Anti-doping Rules (SADRs).

Mr Knight participated in the North Island Senior Target Champs in April 2023 and underwent a drug test. His sample showed the presence of the Beta Blocker metoprolol and its metabolite a-hydroxy-metoprolol which is a specified substance prohibited at all times for Archery Athletes.

Mr Knight, who admitted the violation, says that he had been prescribed metoprolol by his doctor, who he says knew he was a competitive archer, to treat an ongoing condition and he did not know it was a prohibited substance. Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ) did not seek to establish that Mr Knight had taken the substance intentionally to enhance his performance.

The Tribunal accepted that the presence of the prohibited substance in Mr Knight's system was sufficient to establish that an anti-doping rule violation had occurred and further accepted that Mr Knight had no intention of using the substance in competition. Accordingly, the Tribunal imposed a sanction of a two-year period of ineligibility.

The period of ineligibility is backdated to the date of the provisional suspension order imposed on Mr Knight on 10 November 2023 meaning he is suspended until 10 November 2025.

The decision in this case can be found at www.sportstribunal.org.nz *Drug Free Sport New Zealand v Robert Knight (ST 09/23)*.

Additional information about prohibited substances, ADVRs, and sanctions can be found in the WADA Prohibited List (www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list) and the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (www.drugfreesport.org.nz).