

UKAD announces results of public consultation on publication of charges and provisional suspensions

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UKAD to maintain current policy of not publishing provisional suspensions or charges ahead of hearings unless there are "exceptional circumstances"

UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) has published today the results of a public consultation that was held last year, which asked whether it should change its existing policy on the public disclosure of provisional suspensions and/or charges relating to Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs).

UKAD took the decision to hold the consultation as there are some sports, such as athletics and tennis, that do publish provisional suspensions and charges before a hearing takes place, while others do not.

The consultation was completed over 200 times by stakeholders across sport including by 135 athletes. It asked if UKAD should publicly disclose the fact that an athlete or other person has been provisionally suspended and/or charged with an ADRV at the time of the suspension or charge or, as is the case now, only do so when an ADRV is confirmed (by a decision of an independent hearing panel or a decision issued by UKAD that has been agreed to by the person charged).

The results of the consultation and additional discussion with interested parties were considered by the UKAD board at its February meeting. The board noted that a majority of respondents supported maintaining the current policy. However, it was recognised that some respondents expressed a view that there may be rare occasions when it would be appropriate for UKAD to disclose provisional suspension or charge.

Based on the evidence before it the UKAD Board decided that UKAD will **not routinely publicly disclose the fact that an athlete has been charged or provisionally suspended before the charge has been resolved**. However, it has decided that there might be limited and rare examples where it is necessary to do so and therefore the revised policy provides UKAD with the ability to publicly disclose a provisional suspension and charge, but only in exceptional circumstances.

Speaking on the announcement, UKAD Chair Trevor Pearce said, “We are very grateful to all those who took the time to engage in our consultation.

“It is right to periodically examine whether UKAD’s policies are still fit and proper today to protect sport.

“Further emphasis was given to the consultation because some UK athletes were already bound by rules which allowed the disclosure of notices of charge or suspensions, for example in athletics. We had also recognised that frequent requests to disclose the names of athletes who have been provisionally suspended meant it was right to consider the transparency of our approach.

“We are particularly impressed by the level of athlete engagement in the consultation. They were keen to emphasise that the protection of athlete or athlete support personnel welfare is paramount, and there was concern that the proposed change would put this at risk.

It was noted though that athletes, support personnel and sports were also committed to the notion of doping free sport.

This policy change has been subject of further consultation with UKAD’s Athlete Commission.”

The full policy and a summary of the responses to the consultation is available on the UKAD website [here](#).

This policy will not affect cases where athletes are subject to charges brought by their International Federation in accordance with its rules and policies, which may provide for the publication of charges and provisional suspensions in all cases.

[ENDS – 552 words]

Notes to Editors

It is anticipated that UKAD will only publicly disclose provisional suspensions and / or charges on rare occasions. The decision to publicly disclose will be taken by the Chief Executive on the advice of Directors.

Please note that this this Policy does not change or limit Article 14.1.4 of the UK Anti-Doping Rules, which permits UKAD to respond to public comments attributed to or

based on information provided by a person charged with an ADRV, or a member of their entourage or representative.

UK Anti-Doping

UK Anti-Doping is responsible for ensuring sports bodies in the UK are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code through implementation and management of the UK's National Anti-Doping Policy.

UK Anti-Doping's functions include an education and information programme, athlete testing across more than 40 Olympic, Paralympic and professional sports, intelligence management and exclusive results management authority for the determination of anti-doping rule violations.

For more information on what we do, please click [here](#).

UK Anti-Doping's 2018-2022 Strategy

UK Anti-Doping launched its four-year Strategic Plan in 2018 focussed on protecting the right to enjoy doping-free sport through four key strategic objectives. These objectives are:

- Catching those who cheat
- Providing information and education
- Working with sports
- Influence anti-doping decision-making

To read the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, please click [here](#).

The National Anti-Doping Panel

Operated by Sport Resolutions, the National Anti-Doping Panel is an independent tribunal responsible for adjudicating anti-doping disputes in sport in the UK.

For more information on the NADP, please visit the Sport Resolutions [website](#).

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