

Perth Football Club Player Banned

The [Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority](#) (ASADA) has acknowledged decision of the West Australian Football League (WAFL) Anti-Doping Tribunal for imposing a ban of two years on Perth Football Club player Joel Fiegert, for the presence of prohibited substances. The WA Football Commission released findings from a WAFL anti-doping tribunal hearing and said the 21-year-old Fiegert tested positive to an illicit drug prohibited under clause 11.1 of the anti-doping code.

The substances D-amphetamine and D-methamphetamine were detected in a sample that was collected by the ASADA in-competition from Mr Fiegert, following a 30 July 2011 match between Perth and South Fremantle at Brownes Stadium, Western Australia. D-amphetamine and D-methamphetamine are classified as stimulants and are prohibited in-competition, under the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List.

Fiegert, who played 13 league matches in four seasons at the Demons, said he was clean and vehemently denied producing a positive test or being suspended at the end of last season. The ban imposed on Fiegert by the WAFL tribunal was backdated to the date of his provisional suspension and he would be ineligible to participate as an athlete or support person until 23 August 2013 in any sports that have adopted a World Anti-Doping Agency compliant anti-doping policy.

Perth president Vince Pandal was believed to be devastated by the information, but he would not discuss it and said we are not making any comment until the process has gone through. Perth Football Club chief executive Marty Atkins said the club supported the tough stance against recreational drugs and added that he club would work with the player and his family to give him the chance to a make a return to the club once the ban had been lifted.

The former Perth Demons midfielder has become the fourth WAFL player in two years to be suspended for testing positive to a banned substance after East Perth's Kane Goodwin, Swan Districts' Travis Casserly, and fellow Royal Dean Cadwallader. Goodwin tested positive to cocaine and the anabolic agent Clenbuterol and can play again in June next year. Casserly tested positive to the banned stimulant pseudoephedrine in cold tablets that he used during the 2010 grand final and would be eligible to play next season. Since then, he has visited many clubs for warning players of risks caused by drugs. The ban of Cadwallader for using Nandrolone expired in May.

[Joel Fiegert](#) is no longer at the Demons and is working in Karratha and said he is not aware of a positive test. When asked why he didn't play the last two matches of 2011, Fiegert replied that he had a stress fracture in his foot last year.

The WAFC informed all WAFL presidents of the identity of the suspended player's club but stayed away from disclosing name of the player. The matter was being overseen by WA Football Commission integrity manager Steve Hargrave, who is the only WAFC official who was authorized to discuss it but said confidentiality requirements meant he could not comment. In 2010, ASADA conducted 24 WAFL tests but doubled that last year and may double again this season at a cost of nearly \$100,000.