

Anzac League Test May Get Disrupted With Doping Tests

If the Australian Sports Anti Doping Authority requests interviews with players in the Kiwis and Kangaroos teams, the preparations for the Anzac Day test in Canberra could be disrupted for both sides.

Meanwhile, [Rugby League](#) International Federation chairman, New Zealander Scott Carter, admitted that he has concerns about the World Cup could be affected by players serving bans during the tournament. The members of the playing teams are presently under doubt and a potential cloud hangs over both camps in their preparation as the Australian Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA) has begun its interview process with the 31 NRL players it claims breached anti-doping regulations during the 2011 season. The anti-doping agency, based in Canberra, has already issued several infraction notices, calling players in for extensive interviewing.

There is a possibility that some of the Kangaroos players may be caught up in the investigation, Coach Tim Sheens admits but said that he is retaining a solitary focus on getting his side ready for the Anzac Day test in Canberra. Sheens added that he is not going to worry himself about it and would go on to concentrate on preparing the team and also remarked that the team will address anything adverse at the same time if that happens. The Kangaroos coach also remarked that we have only got a short preparation, so his aim at the moment is to get the team ready and worry about other things.

It is rumored that Kiwis back rower Jeremy Smith is one of the players in the spotlight of the Australian Anti-Doping Agency as he was at [Cronulla Sharks](#) in 2011, the team and year Asada is most concerned about. The player is certain to be named in the New Zealand side but New Zealand Rugby League CEO Phil Holden says he is unaware of any Kiwi players that Asada needs to talk to and said he is not aware of any of the details around it or if any of his players have been contacted and if someone had to be interviewed it would have an impact on them on a personal level.

Many believe that there still remains the possibility of players receiving bans that would take them out of contention for the World Cup, which begins in October. Meanwhile, the prospects of BBC securing the broadcasting rights for the World Cup in the UK and huge exposure during the tournament and open up the game to new markets in Britain outside its powerbase in the north of England may get damaged if Australia and the Kiwis are missing any top stars due to bans for taking illegal performance enhancing drugs.

The bottom line is that any international or national body would be concerned if there were drug issues, especially if they were widespread and whether it's a national team or a World Cup, nobody would want it tarnished by marquee players missing, Rugby League International Federation chairman, New Zealander Scott Carter, said. He added that the ASADA issue is an interesting one because everyone is still waiting to see whether this is an issue as big as it has been hinted at or not and to date, there is no reason to suspect there would be wholesale decimation of national sides.