

Leading Australian Sprinter Faces 2-Year Doping Ban

Australian sprinter Matt Davies is facing a potential suspension of two years for taking a banned substance. The 28-year-old Queenslander is fighting the charge.

It is rumored that Davies purchased supplements from overseas which he believed were not included in the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) banned list. The maximum suspension that could be imposed on the sprinter is two years.

Davies is understood to have imported tablet supplements to help with training recovery, in the belief they were not banned products and the credit card statements of the sprinter verified he had purchased the products overseas. The player was understood to have spent more than \$20,000 fighting the drugs charge, arguing his innocence on the basis that the products were not under the banned list.

The Aussie sprinter has the right to challenge the charge and any suspension at either the Court of Arbitration for Sport or at an Athletics Australia (AA) independent tribunal. ASADA or AA can officially comment on the matter only once that process has been completed. The sprinter, who was a member of the Australian team which finished fourth in the 4x100m relay at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and also reached the 200m quarterfinals in New Delhi, has represented Australia in the 4x100m relay at the past two world championships.

The sprinter's 100m personal best of 10.23 seconds that places him 12th on the Australian all-time list. The two-time world championships representative made his first Australian team in 2009 where he was a member of the men's 4x100m relay team at the Berlin world championships. The last appearance of Davies was in the green and gold was at the 2011 world championships in Daegu where the 4x100m relay team again failed to get out of the opening round. Davies hasn't competed since June last year as an athlete must be provisionally suspended from all competition if he fails an initial (A) drug test, under ASADA guidelines.

In a statement, [Athletics Australia](#) said we as a signatory to the WADA code cannot preempt any announcement from ASADA regarding any athlete findings or sanctions and we are therefore not in a position to provide comment at this time but will do so at such time as ASADA publicly releases any findings relevant to athletics.

In another development, a second Australian field athlete is being investigated for a drug offense after missing drug tests three times. The field athlete, who has represented Australia at Olympics and world championships, was on three occasions not present at the accommodation he had told

the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority he would be at when drug testers arrived. Missing drug tests operates on a three strikes system – a third missed test is treated as a failed result.

Meanwhile, ASADA did announce the decision by Surf Life Saving Australia to ban competitor Fraser Haughton for two years for using [methylhexaneamine](#), which was detected in a sample ASADA collected at the 2012 Australian championships on the Gold Coast. ASADA stated on its website Methylhexaneamine, also referred to as dimethylamylamine and dimethylpentylamine, is classed as an S6 stimulant on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List and is prohibited in competition and added ASADA encourages any athlete who may still have products containing methylhexaneamine purchased prior to 1 August 2012, to dispose of these accordingly.