

## **Cronulla Sharks Players Receive Doping Show-Cause Notices**

Show-cause notices have been issued to seventeen past and present [Cronulla Sharks](#) players over the 2011 supplements program of the club.

A proposal regarding a possible suspension by the anti-doping authority has been offered to Nathan Gardner, Wade Graham, Anthony Tupou, John Morris, and Paul Gallen.

According to News Corp Australia, the notices were distributed at a series of meetings on August 20. The players will have ten days to submit their response and have the option of challenging the notices. The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) and Cronulla have confirmed five players presently contracted to the Sharks and 12 former players of the club have received show cause notices from the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority.

Sharks skipper Paul Gallen is one of the involved players and expressed concern that they will be labeled as drug cheats by accepting reduced bans. Gallen remarked our reputation is tarnished now already, but no matter what, if we do this we're going to be labeled a drug cheat. Gallen also said whatever happens is going to happen and we can just get on with life because closure on this thing would just be unbelievable after what we have gone through the past two seasons. Gallen said he had not taken any banned substance and said it would be devastating if he is prevented from playing for Australia and seeing his reputation damaged.

In a statement, the Cronulla Sharks said five players have been offered a proposal regarding a possible suspension. It was added that the Sharks will continue to act in the best interests of the players and are providing on-going support, both to those issued with the notices as well as others in the club, while solicitors acting for the players will continue to manage the process on their behalf. It was also revealed that the ASADA CEO (Ben McDevitt) based on his assessment of the evidence has reached the conclusion that the players have a case to answer under the World Anti-Doping Code. The club statement said the Sharks will continue to act in the best interests of the players and are providing on-going support both to those issued with the notices as well as others in the club and added that solicitors acting for the players will continue to manage the process on their behalf.

In a statement, ASADA remarked the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) commenced issuing 'show cause' notices to current and former players from the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks Football Club. It added a total of 17 'show cause' notices are to be issued in accordance with the ASADA Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) responsibilities under the ASADA Act and relate to the use of prohibited substances, CJC-1295 and [GHRP-6](#), during the 2011 season and the decision to issue 'show cause' notices by ASADA CEO, Ben McDevitt is based on evidence collected during the 16 month investigation. ASADA added the World Anti-Doping Code's Prohibited List categorizes CJC-1295 and GHRP-6 under S2 '[Peptide Hormones](#), Growth Factors and Related Substances' and added that anyone considering the use of these substances should be aware that they may result in potentially serious health consequences. It was added that GHRP-6 is not approved for human use in Australia.