

Gold Coast Suns And Carlton In AFL Doping Saga

The AFL doping scandal has expanded its horizons than previously thought and revealed, with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority accusing Essendon players of using a second banned drug and sports scientist Stephen Dank of trafficking peptides to Gold Coast Suns and Carlton club officials and covering up doping by a footballer from Gold Coast.

An outline of the case of ASADA and other documents presently before a specially-convened AFL Tribunal alleged that Stephen Dank supplied banned drugs including [Human growth hormone](#) (HGH) to a Carlton coach and the banned peptide CJC-1295 to more than one official at the Gold Coast Suns. The sports scientist is also accused of covering up the use of CJC-1295 BY Gold Coast defender Nathan Bock, who retired from the AFL earlier this year.

The new drug and the involvement of other clubs were revealed by ASADA's senior counsel, Malcolm Holmes QC, in an outline of the case and a charge sheet issued against Dank. The charges involving Carlton pertain to a high-profile coach no longer working at the club. It is alleged by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority that Stephen Dank provided one or more of Human growth hormone, SARMs, Hexarelin, Mechano Growth Factor, and CJC-1295 to the coach between March and October 2012. The charges involving the Suns predate the [Essendon supplements scandal](#). ASADA also alleges that Dank administered Bombers players with [Hexarelin](#) — as well as TB4 — during his time at the club.

The AFL Tribunal hearings into the Essendon supplements scandal will resume from January 12 after a break for Christmas. In a statement, Tribunal chairman David Jones said the hearing of the proceedings was confirmed to commence on December 15, 2014, to continue for a number of days prior to Christmas and then resume on January 12, 2015.

The AFL Anti-Doping Tribunal is chaired by former county court judge Jones, another former county court judge John Nixon and barrister, and former Swans player Wayne Henwood.

According to media reports, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority will seek assistance of the Supreme Court in an attempt to force Shane Charter and compound pharmacist Nima Alavi to give evidence to the Tribunal.

In December, Charter had remarked that he has been bashed and received death threats. Charter - the biochemist who sourced the banned peptide Thymosin beta-4 for Dank, further urged authorities to subpoena Stephen Dank. Essendon has maintained that its players were given Thymomodulin, a Thymosin peptide permitted for use in sport, and not Thymosin Beta 4 throughout 2012. The case of ASADA is heavily reliant on a sworn statement and other documents provided by Charter who has provided details of his role in importing an order of peptides, including Thymosin Beta 4, in December 2011, from China.

Charter is the star witness of ASADA and alleged supplied the substances to sports scientist Stephen Dank. Since the Tribunal does not have the powers to demand that Alavi and Charter appear, the legal team of ASADA is likely to approach the Supreme Court seeking subpoenas under the Commercial Arbitration Act.