

Springboks Hooker Banned For Doping

Springboks hooker [Chiliboy Ralepelle](#) has been suspended for a period of two years, according to an announcement by World Rugby.

Chiliboy Ralepelle played 22 tests for the Springboks as a hooker between 2006 and 2013. The 28-year-old Ralepelle was the first black player to captain the Springboks when he led them against a World XV in a game in 2006 in England, and was touted as a future long-term skipper.

The 28-year-old, who played 23 Tests for the Springboks between 2006 and 2013, underwent an out-of-competition doping control test on March 19, 2014.

Ralepelle was recovering from an operation on an anterior cruciate ligament after a knee injury he sustained while playing for Toulouse against Biarritz in France in February last year. The analysis of the Springboks hooker's sample returned a positive test for a metabolite of an anabolic steroid, Drostanolone, which appears in Section S1.1a Anabolic Androgenic Steroids in the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2014 list of prohibited substances.

[Drostanolone](#) is an anabolic steroid that is known to produce effects similar to testosterone. It is commonly used by amateur and professional bodybuilders to improve muscle hardness.

This is the second time that Ralepelle tested positive for a banned substance. He was cleared of wrongdoing along with teammate Bjorn Basson after a supplement given to the South Africa squad on a European tour in 2010 contained the banned stimulant [Methylhexanamine](#). The South Africa international hooker was left without any punishment after it emerged that the stimulant was in a supplement given to the players in the warm-up before the game against Ireland.

Ralepelle was provisionally suspended following the positive test and requested additional time to conduct confidential enquiries through his legal representatives in order to prepare his defense. An independent World Rugby Judicial Committee - chaired by Christopher Quinlan of England - met on June 2 this year and heard the evidence in the

case and found Ralepelle to have committed an anti-doping rule violation. A suspension of two years was imposed by the committee, which is the standard sanction in the circumstances in accordance with World Rugby Regulations and the World Anti-Doping Code as in force in 2014. Ralepelle will be free to participate again on April 10, 2016.

Last March, Ralepelle was released early from his contract with French club Toulouse after news about his positive test emerged.

The 28-year-old appealed the imposition of the suspension to the independent Post-Hearing Review Body of World Rugby but elected to discontinue his appeal last week.

World Rugby Chief Executive Brett Gosper said World Rugby operates a zero-tolerance policy on doping and players are responsible for any prohibited substance found in their body. Gosper added Rugby is founded on fair play and the promotion of a level playing field for all players and added this particular case illustrates the rigorous anti-doping program World Rugby implements in conjunction with WADA, both in and out of competition. Gosper also remarked that World Rugby's Keep Rugby Clean initiative along with its testing policy is designed to educate players of all ages and grades about the dangers associated with taking banned substances.