

## Noah Banned 20 Games For Doping

[New York Knicks](#) center Joakim Noah, the son of French tennis legend Yannick Noah, was suspended by the NBA for 20 games without pay after he failed a doping test.

Noah will forfeit between \$2 million and \$3 million in salary during the [suspension](#). The exact amount is not clear as the formula in the new CBA for lost salary during a suspension results in lower monetary penalties for players.

The league announced Noah, who has not played since undergoing left knee surgery last month, tested positive for LGD-4033, a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator, which is known to produce effects similar to those of anabolic steroids. It is popular as a non-steroidal, selective androgen receptor modulator that is renowned for its ability to help increase muscle mass and strength. LGD-4033 provides many of the muscle-building and [therapeutic benefits of testosterone](#), without the same level of troublesome side effects.

It was remarked by the league in a statement that unintentional ingestion claims would be considered under rules of the league-union deal starting in July and added it did not think under those future terms Noah would have faced any punishment. The union statement further reads that the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) believes after a thorough investigation did not intentionally or knowingly violate any policy and added neither Noah nor the union will appeal the suspension. The union statement also said we believe that this isolated occurrence was a regrettable mistake and Joakim has offered his deepest apologies for this infraction. Noah was "completely forthcoming and cooperative" throughout the investigation, the NBPA said.

The ban on Noah will begin with the first NBA regular-season or playoff game for which he is eligible and physically able to play that means Noah figures to miss the start of next season. The Knicks at 27-45 are all-but eliminated from the playoff hunt. They share 12th in the NBA's Eastern Conference and trail Miami by eight games for the final playoff berth.

Noah has averaged 5.0 points, 8.8 rebounds and 2.2 assists in 46 games this season for the Knicks. The two-time NBA All-Star, who was named the league's 2014 Defensive Player of the Year, has been nagged by a hamstring injury earlier this season and underwent arthroscopic knee surgery on February 4. The 32-year-old holds US, French and Swedish citizenship and first made his mark as a collegiate star at Florida where he led the Gators to consecutive US national tournament titles in 2006 and 2007. Noah played for Chicago until last July after being selected ninth overall by the Chicago Bulls in the 2007 NBA Draft when he signed a four-year deal worth \$72 million with the Knicks.

The Knicks signed Noah to a four-year, \$72 million contract over the summer as a defensive anchor for the club but Noah has performed well below expectations and missed time throughout the season because of a hamstring injury.

The suspension of Noah may force the Knicks to look for a veteran center in free agency. Veteran Kyle O'Quin, Rookie Willy Hernangomez, and second-year big man Kristaps Porzingis have started at center in place of Noah this season.