

Rugby Player Banned Again By UK Anti-Doping

Ross Bevan, who was registered with South Wales Scorpions, now known as South Wales Ironmen, has been banned again by the [UK Anti-Doping](#) (UKAD) following a second Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV).

Originally, Bevan was banned after testing positive for [Drostanolone](#), the [anabolic androgenic steroid](#) and a metabolite of Drostanolone following an out-of-competition squad test on 9 February 2015. A UKAD Doping Control Officer attempted to collect a sample from Bevan at his home address on 28 September 2016. The rugby player refused to provide a sample and was subsequently charged with an ADRV pursuant to Article 2.3 of the World Anti-Doping Code – "Evading, Refusing, or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection".

Later, Bevan admitted the charge but sought a reduction in the period of ineligibility under Article 10.6.3 of the World Anti-Doping Code – "Prompt Admission of an ADRV". The reduction was agreed with WADA and sanction of the player was subsequently reduced by a period of nine months. Bevan appealed the decision but it was rejected by an independent National Anti-Doping Panel and the rugby player was subsequently banned for seven years and three months.

UKAD's Director of Operations, Pat Myhill said any athlete who is currently banned remains subject to testing in order to limit the chances of them continuing to use performance enhancing substances whilst banned and then returning to sport. Myhill added it is therefore of vital importance that they make themselves available to us when called upon. The UKAD's Director of Operation also commented that the refusal by Bevan to submit to sample collection whilst already serving a period of ineligibility is not only a second serious breach of the Anti-Doping Rules but also his core responsibilities as an athlete. We treat violations such as this with the utmost seriousness and would implore athletes of all levels to comply or potentially face a lengthy ban from all sport.

Bevan is banned from 14 October 2016 until midnight on 14 January 2024. He was previously banned from all competition from 26 February 2015 until midnight on 25 February 2017. At that time, UKAD's Director of Legal, Graham Arthur had remarked this case is unusual in that Bevan has received a two year ban because of the unique circumstances surrounding the timing of his admitted use of steroids. Arthur had also commented that although Bevan was bound by the Anti-Doping Rules (ADR) of the Rugby Football League at the time of his test in February 2015, the independent National Anti-Doping Panel concluded that because he used the steroids in 2014, he did not intend to breach the 2015 Rule and added he did not therefore have to serve a four year ban. The UKAD's Director of Legal had also commented that whilst Bevan is not deemed to have acted intentionally under the 2015 rules, it is very clear that he was at significant fault. UKAD takes the use of steroids in sport extremely seriously and also said our mission is to protect the right to participate in clean sport in this country. Steroids have absolutely no place in sport.