

British Javelin Thrower Suspended For Failed Doping Test

Joanna Blair, who represented Britain in the European Athletics Team Championships this summer in Lille, has been suspended after she failed to clear an anti-[doping test](#).

The 31-year-old javelin thrower from Luton was believed to be in the contention for the England team for the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year.

In a statement, UK Athletics said Joanna Blair had been provisionally suspended from participating in athletics. This was after Blair was charged with having committed an anti-doping rule violation contrary to IAAF Anti-Doping Rule Article 2.1 (presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an athlete's sample). The statement further reads that the javelin thrower has the opportunity to respond to the charge against her including the right to a full hearing of the case.

The 31-year-old confirmed the positive test and remarked the failed test was a result of a creatine product she had been using "for a number of years". Blair blamed contamination of the supplement and added she checked the ingredients of the supplement before using it. Blair added she is cooperating fully with both UK Athletics and UK Anti-Doping to resolve things at the earliest.

Blair had finished second in the UK trials in July and her selection would have marked the pinnacle of her career. Blair had managed to improve her fitness under her coach Dave Burrell at [Luton Athletics Club](#). She went on to set a near three-meter personal best of 57.44m at the British Athletics Championships that gave her a first national title ahead of the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist Goldie Sayers and placed her seventh on the British all-time list.

The impressive form of Blair earned her selection for the Nitro Athletics tournament in Australia this year. The javelin thrower was however unlucky to miss out on selection for the 2017 world championships in London after she failed to reach the qualifying mark.

Few years back, Commonwealth Games javelin champion [Jarrod Bannister](#) was banned for 20 months after he missed three doping tests. Bannister, who won the gold medal at New Delhi in 2010 and occupied the sixth position in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, missed three tests within a period of 18 months. The javelin thrower had then blamed poor communication with Athletics Australia as a factor behind the circumstances that saw him, unintentionally, breach the 'Athlete Whereabouts' program.

Athletics Australia chief executive Dallas O'Brien had then remarked that we are disappointed that Jarrod did not meet his obligations as one of our top performing athletes and this case demonstrates the need for all athletes to be diligent and responsible. Bannister was given a slightly reduced ban by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. This was after he was charged under article 6.4 of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency's policy concerning his availability for out-of-competition testing. The Australian track and field athlete who competes in the javelin throw remarked he had relied on verbal rather than written correspondence with Athletics Australia. The finding handed down by arbitrator Alan Sullivan called on the Athletics Australia, Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, and the World Anti-Doping Agency to review their operations and procedures.