



NEW ZEALAND ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION

New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation

11 December 2017

Media Statement: Players receive two year suspension for purchase of performance and image enhancing drug.

Two ice hockey players and members of the New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation (NZIHF) have been suspended by the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand for the purchase of clenbuterol, a banned performance and image enhancing drug (PIED) in 2014 and 2015.

The players were identified in an investigation by Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ). Both players have received a two year suspension backdated to 1 January 2017. This makes them unavailable to the sport until 31 December 2018.

The NZIHF strongly supports DFSNZ and is a signatory to World Anti-Doping Agency. All players who represent New Zealand sign a contract agreeing not to use prohibited or body enhancing substances.

In this case both young players have been naïve in believing that the product purchased was a fat burning product only. Both young men deeply regret not having checked with relevant experts prior to their purchasing decision and have accepted the decision of the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand.

This will serve as a sharp lesson for all of our athletes. From a NZIHF stance, I hope that this will be the only time that our sport is involved in this issue. This matter serves as a reminder to all participants in ice hockey in New Zealand to be vigilant when considering any such substance.

The Tribunal noted that the World Anti-Doping Code places a heavy personal responsibility on every athlete to ensure that they do not breach the anti-doping regime. Not doing so is conduct inconsistent with the expectations and obligations imposed by the anti-doping regime and breaches the standards expected of an athlete.

This case underlines the importance of drug free education and that it not only refers to having no prohibited substances in the body, but also that a simple online order of such a substance is sufficient to be charged and, in this instance, suspended from sport.

I am pleased that both players have committed to assist the NZIHF in educating our players about drug free ice hockey in New Zealand. The NZIHF will commence an increased education requirement at all levels of our sport in 2018.

The full decision is available here: <http://www.sportstribunal.org.nz>

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