



Decision

by

**the FIBA Commission established in accordance with
Section H.7.8.3 of the
Internal Regulations governing Doping Control**

**in the matter
Rodney BUFORD**

**("the Player")
(American Nationality)**

Whereas, a urine sample provided by Mr. Buford on the occasion of a doping test conducted on behalf of FIBA during the Euroleague game Cibona Zagreb against Maccabi Tel Aviv on 23 November 2006 in Zagreb, Croatia, tested positive for Cannabis;

Whereas, the laboratory analysis of Mr. Buford's sample was conducted by the WADA-accredited laboratory in Barcelona;

Whereas, as per article H.7.8.1 of the FIBA Internal Regulations governing Doping Control, Mr. Buford has been suspended on 2 February 2007 with immediate effect both for national and international competitions;

Whereas, Mr. Buford waived his right to have the B-sample analysed;

Whereas, at the request of Mr. Buford, a Commission established in accordance with Article H.7.8.3 of the FIBA Internal Regulations governing Doping Control held a hearing via telephone conference on 12 March 2007 in order to give the Player an opportunity to give a personal account of the circumstances which led to the Player's positive test;

Whereas, in said hearing Mr. Buford acknowledged

- that he does not take issue with the way the doping test was conducted or with the laboratory results, and
- that it was his responsibility to ensure that no prohibited substance entered his body,
- that cannabis is a prohibited substance, and
- that he smoked cannabis before he played for Maccabi Tel Aviv and that he has to bear the consequences;

Whereas, cannabis is a prohibited substance under the FIBA Internal Regulations governing Doping Control, which falls under the category of "Specified Substances" (Art. H.7.8.2.2). In connection with the presence of a Specified Substance in an athlete's bodily specimen the FIBA Regulations governing Doping Control provide for the following sanctions for the first violation (Art. H.7.8.2.2):

"at a minimum, a warning and reprimand and no period of Ineligibility from future Events, and at a maximum one (1) year's Ineligibility"

Now, therefore, the Commission decided as follows:

Mr. Buford is suspended for a period of three months. The suspension shall begin on 2 February 2007 (date on which the provisional suspension began) and shall end on 1 May 2007.



Reasons:

The prohibited substance entered the athlete's body by smoking Cannabis. However, in favour of the athlete the Commission takes into consideration that he openly admitted his anti-doping rule violation.

The fact remains, however, that a prohibited substance was found in the athlete's bodily specimen which by itself constitutes an anti-doping-rule violation.

In favour of Mr. Buford the Panel assumes that he did not intend to enhance his sport performance.

In the Panel's view, therefore, a period of ineligibility of three months is appropriate.

This decision is subject to an Appeal according to the FIBA Internal Regulations governing Appeals as per the attached "Notice about Appeals Procedure".

Geneva, 24 April 2007

On behalf of the FIBA Disciplinary Panel:

For 

Antonio Mizzi
President of the Disciplinary Panel