THE CRICKET REGULATOR

IN THE MATTER OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION BY CHRIS LYNN (THE "CRICKETER") CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 2.1 OF THE ANTI-DOPING RULES (THE "ADR") OF THE ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD ("ECB")

***Reasoned Decision*[1]**

[1] The Cricketer underwent an In Competition[2] Doping Control on 18 July 2026 as part of his participation in the Vitality Blast Finals Day matches between Northampton Steelbacks, Somerset and Hampshire Hawks in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The Cricket Regulator, a body within the ECB, has authority for Results Management of alleged ADR violation.

[2] The Cricketer's urine sample was sent to the WADA-accredited Laboratory in the Laboratoire Anti-Dopage, France for analysis and returned Adverse Analytical Findings ("**AAF**") for cocaine's Metabolite benzoylecgonine. Cocaine is listed under section S.6A of the 2026 WADA Prohibited List as a Stimulant. It is a non-Specified Substance that is prohibited In-Competition only. Cocaine is also specifically identified as a Substance of Abuse in the 2026 WADA Prohibited List.

[3] The Cricketer did not have a Therapeutic Use Exemption for cocaine.

[4] On 31 July 2026, the Cricket Regulator notified the Cricketer of the AAF and explained that he may have committed ADR violations under ADR Articles 2.1 and/or 2.2. The notification letter also informed the Cricketer that he was Provisionally Suspended.

[5] The Cricketer provided a response on 20 August 2026, confirming that he had used cocaine on 15 and 16 July 2026 (being during a period of several hours across the evening of 15 July 2026 and into the early hours of 16 July 2026), and asserting that this amounted to an out-of-Competition ADR violation and unrelated to sporting performance. Included in the response was expert evidence supporting the position that the ingestion of cocaine occurred out-of-competition.

[6] The Cricket Regulator instructed its own expert to consider the contents of the response and expert evidence provided by the Cricketer. The expert opinion received by the Cricket Regulator stated that based on the evidence provided the expert was of the view that the ingestion occurred out-of-competition.

[7] The Cricket Regulator considered it appropriate under the ADR and the WADA International Standard for Results Management to commence proceedings against the Cricketer. There was no departure from any WADA International Standard in the analysis of the Cricketer's Sample.

[8] By a charge letter dated 23 September 2026 (the "**Notice of Charge**"), the Cricketer was given formal notice that he was being charged with two ADR violations, being:

a. ADR Article 2.1 – in that a Prohibited Substance, namely cocaine and its metabolite benzoylecgonine was present in the Cricketer's A Sample; and

[1] This reasoned decision has been prepared in accordance with the ADRs and the WADA International Standard for Results Management.

[2] Capitalised terms that are not otherwise defined bear meaning attributed to them in the ADRs or the relevant WADA International Standard.

b. ADR Article 2.2 – in that the Cricketer Used a Prohibited Substance, namely cocaine, on or before 18 July 2026 (the "**ADRVs**").

[9] In the Notice of Charge, the Cricketer was notified that the Cricket Regulator had considered the Cricketer's explanations and accepted that the ADRVs occurred out-of-competition and unrelated to sports performance, and as such, the Cricket Regulator would be seeking a period of Ineligibility of three months, in accordance with ADR Articles 10.2.4.1.

[10] On 27 September 2026, the Cricketer admitted the ADRVs and accepted the three month period of Ineligibility that the Cricket Regulator sought. The Cricketer indicated his intention to complete a substance of abuse treatment programme such that his period of ineligibility would be reduced to one month in accordance with ADR Article 10.2.4.1.

[11] On 21 October 2026, an Updated Charge Letter (**"Updated Notice of Charge"**) was provided to the Cricketer withdrawing the charges under ADR Article 2.2 in accordance with ADR Article 2.2.4 and withdrawing the charge related to the presence of cocaine due to the reported level in the sample being below the minimum reporting level required in accordance with WADA Technical Document TD2022MRPL ("**the Withdrawn Charges**").

[12] The Cricketer responded to the Updated Notice of Charge on 21 October 2026 confirming his acknowledgment of the withdrawn charges and confirming his continued acceptance of the breach of ADR Article 2.1 for the presence of cocaine's Metabolite benzoylecgonine.

[13] On 30 October 2026, the Cricketer provided to the Cricket Regulator confirmation of his completion of a substance of abuse treatment programme.

[14] Consequently, the Cricketer is sanctioned with a period of Ineligibility of one month.

[15] In accordance with ADR Article 10.12.2.1, the period of Ineligibility runs from the date of the Cricketer's Provisional Suspension on 31 July 2026 and is deemed to have been completed at 11.59pm on 30 August 2026.

[16] Any results of the Cricketer between 18 July 2026 (being the date of the AAF) and 31 July 2026 (when the Provisional Suspension was imposed) have been Disqualified in accordance with ADR Articles 9 and 10.10. Under ADR Article 11 there is no requirement that Northampton Steelbacks receive any form of sanction.

[17] The Cricketer's attention is drawn to ADR Article 10.13 which addresses the status of a Cricketer during their period of Ineligibility including what they are not permitted to do within cricket and when they are permitted to return to training.

[18] The Cricketer remains subject to Testing during his period of Ineligibility.

[19] This decision is final, subject to an appeal under ADR Article 13 by any party entitled to appeal.

The Cricket Regulator

2 November 2026