

CBD PRODUCTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN

Recently we have seen an increase in the marketing of CBD products to professional athletes, which raises headlines in the media, and concerns with ourselves.

While it may be that there are real (or perceived), benefits from CBD for professional athletes, we caution the use of products without a thorough program of due diligence. ***The responsibility for that due diligence cannot be abrogated by the individual and the liability for any transgression rests solely with the athlete.***

Any sportsman or sportswoman, coach, team or National Association considering using cannabinoid-based products is strongly recommended to engage with ***independent industry professionals*** to analyse and assess the validity and reliability of product claims and contents prior to making any decision over usage.

We stress ***independent industry professionals***:

- not the product manufacturer;
- not the product manufacturer's affiliated, in-house or wholly-owned laboratory;
- not the product manufacturer's trade association;
- not the product manufacturer's so-called "accreditation body"; and,
- not postings on social media.

We highlight the example from last year of Yoel Romero, a UFC athlete, who secured damages of \$27.45 million following a positive test for a prohibited substance due to the consumption of a mis-labelled supplement product. The Court ruled that he was entitled to \$9 million in direct damages, but then awarded a further \$18.45 million because the supplement manufacturer was aware of the presence of the substance, but failed to provide any warning of its presence. The three-year saga did not end happily for anyone: the company went bankrupt, all of its staff lost their jobs and Romero did not receive a cent of his damages award.

Athletes and manufacturers: the responsibilities and obligations for doping compliance rest upon you.

We repeat what is becoming our well-worn phrase: ***Be Careful Who You Listen To.***