

## FIFPro criticizes new cannabis suspension

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Anzur Ismailov is not allowed to play football for the next three months. FIFA suspended the international from Uzbekistan on 2 October, after he was found guilty of an anti-doping rule violation. On 17 June he had been caught for the use of cannabis after a World Cup qualifier against Bahrain.

FIFPro thinks its remarkable that Ismailov is being suspended for three months. According to the World Anti-Doping Code of World Anti Doping Agency WADA he should have been suspended for at least six months.

At the same time FIFPro emphasizes that cannabis should not belong on a list for forbidden substances, because scientific research has already proven t

hat cannabis use is detrimental to almost all athletic performances. In August the Dutch Anti Doping Authority (NADO) submitted a request to WADA to struck cannabis off the list of forbidden substances.

'We ask the List Committee to acknowledge the fact that cannabis is, in all likelihood, detrimental to athletic performances and does not deserve a place on a prohibited list of doping substances.' Almost half of the recent doping violations in professional football are related to the use of cannabis.

