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Abel Xavier suspended for eighteen months

At its meeting held today at UEFA Headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body has suspended the Middlesbrough FC player, Abel Xavier, for eighteen months from all competitions, following the positive result of a doping control test undergone by the player at the UEFA Cup match, Middlesbrough FC - Xanthi FC of Greece on 29 September, 2005.

The analysis of both the A and B samples revealed the presence of Methandienone, a substance that is classified under the category of anabolic steroids in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2005 Prohibited List.

The player was found guilty of being in breach of the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations. As a result, the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body decided to impose an eighteen-month ban on Abel Xavier, starting from 14 October, date of the provisional suspension.

This decision may be appealed against within three days of receipt of the written reasoning.