

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Proportionality of a four-year ineligibility for the first intentional anti-doping rule violations and its impact on professional athletes' careers

**Objectives:** The aim of this thesis is to ascertain whether the four-year ineligibility for the first intentional anti-doping rule violations has liquidation impact on professional athletes' careers.

**Methods:** For quantitative research, I have used the electronic interrogation method and for qualitative research the in-depth semi-structured interview.

**Results:** I have found that most athletes really do perceive a four-year ineligibility for the first intentional anti-doping rule violations as disproportionate. Only 24 % of surveyed athletes said that a four-year ineligibility is an appropriate punishment. 82 % of surveyed athletes would end their careers after receiving a four-year ineligibility, and just 30 % of them think that It's realistic to go back to an active career after a four-year break. Moreover, athletes have consistently said that the most crucial obstacles to their return are financial distress, loss of motivation and lack of racing mode. On the basis of these results, I have also developed my own solution to ineligibility for the first intentional anti-doping rule violations.

**Keywords:** proportionality, sanction, ineligibility, World Anti-Doping Agency, World Anti-Doping Code, anti-doping rule violations