

Newcastle midfielder Barton spared second jail term

Newcastle United midfielder Joey Barton was Tuesday given a four-month suspended sentence after admitting assaulting his team-mate Ousmane Dabo during a training session while still a Manchester City player.

Barton, who is serving a six-month term for another assault, will have talks over his future when he is released, which could be as early as Sunday.

'The club now intends to hold discussions with Joey and his representatives at the earliest possible opportunity,' a club statement said.

'Until such time that this meeting has taken place, there will be no further comment from the club.'

Barton's agent Willie McKay said his client hopes to return for pre-season training.

'We can't really say too much until Joey is released, but we will be sitting down and talking about his future,' he said.

'He will be aiming to be back for pre-season training next week. But again, we will see what happens.'

'Joey had a great end to the season and has kept himself in great shape. In fact, he is in the best shape I have ever seen him in and I think he will be fitter than anybody else.'

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