



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. CYCLIST, COMARDO, ACCEPTS TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION FOR DOPING VIOLATION

Colorado Springs, Colo. (October 6, 2009) -- USADA announced today that Mitch Comardo, an athlete in the sport of cycling, has tested positive for multiple prohibited substances and has accepted a suspension for his anti-doping rules violation.

A urine sample collected out-of-competition from Comardo by USADA on August 24, 2009, contained Tamoxifen and its metabolite 4-hydroxytamoxifen, Anastrozole, Letrozole, and Clomiphene, each of which is in the class of Hormone Antagonists and Modulators; human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG), which is in the class of Hormones and Related Substances; and an Anabolic Agent. Each of these substances is prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing and the rules of the Union Cycliste Internationale, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code ("Code") and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

Mr. Comardo admitted his anti-doping rule violation and accepted a two-year period of ineligibility promptly after being confronted with the results by USADA in accordance with WADA Code provisions, thereby avoiding an increased period of ineligibility for aggravating circumstances based on the presence of multiple substances in his urine sample. Mr. Comardo's two-year period of ineligibility began on September 24, 2009, the date he accepted a provisional suspension.

As a result of the doping violation, Comardo has been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on and subsequent to August 24, 2009, the date the sample was collected, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes.

In an effort to aid athletes, as well as all support team members such as parents and coaches, in understanding the rules applicable to them, USADA provides comprehensive instruction on its website on the testing process and prohibited substances, how to obtain permission to use a necessary medication, and the risks and dangers of taking supplements as well as performance-enhancing and recreational drugs. In addition, the agency manages a drug reference hotline, conducts educational sessions with National Governing Bodies and their athletes, and proactively distributes a multitude of educational materials, such as the Guide to Prohibited Substances and Methods, easy-reference wallet cards, periodic newsletters, and protocol and policy reference documentation.

USADA is responsible for the testing and results management process for athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and is equally dedicated to preserving the integrity of sport through research initiatives and educational programs.

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