

Chris Leben Suspended After Failed Drug Test

The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) has suspended Chris Leben, an American mixed martial artist, after the veteran middleweight failed a drug test.

Leben was banned for one year after he tested positive for oxycodone and oxymorphone after his second-round TKO loss to Mark Munoz on November 5 at UFC 138 in Birmingham, England.

"I am obviously disappointed with Chris, who has made great strides getting his life back on track," said UFC President Dana White. "To his credit, he has taken responsibility for his actions and is accepting the punishment that has been handed down. But as always, the UFC puts the safety of its athletes first and foremost, and we won't tolerate anyone using performance enhancing drugs in our organization."

"I like Chris, and I want him to do well, but based on his actions, he's been suspended for one year," White stated. "If he needs professional help, we are going to be there for him. We want to see him succeed not only in the octagon but in his personal life."

This is the second suspension received by Leben from the UFC. The MMA star was handed a suspension of one year back in 2008 and 209 for [using stanozolol](#) and made a quick apology. He tested positive for Stanozolol after a unanimous decision loss to Michael Bisping in October 2008. The MMA fighter was sentenced in April 2008 to 35 days in jail for a probation violation stemming from a DUI charge that caused his match against Michael Bisping at UFC 85 to be rescheduled for UFC 89.

"I would like to make it known that I fully accept this suspension and apologize for embarrassing the UFC, my friends and family, and sport of mixed martial arts," Leben stated. "I'm learning that I'm my own worst enemy sometimes. I can't succeed in the octagon or in life behaving this way. I've got to make some real changes over the next year, and I'm going to focus on getting my life and career back on track. Again, I'm sorry to the UFC and fans that've supported me since my days on 'The Ultimate Fighter.'"

In 2005, Leben (22-8 MMA, 12-7 UFC) first joined the UFC and was on a stellar 4-1 run before the loss to Mark Munoz (12-2 MMA, 7-2 UFC). Munoz earned a second-round TKO victory when a corner by Leben deemed him unable to continue for the third round.

Nicknamed "The Crippler", Leben was one of the most controversial and outspoken fighters on The Ultimate Fighter 1 because of his melancholy and variously abrasive personality.

"Right now life is actually going well for me -- it's going great, considering," Leben recently said. "Life's going really good, better than it has in a long, long time."

He recently [tweeted a picture of his newly-earned Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Blue Belt](#), awarded under Sidney Silva, himself a black belt under Professor Gutenberg Melo. "Chris has a really good ground game. He has a complete notion of basic movements, and as he's temporarily suspended from fighting and without a date for his next fight, he's been paying special attention to his ground game, especially in the gi—something he's been working on for about eight months," Sidney Silva said. "The guy's great people, a warrior, and he'll throw down with anyone. He's at a great stage in his life, is healthy and focused on

his UFC return, which should happen shortly. I feel he's going to make the middleweight division all the more exciting," said the wise Jiu-Jitsu professor in conclusion.