

US Cycling Athlete Accepts Sanction

Nick Brandt-Sorenson of Los Angeles, a masters rider who also competed in Category 1 races, has been suspended by the United States Anti-doping Agency (USADA).

The 32-year-old Sorenson accepted a two-year suspension for an anti-doping rule violation after testing positive for Efavoxiral that artificially enhances oxygen delivery to the tissues. The drug prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Cycling Union (UCI) Anti-Doping Rules, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code.

The two-year period of ineligibility of Brandt-Sorenson began on September 4, 2011, the day his sample was collected. The cyclist is also disqualified from all competitive results obtained on or subsequent to August 31, 2011, the date the Masters Road Nationals event began, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes as a result of this sanction. A sample provided by Brandt-Sorenson that was collected at the Masters Road Nationals in Bend, Oregon tested positive for the drug.

After the sanction, several Oregon riders move up a spot on the five-rider podiums for the 2011 Masters Road National Championships. Portland's Stephen Bedford climbed from fifth to the fourth spot in the Masters 30-34 Criterium and Galen Mitterman of Milwaukie and Scott Gray of Bend each moved up a spot in Masters 30-34 road race to fourth and fifth, respectively.

The 2011 national road champion for men 30-34, Nicholas Brandt-Sorensen (Velosport) said he regrets to inform that he has accepted a provisional suspension from USADA for a medical control sample taken after [USA Cycling](#) Masters National Road Race and added that his Urine Sample A showed a trace amount of a prohibited substance, which is on the WADA list of banned substances for 2011.

Brandt added that he takes the full responsibility for anything ingested by him, knowingly or unknowingly and rendered an apology to this team, the sport of cycling, and fans.

Brandt-Sorensen's Velosport team soon announced that the cyclist has been suspended. A statement from the team said Velosport supports clean cycling and would enforce a zero-tolerance policy with regards to doping in sport and added that the team, management, and club sponsors wholeheartedly support the efforts of the USADA and its affiliated organizations. The team will immediately sever all ties with any member, sponsor, or supporter who is found to be engaging in the use of any prohibited substances or prohibited methods pursuant to the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, the International Cycling Union (UCI), or World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules.

With the sanction, Brandt-Sorensen becomes the second consecutive men's 30-34 road champion to lose his title to a doping suspension. In 2010, Andrew Crater vacated his championship after he tested positive for marijuana metabolites. Eric Marcotte (SKLZ-Pista Palace) who was runner-up to Brandt-Sorensen in the nationals road race in Bend, Oregon inherit the title.

Recently, Roger Hernandez accepted a two-year suspension on October 6 after he refused a test at masters track nationals in July. The sanction of Sorensen follows on the footsteps of Southern California's Josh Webster who was sanctioned on July 15, 2011 for a period of two years after he tested

positive for [Methylhexanamine](#) and Phenpromethamine at the Tulsa Tough in June and accepted a two-year sanction in July.