

## **Team Sky Head Praises Zero Tolerance Policy**

Dave Brailsford has remarked that the anti-doping policy of the team may hurt them in the short term but its impact in the long term will surely make it worthwhile.

The Team Sky Head said the team was started with a very clear policy and it will try to recruit the riders and the staff who had not had previous convictions for doping and had no previous involvement in doping to the best of our knowledge. Brailsford added that it was critical to stick with the policy and there may be some pain in the short term, some medium-term pain, potentially and maybe even some performance pain, to get to our vision and objectives.

The team recently asked its riders and management to sign a pledge declaring they have never doped. After this, sports director Steven de Jongh and coach Bobby Julich have quit. De Jongh left his role as sporting director at Team Sky after he admitted to making the use of performance enhancing drugs during his cycling career, while Julich went after admitted to using the blood-boosting agent EPO as a rider. Sporting director Sean Yates also retired from cycling after spending three decades in the sport though the team insisted that it was his decision and was not related to doping.

This pledge came in the wake of the Lance Armstrong doping scandal wherein the Texan rider was accused by the United States Anti-Doping Agency of using and promoting the use of performance enhancing drugs and even pressuring riders of the team to do the same.

Founded in 2010, Team Sky set the goal to win the Tour de France within five years and achieved its target in only its third season when Britain's [Bradley Wiggins](#) won the race this summer.

Wiggins meanwhile is back home after spending a night in hospital after a bike crash. Britain's Tour de France winner and the Olympic champion was treated for rib and hand injuries after he collided with a vehicle near a petrol station close to his Lancashire home. Team Sky confirmed that the 32-year-old Team Sky rider had sustained only minor injuries and was kept at the Royal Preston Hospital as a precaution and no long-term injury problems are suspected. The incident took place in the village of Wrightington, near Wigan, at around 18:00 GMT on November 7, 2012. A father of two, the cyclist is among the favorites to be named the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year after he became the first British winner of the [Tour de France](#) in July.

In a separate incident, British Cycling head coach Shane Sutton was involved in a bike crash in Manchester while pedalling along the A6 in Manchester suburb Levenshulme on Thursday morning in a collision with a blue Peugeot 206 being driven by a 61-year-old man. The head coach at Team Sky was diagnosed with bleeding on the brain after a bike crash in Manchester. Sutton was conscious and breathing when taken by ambulance to Salford Royal Hospital, the North West Ambulance Service said and is now in a stable condition.