

## Armstrong Stripped Of Olympic Medal By IOC

Lance Armstrong has been stripped of a bronze medal he won at the 2000 Sydney Games. The disgraced cyclist was asked by the International Olympic Committee to return the medal.

In December, the IOC executive board discussed revoking the medal but delayed making a decision until the world governing body of cycling notified [Lance Armstrong](#) he had been stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and all results since 1998 and the cyclist had 21 days to appeal. After expiry of the deadline, the [International Olympic Committee](#) decided to take the medal away.

The disgraced cyclist, winner of seven consecutive Tour de France titles, took the bronze in Sydney in the road time trial behind winner and U.S. Postal Service teammate Vyacheslav Ekimov of Russia and Jan Ullrich of Germany. In November, a disciplinary case was opened by the IOC after USADA report detailed widespread doping by Armstrong and his teammates.

The IOC said Lance Armstrong has been disqualified from the men's individual time trial, where he medaled, and the men's individual road race, where he finished 13th in the 2000 games in Sydney. The world body also remarked that it is up to the U.S. committee to handle retrieving the medal from Armstrong. USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said it was notified that the IOC wants the medal back.

It was further announced by the IOC that the Olympic medal will not be reallocated. This means that widespread doping by Armstrong and his teammates medal will be left vacant in Olympic records. Levi Leipheimer, a former Armstrong teammate who won the time-trial bronze at the 2008 Beijing Games, is also being investigated by the IOC after he confessed to doping as part of his testimony against Armstrong in the USADA case.

In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, the cyclist called himself "deeply flawed" and admitted that he used an array of performance enhancing drugs to win seven Tour de France titles. The cyclist admitted to making the use of testosterone and human growth hormone, as well as EPO besides confessing that he took blood transfusions to excel in the highly competitive, scandal-ridden world of professional cycling. The 2002 Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year also said doping was as much a part of the sport as pumping up tires or having water in a bottle.

"I made my decisions," Armstrong said. "They are my mistakes." The cyclist went on to admit that he was a bully in the sense that he tried to control the narrative by spewing venom at former teammates he thought were not loyal and sued people and publications that accused him of cheating. Armstrong described himself as a "humanitarian" and a "jerk" who'd been "arrogant" for years who used to control everything in his life. The former athletic icon said he had let down many fans and they have every right to feel betrayed, and it is his life and he will spend the rest of his life trying to win back trust and apologize to people.