

## Two-Year Suspensions For Cyclist And Track & Field Athlete

Yosmani Pol Rodriguez of Weston, an athlete in the sport of cycling, has tested positive for a prohibited substance, according to an announcement by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

The 32-year-old has accepted a two-year sanction for his doping offense after testing positive for Dexamethasone as the result of an in-competition urine sample collected on March 10, 2012 at the Delray Beach Twilight Criterium. Dexamethasone is classified as a glucocorticosteroid on the World Anti-Doping Prohibited List and is 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 (“Code”) and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List. The cyclist accepted a two-year period of ineligibility, which began on September 2, 2012, the date of his last competition. Rodriguez has also been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on and subsequent to March 10, 2012, including the forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

A potent synthetic member of the glucocorticoid class of steroid drugs, Dexamethasone can suppress the natural pituitary-adrenal axis and acts as an anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant and is medically prescribed to treat inflammatory conditions such as allergies, skin conditions, ulcerative colitis, arthritis, and breathing disorders. When taken orally, Dexamethasone is 26.6 times more potent than the naturally occurring hormone cortisol and 6.6 times more potent than prednisone. The CYP2D6 enzyme inducer is commonly used by sportsmen to develop fat easily and may increase the effects of many prodrugs and protoxins which are metabolized via CYP2D6 (like tramadol or codeine) by directly increasing the amount of the active metabolite produced.

In another development, Shawn Crawford of Culver City, an athlete in the sport of track & field, has received a suspension of two years for committing an anti-[doping rule violation](#) in which he failed to file his whereabouts information. The 35-year-old Crawford was a member of the USADA National Testing Pool from 2001 through the beginning of 2013, which consists of a select group of athletes subject to certain whereabouts requirements in order to be located for USADA Out-of-Competition testing.

The track and field athlete failed to comply with the whereabouts requirements and, as a result, accrued three Whereabouts Failures within an 18-month period. Under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Anti-Doping Rules, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code (“Code”), the combination of three Whereabouts Failures within an 18-month period constitutes a rule violation. A Whereabouts Failure for National Testing Pool athletes includes failure to provide required quarterly whereabouts filings and/or failure to be available for testing due to inaccurate or incomplete information provided by the athlete. The two-year period of ineligibility for Crawford, began on April 17, 2013, the date he received the sanction. As a result of the violation, Crawford has been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on and subsequent to November 17, 2012 the date of his third Whereabouts Failure, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes.