

Ryan Braun Suspended Without Pay

[Milwaukee Brewers Ryan Braun](#), a former National League MVP, has been suspended without pay for the rest of the season. The player later admitted that he "made mistakes" in violating Major League Baseball's drug policies.

The 2011 National League MVP was suspended without pay for the rest of the season and the post-season after being tied to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance enhancing drugs. A 65-game ban, 15 games more than the one he avoided last year was accepted by Braun. Last year, an arbitrator overturned his positive test for elevated testosterone because the urine sample had been improperly handled.

In another development, Matt Kemp who finished second behind Braun in the race for the 2011 National League MVP Award wants Ryan Braun stripped of NL MVP award following drug suspension. The Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder said the suspended Milwaukee Brewers slugger should be stripped of the honor and said people feel "betrayed" by Braun.

After the suspension news broke out, Braun said he is not perfect and realize now he has made some mistakes. He also remarked that he is willing to accept the consequences of those actions. Miami Marlins manager Mike Redmond said for these guys still to be involved with this stuff just baffles him and added that the education is there and everybody knows what you can and can't take. Redmond said it baffles him that this continues to be a black cloud over the game and said he knows that Major League Baseball has done a great job of cleaning up the game and the testing policy and all that and it's working. But he added that at the same time, too, it seems like we'll go through a lull and then, bam, here comes another guy that gets suspended and it's got to stop.

In January this year, *Miami New Times* reported that Braun, injured Yankees star [Alex Rodriguez](#), and more than a dozen players were connected with Biogenesis of America, a now-closed anti-aging clinic.

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig announced the penalty for Braun citing the outfielder for unspecified "violations" of both baseball's drug program and labor contract. The 29-year-old Braun was hitting .298 with nine homers and 38 RBIs this year and will miss the Milwaukee Brewers' final 65 games without pay, costing him about \$3 million of his \$8.5 million salary. Brewers' general manager Doug Melvin said he is disappointed as Braun is a very important player to our organization and to the ballclub and to our performance on the field. Rob Manfred, MLB's

executive vice-president for economics and league affairs, said in a statement, we commend Ryan Braun for taking responsibility for his past actions and added that we all agree that it is in the best interests of the game to resolve this matter. He added we look forward when Ryan returns to him making positive contributions to Major League Baseball, both on and off the field.

Other players tied to Biogenesis in media reports include Melky Cabrera, now with the Toronto Blue Jays, Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli, and Seattle catcher Jesus Montero.