

Cultural Shift In Cycling Hailed By Tygart

USADA chief [Travis Tygart](#) has remarked he is happy with the cultural shift in cycling in the wake of the fall of disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong from grace.

Tygart remarked there is still more to do but we are now getting awfully close to dismantling the system that allowed this to happen and added that clean athletes have more chance in cycling to be successful than they ever have. The USADA chief went on to say that ultimately it's the riders' culture and they have to embrace it to keep it clean and there will always be a few who try to gain an unfair advantage, but right now, the majority have an opportunity to be successful, not to have to leave the sport, but to be in a position to win without having to cheat with [performance enhancing drugs](#), that is a significant cultural shift. Travis Tygart added clean cyclists can have renewed hope that their rights will be upheld and a culture of integrity will be embraced and the fact that the president who oversaw the sport during this dirty, corrupt period is gone — and said he thinks this is a huge victory for clean athletes.

Tygart, the chief executive of the [US Anti-Doping Agency](#), says he believes clean cyclists now have a better chance of continuing successful careers than ever before. USADA brought down one of the most successful and powerful men in the world of cycling and provided a wide range of evidence including different categories of eyewitness, documentary, first-hand, scientific, direct and circumstantial evidence. USADA accused Armstrong and the US Postal cycling team of running the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen. The US Anti-Doping Agency revealed that USPS Team doping conspiracy was designed professionally for grooming and pressurizing cyclists to make use of dangerous drugs and evade detection. It was also designed in such a way that cyclists can ensure secrecy of the conspiracy and gain an unfair competitive advantage through superior doping practices.

The United States Anti-Doping Agency was supported by many of the former teammates of Lance Armstrong (Frankie Andreu, Michael Barry, Tom Danielson, Tyler Hamilton, George Hincapie, Floyd Landis, Levi Leipheimer, Stephen Swart, Christian Vande Velde, Jonathan Vaughters and David Zabriskie). USADA gave Armstrong the opportunity to tell the entire truth but he decided to exercise his legal right not to contest the evidence, which meant that he was banned for life and his competitive results from 1998 onwards were disqualified.

The downfall of Armstrong is attributed by many as one of the biggest reasons behind the ouster of ex-UCI president Pat McQuaid who was recently defeated by Britain's Brian Cookson in the UCI presidential elections. It was alleged in cycling circles that McQuaid and his predecessor defended the doping practices of Lance Armstrong by hiding his positive test results and they were even accused of taking cash from the cyclist to cover up the tests, an allegation which is denied by both former UCI presidents.