

Armstrong Says Lifetime Ban Is "Death Penalty"

Former professional road racing cyclist [Lance Armstrong](#) has remarked that he received the "death penalty" for making use of banned performance enhancing drugs and lying about it for over a decade. The cyclist still wants to compete and hopes his lifetime ban from cycling will be lifted one day.

Lance remarked the ultimate crime is the betrayal of these people who support me and believed in me and they got lied to and recalled that his confession before his children was the toughest. Armstrong remarked he deserved to be punished for years of doping that helped him win a record seven Tour de France titles but believes that the [USADA sanction](#) was much harsher than the sanctions dished out to other self-confessed cheats, who were given lesser sentences for testifying against him. The cyclist remarked he does not believe that is unfair but it is different and said he deserved to be punished but not sure if he deserves the death penalty.

In January this year, Lance Armstrong confessed to using banned drugs on Oprah Winfrey talk show after years of denials. He admitted to using cortisone, [growth hormone](#), testosterone, blood doping, and EPO but denied that he continued using drugs when he made his comeback in 2009. He added there was no truth in allegations that one of his representatives tried to pay off USADA to drop their investigation into him. Lance remarked he was ashamed of what all he had done and said the doping scandal has taken a huge toll on his mother. The cyclist remarked he had lost about \$75 million when his sponsors deserted him last year after the United States Anti-Doping Agency released its damning report on him.

Armstrong further remarked that quitting the Livestrong foundation was the lowest point in his life and that was a humiliating moment.

In another development, UCI presidential candidate Brian Cookson has hinted that he would favor a reduction in the life ban imposed on Armstrong if he comes clean about the extent of doping culture that helped him win the Tour de France a record seven consecutive times. Cookson remarked other drugs cheats had been treated more generously than Armstrong and that he would like to see "a more level playing field". The UCI president hopeful added it may be necessary to offer reduced sentences to those who testify, even Lance Armstrong but added he is not very comfortable with offering Lance Armstrong much hope for the future but he guess that wouldn't be in my hands anyway – that would be in the hands of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Meanwhile, Armstrong surrendered the Olympic bronze medal he won in Sydney in 2000 and tweeted the medal should be arriving quickly at the Swiss headquarters of the International Olympic Committee. In a respite to the banned cyclist, U.S. District Judge Morrison England Jr. of the Eastern District of California in Sacramento ruled that the First Amendment protects Armstrong's dishonesty after the cyclist was accused by a class of consumers whom Lance Armstrong and his publishers allegedly misled to believe that his autobiographies, *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*, and *Every Second Counts*, were truthful and honest works of nonfiction biography or autobiography when, in fact, defendants knew or should have known that these books were works of fiction.