

## Alex Rodriguez Gets Season Doping Ban

[Alex Rodriguez](#), the highest paid star of baseball, has been suspended for the entire 2014 season in a doping scandal. The New York Yankees third baseman was given a 162-game doping ban by an arbitrator instead of the 211-game ban imposed upon Rodriguez last August by the Major League Baseball.

The ruling by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz means that the slugger from New York Yankees will be losing more than \$22m (£13m) for the games he is missing. The 38-year-old Rodriguez, popularly known as A-Rod, was one of the few players who were linked with a now-closed Florida clinic that allegedly supplied banned [performing enhancing drugs](#). Rodriguez said he would fight to reverse the ban and attack the ruling by terming it as one man's decision that was not put before a fair and impartial jury, does not involve him having failed a single drug test, and is at odds with the facts. Rodriguez said the number of games sadly comes as no surprise as the deck has been stacked against me from day one. Rodriguez added he has been unfairly targeted as a first step for club owners for abolishing guaranteed contracts and imposing life bans for doping in the next contract with the players union.

A-Rod went on to add that he had been clear that he did not use performance-enhancing substances as alleged and in order to prove it he will take this fight to federal court. The ban imposed on Alex Rodriguez is the longest in the sport's history for doping. Not only this, it raises the possibility that A-Rod will not play again. On the other hand, the Major League Baseball union said it "strongly" disagreed with the ruling but recognized that a final and binding decision has been reached. The Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) said we recognize that a final and binding decision has been reached. A statement issued by MLBPA added that we respect the collectively bargained arbitration process which led to the decision.

Last year, Alex Rodriguez was suspended along with 13 other players include the Texas Rangers' Nelson Cruz, Ryan Braun of [Milwaukee Brewers](#), Jhonny Peralta of the Detroit Tigers, and San Diego Padres' Everth Cabrera all of whom received a ban of 50 games.

Major League Baseball said the punishment imposed on Alex Rodriguez was over his use and possession of numerous forms of prohibited performance-enhancing substances, including testosterone and human growth hormone, over the course of multiple years. The MLB also accused A-Rod of attempting to cover up his violations by obstructing the investigation.

Rodriguez and other baseball players were accused of buying and using performance enhancing drugs from a now-defunct Florida drug clinic, Biogenesis. A-Rod was also accused of interfering with the Major League Baseball investigation into Biogenesis, which many believed resulted in a harsher penalty. This is not the first time that Rodriguez has been associated with performance-enhancing drugs. He admitted to using these drugs while playing for a Texas team (between 2001 to 2003) but had denied using anabolic steroids since.