

Dana White Supports TRT Ban

Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) President Dana White has called therapeutic use exemptions (TUE) for [testosterone replacement therapy](#) a form of "cheating."

White has supported the proposal of the Association of Ringside Physicians to eliminate [TUE in combat sports](#).

The Association of Ringside Physicians (ARP) recently issued an announcement that decried the practice of athletic commissions granting TUE for testosterone replacement therapy. It was remarked by ARP that the incidence of hypogonadism requiring the use of testosterone replacement therapy (TRT) in professional athletes is extraordinarily rare and the use of anabolic steroids such as testosterone in a professional boxer or mixed martial artist is rarely justified. ARP added that the use of any type of steroid, including unmerited testosterone, significantly increases the safety and health risk to combat sports athletes and their opponents. It also added that testosterone replacement therapy may give an unfair advantage to a combat sports athlete contradictory to the integrity of sport and the Association of Ringside Physicians consequently supports the general elimination of therapeutic use exemptions (TUE) for testosterone replacement therapy.

White's hard-line stance on TRT is believed to have come after Vitor Belfort's request for a TRT exemption when he will meet 185-pound champion Chris Weidman this summer. White remarked Belfort drives him crazy and both of them were not on good terms a few months ago.

Velfort is one of the many fighters using testosterone replacement therapy. The UFC fighter has been widely criticized for using the treatment in spite of his tainted history with the abuse of performance enhancing drugs. The Brazilian mixed martial artist and former UFC Light Heavyweight Champion is #2 in official UFC middleweight rankings as of January 27, 2014.

Popularly known as "*The Phenom*", Vitor Vieira Belfort failed a [steroid test for testosterone](#) at Pride 32: The Real Deal on October 21, 2006, before his Pride fight in Las Vegas where he lost to Dan Henderson. Belfort tested positive for 4-hydroxytestosterone, an illegal substance and claimed he bought an over the counter supplement containing the substance. He also explained that he may have received the substance as the result of rehabilitative injections administered to him by Brazilian endocrinologist Dr. Rodrigo M. Greco after a surgery for repairing a torn meniscus in his knee in the summer of 2006. Belfort was suspended for nine months from the date of hearing on December 21, 2006 after the Nevada State Athletic Commission said Belfort was still in violation of banned substances policy even if the practitioner did not inform him that the post surgical injections (containing testosterone) contained anabolic steroids. In Nevada, no fighter who has tested positive for anabolic steroids in the past has received a therapeutic use exemption.

Belfort, at the age of 19, became the youngest fighter to ever score a victory inside the octagon. Vítor participated in Japan's PRIDE Fighting Championships and fought against the likes of

Alistair Overeem, Bobby Southworth, Heath Herring, Gilbert Yvel, and Daijiro Matsui. On May 18, 2013, Belfort faced final Strikeforce Middleweight Champion and promotional newcomer at *UFC on FX: Belfort vs. Rockhold* and won the fight in the first round via knockout.