

Vancouver Cyclist Suspended Two Years

Vancouver cyclist Sebastian Salas has received a suspension of two years for tampering with [doping control](#) during in-competition testing last summer, according to an announcement by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).

Salas tampered with a doping control during an in-competition test on July 10, 2013, at the Gastown Grand Prix, held in Vancouver, according to a release from the [CCES](#). The cyclist is now banned from the sport through August 1, 2015. The release from the CCES reads that Salas in response to the CCES' notification of the violation fully explored his rights under the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) and eventually chose to admit the doping control violation, waive his right to a hearing, and accept a two-year sanction ending August 1, 2015. The statement added that Salas, who resides in Vancouver, British Columbia, is ineligible to participate in any capacity with any sport signatory to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP), including training with teammates.

In a statement, Cycling Canada president John Tolkamp said it is unfortunate to learn that an athlete in our sport has been seen to have competed outside the rules of the Canadian Anti-doping Program. He added that the fact that the rigorous testing regime of the national body with the collaboration of the CCES identified the problem should serve as a reminder to any that would cheat that they will be caught and sanctioned appropriately. Tolkamp also remarked we will continue to enhance our efforts to educate around doping in our sport so that all athletes are able to compete on a fair and equal basis.

The Optum team of Salas suspended him following the abnormal test and did not renew him for 2014. In a statement, managing director Charles Aaron said Salas due to our team policy was suspended within 24 hours of his late arrival to an in-competition control at the Gastown Grand Prix. Aaron added that removing him from all 2013 rosters and excluding him from consideration for 2014 was the strongest course of action available to our organization. He also remarked that CCES has since concluded Salas was in breach of the rules and we fully support the actions of CCES as well as [USADA and WADA](#) in their continued efforts to protect clean sport.

Salas won the king of the mountains classification at the 2012 Amgen Tour of California and the rider was placed in the top 10 at the both the Tour de Beauce and SRAM Tour of the Gila that season. He rode for Optum-Kelly Benefit Strategies for the last two seasons, but did not re-sign with the team for the upcoming season. Salas is the Grouse Grind record holder after having completed the arduous North Shore hiking trail in 23 minutes and 48 seconds. He won the Grouse Grind Mountain Run for five consecutive years, from 2008 through 2012. Salas's record will stand for now, noting it was set in 2010, well before he was sanctioned by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, Grouse Mountain representative Jacqueline Blackwell. She added the record set in our recreational race will stand as a formal Grouse Grind Mountain Run record as we have so far not received information suggesting Mr. Salas' violations date back to 2010 or prior but added we will certainly examine it if further evidence comes to light.