

Cyclist Gets 8-Year Doping Ban

Patrik Sinkewitz, the former Mapei-Quick Step and T-Mobile rider, has received a ban of eight years for doping by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Following the GP Lugano in early 2011, the 33-year-old had tested positive for [human growth hormone](#) (HGH) where he raced with the Italian team ISD-Neri. Sinkewitz underwent a doping control on February 27, 2011 at the end of the Grand Prix of Lugano in Switzerland and the analysis of his samples revealed the presence of recombinant growth hormone ("recGH").

However, the German arbitral tribunal for sports-related disputes (Sportschiedsgericht der Deutschen Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit ("DIS Arbitral Tribunal")) cleared the rider of doping charges the following year. NADA, Germany's national anti-doping agency, appealed to the CAS and the heavy penalty indicates that Patrik Sinkewitz has not been sanctioned for doping for the first time. The CAS Panel in charge of this case, composed of Prof. Christoph Vedder, President (Germany), Dr. Dirk-Reiner Martens (Germany), and Prof. Dr. Martin Schimke, (Germany) found that NADA has clearly established that the blood samples of Sinkewitz revealed the presence of recGH. Sinkewitz is also ordered to pay a fine of EUR 38,500.

Sinkewitz had tested positive for testosterone during the 2007 Tour de France, a race in which a drug-free promise was made by T-Mobile after earlier confessions to doping from former riders including [Bjarne Riis](#) and Erik Zabel.

Patrik Sinkewitz decided to sue the [International Cycling Union](#) and remarked that cycling's world governing body wrongly communicated to him that "a substance" was found when they were actually investigating a blood value. At that time, Sinkewitz's attorney Rainer Cherkeh challenged the validity of the tests and remarked the scientist and HGH expert working for us showed clearly and in detail that there is not scientifically sure validation data. UCI press officer Enrico Carpani explained at that time that the UCI has always said human growth hormones were being tested but we didn't want to officially announce the date of scientific validation of the test in order to allow an element of surprise. Carpani added that without making a pronouncement about Patrik Sinkewitz's case, who still can ask for a B sample analysis, we can say that the validation of the human growth hormone test is a major new step in the fight against doping.

Sinkewitz refused to have his B sample tested and was then sacked by T-Mobile. He later admitted to making use of EPO and banned blood transfusions. The rider blamed his positive drug test on Testogel, a testosterone ointment, and received a reduced ban of one year in November 2007 for cooperating with the agencies. His recent ban will keep Sinkewitz out of cycling till November 2022.

The professional German road racing cyclist, who competes for the Meridiana-Kamen team, started his amateur career with Mapei-Quick Step. In 2003, he turned professional with Quick Step-Davitamon and then moved to T-mobile Team in 2005 where Sinkewitz enjoyed a good

season. The German rider was able to finish fourth in the Vuelta al País Vasco and twice finished stages in the first five.