

Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell Banned

Former 100-meter world record holder [Asafa Powell](#) has been banned by a Jamaican disciplinary panel for a period of 18 months. The veteran sprinter was banned for athletics after he tested positive for a banned stimulant, Oxilofrine, last June.

Lennox Gayle, the head of the three-member panel of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission, said the decision to ban Powell was unanimous after they examined the "voluminous nature of the evidence." Gayle said Powell was found to be negligent, and he was at fault and the disciplinary panel would be issuing a written statement in a month to explain the decision.

The backdated ban on Powell starts from the date of his sample collection on June 21, 2013 during national trials for the world championships and he would be eligible to return to competition on December 20, about a month after he turns 32.

Powell issued a statement through his publicist and said his defense team will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport while describing the ruling as not only unfair, it is patently unjust. Powell said sanctions for a stimulant and this kind of infraction usually range from public warnings to a ban of three months, six months in the most extreme cases. The sprinter had blamed his newly-hired trainer, Canadian physiotherapist Christopher Xuereb, who offered supplements to Powell and Sherone Simpson, a three-time Olympic medalist who also tested positive for the same stimulant at the national trials in June. Simpson was also banned by the Jamaican anti-doping disciplinary panel for 18 months while a two-year ban was imposed on Jamaican Olympic discus thrower Allison Randall for using a prohibited [diuretic](#). Both Powell and Simpson will miss the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July.

In a statement, Powell said he have never knowingly taken any banned substances, he did all the necessary checks before taking Epiphany D1 and it is his hope that the CAS will prove to be a more open and fair avenue for the review of all the facts in his case.

Powell added he started using the supplements, including one called "Epiphany D1" that laboratory tests later showed to contain [Oxilofrine](#). The athlete said he and a friend researched about the supplement for up to six hours online and found no prohibited substances. On the other hand, Xuereb said he never gave any performance enhancing to Powell or Simpson and he only bought major brand vitamins. In July last year, Xuereb claimed both athletes were looking for a scapegoat. Xuereb once worked at the Toronto clinic operated by Anthony Galea, a sports physician who pleaded guilty of bringing unapproved and mislabeled drugs into the United States for house calls.

Powell's coach, Stephen Francis, urged the Jamaican Prime Minister to disband the country's anti-doping organization and sub-contract the testing procedures to a credible overseas testing agency. Francis remarked they need to sub-contract it to England or Germany or whoever it is who can carry it out properly because obviously we in Jamaica can't do this thing properly and it is embarrassment after embarrassment after embarrassment.