

## **Victoria Swimmer Gets One-Month Suspension**

Olympic swimmer Alec Page of Victoria will not be able to attend the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games due to a one-month suspension for what is being labeled an [inadvertent doping](#).

The urine sample of Page collected at the Canadian swim trials for the Games, held in April at his home Saanich Commonwealth Place revealed traces of the prohibited substance Probenecid that is a masking agent. The athlete is supported by Swimming Canada and it was remarked that the 20-year-old athlete accidentally ingested Probenecid through a tainted supplement he was using.

Swimming Canada remarked the reason for the light sentence is that the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport that administers doping control and violation sanctions in the country found the degree of fault of Page to be low. The one-month ban imposed on Page ran May 25 to June 25 but the violation retroactively purged his time and first-place finish in the 400-metre IM from the trials since he tested positive, which means he cannot be on the roster for the Canadian team for both the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and Pan-Pacific championships on the Gold Coast of Australia.

In a statement released through [Swimming Canada](#), Page said it is an unfortunate situation and came as a complete shock. The athlete also remarked he has always followed a strict and regimented program with regards to his diet and what supplements he puts into his body, following prescribed guidelines developed by national experts. The swimmer said he respects the anti-doping rules and understands they are put in place to create a level playing field for all athletes and added he is always honored to wear the Maple Leaf and represent his country on the international stage.

Page also remarked he loves his sport and all of the people he have met doing it and said he would never do anything to jeopardize that. Page also said he is very disappointed that he will not be able to compete at the Commonwealth Games and Pan Pacific championships. The athlete also remarked he understands there is a consequence associated with the risk of taking supplements and added things like this can still happen even after consulting national experts and following the right guidelines. The Canadian swimmer further remarked this has been a difficult time but he is glad this predicament is over now and he can move on and added he loves representing Canada and will continue to push forward and keep his focus on the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

In a statement, Swimming Canada CEO Ahmed El-Awadi said it is Alec did not intend to cheat and that the presence of trace amounts of this substance was inadvertent and added that a reduced ban was appropriate and allows Alec to continue pursuing his career as one of Canada's most talented young swimmers.

The situation is reminiscent of the controversy involving triathlete Kelly Guest of Victoria who was removed from the squad for the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games after Kelly inadvertently ingested the steroid [Nandrolone](#) that he claimed must have been through the nutritional supplements he was taking.