

## Vitor “The Phenom” Belfort Admits Failing Drug Test

UFC middleweight Vitor “*The Phenom*” Belfort has admitted he tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone on February 7, 2014. The middleweight contender has also been pulled out from UFC 175 after the failed random drug test.

Belfort (24-10 MMA, 13-6 UFC) was originally slated to appear before the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) to get a license to fight against the [Chael Sonnen](#), who retired a few days back, at the July 5 event inside Las Vegas’ Mandalay Bay Events Center.

The Brazilian mixed martial artist and former UFC Light Heavyweight Champion has also been removed from the upcoming NSAC agenda as he is no longer in urgent need of a license to compete in Nevada. The UFC 12 Heavyweight Tournament Champion claimed that his high testosterone levels were because of [testosterone replacement therapy](#) treatment that was administered by his doctor the day before the NSAC test.

Belfort posted lab reports that revealed his testosterone level was 1472 milligrams per deciliter on February 7 that is considered to be "above therapeutic range." According to a test result dated February 22, Belfort modified his TRT regiment and his testosterone levels dropped to a more reasonable 681 mg/Dl within two weeks. He added his physicians had immediately modified his therapy to return him to within the therapeutic range.

In 2006, Belfort tested positive for 4-hydroxytestosterone, which is legally defined as an anabolic steroid and banned in Major League Baseball and other sports. Belfort lost a unanimous decision to Pride Welterweight Champion Dan Henderson at Pride 32: The Real Deal on October 21, 2006. It was argued by Belfort that he bought an over-the-counter supplement which contained [4-Hydroxytestosterone](#) and explained that he could have received the drug as the result of rehabilitative injections given to him by Brazilian endocrinologist Dr. Rodrigo M. Greco to repair a torn meniscus in his knee. In a statement to NSAC, Dr. Greco stated that he administered post surgical injections containing testosterone to Belfort, who was then suspended for nine months from the date of the hearing and fined \$10,000.

The NSAC decided to ban Testosterone replacement therapy a few days after Belfort took his test. Meanwhile, the UFC defended Belfort in its statement and said the UFC organization supports Vitor Belfort’s application for a license to compete in Nevada, and we respect the Nevada Athletic Commission and its licensing process and added we pending commission approval look forward to a great fight between Vitor Belfort and Chael Sonnen at UFC 175 on July 5.

In his first sanctioned mixed martial arts match, Belfort at the age of 19 defeated Jon Hess in 12 seconds by knockout. In his debut event in the UFC, Belfort beat two fighters and won the UFC 12 Heavyweight Tournament to become the youngest fighter to ever score a victory inside the octagon. In 1999, Vitor moved on to fight in the PRIDE Fighting Championships in Japan and

fought against some of the most famous names, including Alistair Overeem, Gilbert Yvel, Daijiro Matsui, Bobby Southworth, and Heath Herring.