

## **Astana Fires Valentin Iglinsky Over Positive Test**

Valentin Iglinsky, a Kazakh road racing cyclist who rides for UCI ProTour team Astana, has been fired with immediate effect from the team. Iglinsky has been provisionally suspended until the adjudication of the affair in accordance with UCI Anti-Doping Rules and the cyclist has the right to request and attend the analysis of the B sample.

This was after the [Union Cycliste Internationale](#) (UCI), the world governing body of cycling, announced that it has notified Kazakh rider Valentin Iglinsky for an Adverse Analytical Finding of EPO in a sample collected in the scope of the 2014 Eneco Tour on 11 August 2014. In a statement released shortly afterwards, the Astana team said Iglinsky has confessed to doping and has been sacked with immediate effect. The statement on Team Astana read management at Astana Pro Team have taken direct and immediate action to release the rider from his contract following the announcement by the Union Cycliste Internationale of a positive anti-doping test result for Valentin Iglinsky during the recent Eneco Tour.

It was added by Astana statement that Valentin has admitted to using prohibited substances on his own initiative and independently, without any consultation from the Astana Pro Team staff. The statement also added Astana Pro Team in its wish for full transparency has refused to defend a rider who failed to respect the rules and ethics as stipulated in his contract and who has failed to behave in a manner consistent with other riders in his team and within professional cycling.

The 30-year-old Kazakh rider finished the Eneco Tour in 96th place. He returned a positive sample on the opening stage of the race and raced twice more before his positive sample came to light. Valentin finished 106th at the Vattenfall Cycclassics and 49th at the Brussels Cycling Classic. Valentin took the overall classification in the Tour of Hainan in both 2010 and 2011 and is a part winner of stages in races like the Tour of Qinghai Lake, the Tour of Bulgaria, the Presidential Tour of Turkey, and the Tour du Loir et Cher. Valentin Iglinsky, a professional since 2009, is the younger brother of Astana's Maxim Iglinsky, who won Liège-Bastogne-Liège in 2012.

Team Astana is a member of the Movement For Credible Cycling, formed in July 2007.

The history of Team Astana has been marked by a series of doping cases. Current general manager Alexandre Vinokourov tested positive for blood doping as a rider on the squad at the 2007 Tour de France. Alberto Contador was stripped of his 2010 Tour de France title following a positive test for [Clenbuterol](#).

In another development, Vuelta a Espana leader Alberto Contador has remarked the World Championships course in Ponferrada does not suit him. The Spaniard of team [Tinkoff-Saxo](#) said there are other riders who he thinks can help the Spanish team more and should go and he will rather give his place to them. Many in the cycling world believe this year's 254-kilometre race (14 laps of 18.2km) will suit riders like Tom Boonen (Omega Pharma-Quick Step) and John Degenkolb (Giant-Shimano).