

## **UFC Fighters To Get Suspensions If Caught Using IVs**

[Jeff Novitzky](#), the UFC's vice president of athlete health and performance, has announced that Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fighters will no longer enjoy the luxury of [rehydrating intravenously](#) after a weigh-in.

Novitzky, who is best known to the world as the agent for the Food and Drug Administration investigating the use of [anabolic steroids in professional sports](#), said UFC has entered into a partnership with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to facilitate its new anti-doping program. The UFC VP said any UFC fighter who is caught using IVs could face a possible suspension of up to two years for a first time violation.

The UFC vice president of athlete health and performance said a ban of two years is a long time in the MMA and the UFC. Novitzky commented that it is something that the fighters are going to have to deal with and said they should try to become educated through us and through others on how to properly orally rehydrate. Novitzky also said oral rehydration is actually better and safer for fighters and it has been revealed by studies that people would feel like exercise is a little bit easier and they are exerting less if they orally hydrate.

Novitzky also said he believes today's fighters are using micro-doses of fast-acting testosterone. He cited a new form of testosterone synthesized from yams that could escape detection under a carbon isotope ratio test that detects synthetic testosterone.

Novitzky also remarked UFC would be saving samples of UFC fighters and store them for the long term with the possibility of retroactive testing as technology becomes more advanced. The promotion's chief anti-doping advocate said fighters who have previously evaded tests for performance enhancing drugs by making use of untraceable substances won't rest easy. He remarked blood and urine samples would be kept frozen in World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratories so they can be retested for new performance enhancing drugs that would open possibility of UFC fighters failing to clear drug tests years after a particular bout.

The UFC VP also announced that the new anti-doping program of the Ultimate Fighting Championship would cover all UFC athletes and events.

In another development, featherweight champion Jose Aldo has issued an apology for his comments against the upcoming IV ban by USADA in the UFC. The featherweight champion has never been suspended or fined for any rule violation. However, an out-of-competition test ordered by the Nevada State Athletic Commission in June was botched after the drug testers hired by the commission clashed with the UFC-backed Brazilian Athletic Commission (CABMMA). During a recent Q&A session, Aldo claimed he would ignore the ban that is set to take effect from October 1. Novitzky remarked he had a word with Aldo and he downplayed his previous comments and admitted he should not have said that.

Aldo is next scheduled to fight against interim champion Conor McGregor (18-2 MMA, 6-0 UFC) at UFC 194 on December 12. The Nevada State Athletic Commission will regulate the event, but the United States Anti-Doping Agency will also have the right to monitor the fighters.