

## **Orica-GreenEdge And Katusha Leave MPCC**

Australian professional road race cycling team [Orica–GreenEDGE](#) and Russian road bicycle racing team Katusha have decided to leave the Movement for a Credible Cycling (MPCC) because they now believe rules of the UCI are enough.

Orica-GreenEdge and Katusha became the latest teams to have left the MPCC after the exit of LottoNL – Jumbo and Lampre – Merida. LottoNL and Lampre left MPCC after its riders were blocked from racing under rules of the France-based voluntary organization. American Chris Horner, who was previously with Lampre, was unable to defend his Vuelta a España title in 2014 because of low cortisol levels and the same was experienced by LottoNL's George Bennett during last year's [Giro d'Italia](#). Previously, the Astana team ignored the cortisol rules of MPCC ahead of the 2014 Tour de France in allowing Lars Boom to race and Astana was later expelled from the organization. The same thing happened with Bardiani-CSF team at the 2015 Giro d'Italia and also left the MPCC.

The problem of overlapping rules was acknowledged by UCI president Brian Cookson who remarked the only rules teams should have to worry about are those of the world governing body of cycling, the UCI.

In a press release, Orica's general manager Shayne Bannan said we would like to thank all the current and former members of the MPCC for the discussions and initiatives and for sincerely helping the sport move further in the right direction. Bannan added we fully support the initiatives that have now become an integrated part of the rules of the sport. Going onwards, we will be a strong supporter of seeing these and other initiatives being further developed by the official organizations in collaboration with all the other teams and stakeholders of cycling.

In a statement, Team Katusha said Team Katusha understands that the MPCC intends to strictly apply its rule regardless of the similar UCI provision recently adopted, despite a clear decision taken in this case by the UCI Disciplinary Commission and without acknowledging the specificity of the present case. Team Katusha statement further reads that it regrets the position of the MPCC and in particular its refusal to adapt its rules to the

mandatory UCI Regulations and as a consequence Team Katusha has no other choice but to leave the MPCC with immediate effect. Team Katusha also said it would like to underline that it continues to fight against doping by every possible means as it has done in the past years. In this respect, Team Katusha will continue to voluntarily apply other MPCC rules – such as the prohibition to use Tramadol or the imposition of several rest days for a rider in the event of collapsing [cortisol levels](#).

The MPCC, without Orica and Katusha, count only seven of the 18 WorldTour teams as members: Ag2r La Mondiale, Cannondale, Dimension Data, FDJ, Giant – Alpecin, IAM Cycling, and Lotto – Soudal. Teams like Astana, Etixx – Quick-Step, Lampre, LottoNL, Movistar, Sky, Tinkoff, and U.S.-registered teams BMC Racing and Trek-Segafredo are not members of the MPCC.

The MPCC existed for some time and gained momentum after the [Lance Armstrong doping scandal](#). Many teams signed up to its stricter rules for increasing the stance of professional cycling against doping and controversial teams.