

## **BJ Penn Accepts Six-Month Suspension For Doping**

American professional mixed martial artist and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioner [BJ Penn](#) has accepted a six-month suspension from the United States Anti-Doping Agency. The UFC Hall of Famer will now be eligible to fight again as early as September 25.

USADA imposed the suspension after Penn voluntarily admitted to the prohibited use of an IV ahead of a drug test that was administered back in March. In a statement, USADA said Penn declared the use of an [intravenous infusion](#) of a non-prohibited substance during an out-of-competition test on March 25, 2016. The statement further reads that a subsequent investigation by United States Anti-Doping Agency revealed that the intravenous infusion received by Penn was administered in a volume greater than 50 mL within a 6 hour period. It was also said that intravenous infusions in a volume greater than 50 mL within a 6 hour period are prohibited under the UFC Anti-Doping Policy, except for those legitimately received in the course of hospital admissions, surgical procedures or clinical investigations.

A standard first-time suspension for this kind of infraction could be up to a period of two years but the right to change the length of those sanctions based on any number of factors lies with USADA. Penn cooperated with the investigation and the IV he used was with a non-prohibited substance and therefore the penalty was far less than a two-year suspension.

The suspension was made retroactive to March 25, which was the date of the drug test. The Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioner was scheduled to fight Dennis Siver in a featherweight bout at UFC 199 until he was forced off the card.

Penn disclosed that he met some doctors to treat vertigo, motion sickness, and vision and one of the doctors suggested he should take a [glutathione](#) IV. Penn remarked he was told by the doctor that having the glutathione administered through an IV would be the best way for his body to absorb the antioxidant. Penn added he was unaware of the intravenous infusion ban and checked glutathione was not in the banned list of UFC.

Still serving the suspension, Penn used social media to challenge former welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre to a 155-pound fight in November in New York. St-Pierre, who is also expected to come out of retirement this year, won both bouts in 2006 and 2008 against Penn.

Before competing in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), Penn became the first American Gold medalist of the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. He has competed in the Featherweight, Lightweight, Middleweight, Welterweight, and Heavyweight divisions. Jay Dee "B.J." Penn is only the second fighter in UFC history to win titles in multiple weight classes as a former UFC Lightweight Champion and UFC Welterweight Champion. He unofficially unified the UFC Lightweight Championship and broke the all-time lightweight title defense record and was later inducted into the UFC Hall of Fame, as the inaugural inductee in the Modern-Era Wing by career-long rival Matt Hughes. He holds the distinction of being undefeated during his reign as a Lightweight for over eight years that spanned a nine-fight unbeaten streak in the division.