

## **Kelvin Gastelum Gets Reduced Sanction**

[Kelvin Gastelum](#), the American professional mixed martial artist who is currently signed to the Ultimate Fighting Championship, will receive a reduced suspension from the United States Anti-Doping Agency following a positive test for marijuana.

USADA announced the six-month suspension of the UFC middleweight was reduced to three months following the completion of a [drug awareness program](#). This means the winner of The Ultimate Fighter 17 is eligible to return to competition after his suspension expires on June 10.

Gastelum (13-2 MMA, 8-2 UFC) went to Brazil in the UFC Fight Night 106 main event in March and beat local star and former champion Vitor Belfort (25-13 MMA, 14-9 UFC) with a first-round TKO. The win also earned Gastelum his second Performance of the Night bonus award. However, Gastelum tested positive for carboxy-tetrahydrocannabinol (otherwise known as “THC,” a metabolite found in marijuana) in a sample collected on the day of the event, which took place March 11 in Fortaleza. Currently competing as a middleweight and is ranked #8 in the UFC official middleweight rankings, the Yuma native earned back-to-back victories over Tim Kennedy and Johny Hendricks in 2016 prior to facing Belfort. Gastelum is 8-2 over the course of his promotional tenure.

The potential positive test of Gastelum was announced on April 6 by USADA. Earlier this month, the Superior Tribunal de Justica Desportiva do MMA (STJDMMA), the Brazilian Superior Justice Court of MMA, reached an agreement with the fighter. The win of Gastelum was officially overturned and declared a no-contest, and he was suspended 90 days retroactive to the March 11 test date. Gastelum also was fined 20 percent of his purse. The plea agreement was made in accordance with representatives from USADA, the UFC and Cristiano Sampaio, who oversees operations for Comissao Atletica Brasileira de MMA (CABMMA, Brazil’s MMA commission).

In a statement, USADA said Kelvin Gastelum accepted a six-month period of ineligibility, which began on March 11, 2017, the date of sample collection. The statement further reads that his period of ineligibility was reduced by three months and is now scheduled to expire on June 10, 2017 based on Gastelum’s successful completion of a USADA approved drug awareness and management program. It also reads that Gastelum’s positive test also falls under the jurisdiction of the Brazilian MMA Sports Court, which has the authority to independently adjudicate the case in accordance with CABMMA’s rules and regulations because the UFC Fight Night event in Fortaleza was sanctioned by the Comissao Atletica Brasileira de MMA (CABMMA). The USADA statement also reads that Gastelum’s sanction under the UFC Anti-Doping Policy is now identical in length to the period of ineligibility imposed by the Brazilian MMA Sports Court on May 7, 2017 following the reduction to a three-month period of ineligibility.

Gastelum was scheduled to fight [Anderson Silva](#) at UFC 212 before the news of his positive test emerged. Silva was pulled from the card as Gastelum would not be eligible in time. Gastelum has expressed his wish to fight Silva in July at UFC on FOX 25 in New York.