

Olympic Weightlifter Joshua Gilbert Banned

Olympic weightlifter Joshua Gilbert of Las Vegas, Nev., an athlete in the sport of weightlifting, accepted a suspension of three years from the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) for his anti-doping rule violation.

The 19-year-old tested positive for Furosemide on March 2, 2012 at the National Championships, and refused to submit to doping control on March 20, 2012. Since Gilbert had not yet been notified of the results of the March 2nd test prior to his refusal to submit, under the rules both incidents are classified as one anti-doping rule violation. Both the incidents are prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Weightlifting Federation (“IWF”) Anti-Doping Policies, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code.

Gilbert was banned from “Average Broz’s Gymnasium” (Las Vegas, Nevada) after he tested positive for a banned substance.

Aggravating circumstances justify a period of ineligibility greater than the standard sanction, and as such the weightlifter received a three-year period of ineligibility for his anti-doping rule violation which began on April 5, 2012, the day he accepted a provisional suspension in accordance with the WADA Code.

Joshua Gilbert is also disqualified from all competitive results obtained on or subsequent to, March 2, 2012, the date his sample was collected, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes. Gilbert, a promising Olympic lifter who trained under John Broz, tested positive for diuretic furosemide at the 2012 National Weightlifting Championships that was held in conjunction with the U.S. Olympic Trials as part of the Arnold Sports Festival in Columbus (Ohio) on March 2, 2012. Broz lived and trained with legendary Bulgarian superheavyweight Antonio Krastev, who recorded a world record snatch of 216 kilograms in 1987, during his career.

Furosemide is listed as a masking agent because of its potential to assist in elimination of anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs from the body besides helping athletes to make weight in sports with multiple weight classes like weightlifting, boxing, and wrestling.

In another development, Patrick Mendes also from “Average Broz’s Gymnasium” tested positive for human growth hormone and was suspended for a period of two years. The 21-year-old tested positive for Human Growth Hormone (HGH) as the result of two separate samples collected on February 7, 2012, and February 27, 2012 as part of USADA’s Out of Competition Testing Program. The samples were tested at the WADA-accredited Sports Medicine Research & Testing Laboratory (SMRTL), located in Salt Lake City, Utah. HGH is prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Weightlifting Federation (“IWF”) Anti-Doping Policies, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code. He accepted a two-year period of ineligibility, which began on March 19, 2012, the day he accepted a provisional suspension.

A U.S. Olympic hopeful in weightlifting, Mendes, tested positive for human growth hormone (HGH). Mendes, who graduated from Del Sol High in Las Vegas, accepted a two-year ban, which commenced on

March 19. Mendes became the second U.S. athlete found using HGH after minor-league baseball player Mike Jacobs, who tested positive under the program instituted by Major League Baseball last summer.