

Rios Fails VADA Drug Test

Former lightweight title holder [Brandon Rios](#) has failed his post-fight drug test by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) after his recent loss to Manny Pacquiao in Macau last November 24.

Rios tested positive for Methylhexanamine, a banned stimulant that is used as a dietary supplement as well as a [performance enhancing drug](#). Top Rank promoter Bob Arum disclosed that the American light-welterweight boxer had already been suspended by the Macau Commission that was set up by the World Boxing Organization to oversee the fight and added that Rios is eligible to appeal against the suspension.

Arum blamed Rios' strength and conditioning coach [Alex Ariza](#) (a former strength and conditioning coach of Pacquiao) and remarked it's not the fighter's fault since he is only following orders from his conditioning coaches as to his diet for a fight. Meanwhile, Golden Boy chief executive Richard Schaefer has defended Ariza after Brandon "Bam Bam" Rios tested positive for a banned substance. Schaefer remarked people always love to blame Ariza for everything and people automatically point fingers at Ariza. He went on to add that Ariza is doing a terrific job and he is an asset to the sport of boxing. Schaefer also said there may be other explanations for Rios' failed drug test and remarked the positive test may it was due to some vitamins Rios took or some food or whatever.

Rios and Pacquiao were randomly tested by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA). Pacquiao passed all tests given by VADA but Rios passed the first four and failed the final test. The stimulant, Dimethylamylamine, commonly known as DMAA, is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency and VADA and is found in the over-the-counter fitness supplement Jack3d. Brandon Rios said he took Jack3d when he started his career but had stopped taking the supplement after his trainer, Robert Garcia, told him he did not need it. DMAA, according to a warning on the website of FDA, is most commonly used in supplements promising weight loss, muscle building and performance enhancement; it can elevate blood pressure and could lead to cardiovascular problems, including heart attack, shortness of breath, and tightening of the chest.

The former WBA lightweight champion vehemently denied that he took anything that is banned and said he asked questions of coach Ariza before ingesting anything he did not know. Rios also said he was suspicious that he failed a test only an incident between Alex Ariza, his conditioning coach, and Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach. He remarked that though he is not going to sit down and blame anybody, he did find it odd the positive test came after the incident. Rios said he passed all of those other tests and all of a sudden, the last time, the last one, after we had that incident, then that's when we tested positive.

Rios became the U.S. National Amateur Featherweight champion in 2004 and was also a United States Olympic alternate at 125 lbs. Brandon Rios is signed to Bob Arum's

company Top Rank and defeated WBA World Lightweight Champion, Venezuelan Miguel Acosta via a 10th round TKO, to become the new WBA regular Lightweight champion on February 26, 2011.