

## **Mets Pitcher Mejia Gets Record Life Doping Ban**

On Friday, Major League Baseball announced a permanent ban on New York Mets reliever [Jenrry Mejia](#) after he tested positive for the anabolic steroid [Boldenone](#). The lifetime suspension is the longest drug-related ban ever issued by Major League Baseball.

The right-handed pitcher is the first player to be banned for life from the MLB for failing three performance-enhancing drug tests. Under the league's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program, a third violation for performance-enhancing drugs results in a permanent suspension. However, the program also says that a player so suspended may apply, no earlier than one year following the imposition of the suspension, to the Commissioner for discretionary reinstatement after a minimum period of two years. A spokesman for the agents of Mejia remarked the New York Mets reliever had no comments and it is still is still not clear whether the 26-year-old Mejia would apply for reinstatement in the future.

Mejia was banned for 50 games in April 2015 after he tested positive for [Stanozolol](#). Mejia returned in July 2015 after serving the suspension but played in merely seven games before he tested positive for both Stanozolol and Boldenone. The Mets reliever was then banned for 162 games that would have carried over into the 2016 season.

In a statement, New York Mets said we were deeply disappointed to hear that Jenrry has again violated Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program. The team added we fully support MLB's policy toward eliminating performance enhancing substances from the sport and also commented that as per the Joint Drug Program, we will have no further comment on this suspension.

Mejia has a 3.68 career ERA in 18 starts and 95 relief appearances. He was signed by the Mets in 2007 and reached the major leagues in 2010. He went 9-14 with a 3.68 earned-run average in 113 major league appearances, all for the Mets from 2010-2015. Last year, Mejia was the Mets closing relief pitcher on opening day but his injury meant Jeury Familia took over that role and helped the Mets win the National League title before losing to Kansas City in last year's World Series. The Dominican professional

baseball pitcher as a relief pitcher made the Mets 2010 opening day roster that made him the youngest Met to make an opening day roster since Dwight Gooden. Mejia made his major league debut on April 7, 2010.

It was reported by NPR's Tom Goldman that many say baseball is in a post-steroids era, but Mejia, from the Dominican Republic, is one of a number of Latin American players, mostly minor leaguers, who've tested positive for banned drugs in recent years.

Mejia became the first person to be banned for life due to use of performance enhancing drugs, and one of only two living people to be permanently banned, the other being Pete Rose who was accused of gambling on baseball games while playing for and managing the Reds, including claims that Pete bet on his own team. This was after ESPN concluded an investigation on June 22, 2015 and determined that Pete Rose bet on baseball while still a player, from 1984 to 1986.