



# NEWS RELEASE

## US TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE, FREEMAN, ACCEPTS SANCTION FOR DOPING VIOLATION

**Colorado Springs, Colo. (April 16, 2009)** -- USADA announced today that Thomas Jacob Freeman of Westbury, NY, an athlete in the sport of track & field, has tested positive for a prohibited substance and accepted a suspension for his doping offense.

Freeman, 28, tested positive for tetrahydrocannabinol acid, a marijuana metabolite in the class of Cannabinoids, in a sample collected on March 1, 2009 at the Indoor T&F Championships in Boston, MA. Cannabinoids are listed as Specified Substances and are prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the International Association of Athletics Federations Anti-Doping Rules, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code and the WADA Prohibited List. Cannabinoids are listed as Specified Substances because they could be susceptible to a credible non-doping explanation, and therefore use of those substances can result in a reduced sanction.

Freeman accepted a three-month period of ineligibility, which began on April 11, 2009, the day he accepted the sanction. As part of his sanction, the period of ineligibility was suspended and reduced to time served since he accepted a Provisional Suspension on March 25, 2009, after his completion of an anti-doping educational program, which he completed on April 14, 2009. As a result of the doping violation, Freeman has been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on March 1, 2009, the date of his positive test, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes.

In an effort to aid athletes, as well as all support team members such as parents and coaches, in understanding the rules applicable to them, USADA provides comprehensive instruction on its website on the testing process and prohibited substances, how to obtain permission to use a necessary medication, and the risks and dangers of taking supplements as well as performance-enhancing and recreational drugs. In addition, the agency manages a drug reference hotline, conducts educational sessions with National Governing Bodies and their athletes, and proactively distributes a multitude of educational materials, such as the Guide to Prohibited Substances and Methods, easy-reference wallet cards, periodic newsletters, and protocol and policy reference documentation.

*USADA is responsible for the testing and results management process for athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and is equally dedicated to preserving the integrity of sport through research initiatives and educational programs.*

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