



NEWS RELEASE

TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE, POPE, RECEIVES TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION FOR ANTI-DOPING RULES VIOLATION

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (January 23, 2009) - USADA announced today that Mitchell Pope of Raleigh, North Carolina, an athlete in the sport of Track & Field, tested positive for a prohibited substance and accepted a suspension for his doping offense.

Pope, 25, tested positive September 10, 2008 in out-of-competition testing for a boldenone metabolite, an anabolic agent, which is prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing and the rules of the International Association of Athletics Federations, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

Pope's two-year period of ineligibility began January 15, 2009. Additionally, Pope is disqualified from all competitive results achieved subsequent to September 10, 2008, the date of his positive test, and forfeits 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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