



NEWS RELEASE

PARALYMPIC TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE, SAGMEISTER, SUSPENDED FOR ANTI-DOPING RULES VIOLATION

Colorado Springs, Colo. (January 29, 2009) -- USADA announced today that U.S. Paralympic Track & Field athlete LeAnn Sagmeister (Jacksonville, FL) has received a two-year suspension for an Anti-Doping Rules Violation (ADRV).

Sagmeister, 27, refused to take part in a USADA Out-of-Competition (OOC) doping control test on November 14, 2008. Under the rules of the International Paralympic Committee and USADA, both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code, an athlete's refusal to provide a sample when requested constitutes an ADRV.

Sagmeister's two-year period of ineligibility began January 23, 2009. Additionally, Sagmeister is disqualified from all competitive results achieved on and subsequent to November 14, 2008, the date upon which she refused to submit to sample collection, 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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