



# NEWS RELEASE

## US CYCLING ATHLETE, ZIRBEL, RECEIVES SANCTION FOR VIOLATION

**Colorado Springs, Colo. (April 2, 2010)** USADA announced today that Tom Zirbel of Boulder, Colorado, an athlete in the sport of cycling, has tested positive for a prohibited substance and has accepted a suspension for his doping offense.

Zirbel, 31, provided a urine sample on August 29, 2009, at the PRO Road Championships, held in Greenville, South Carolina. The sample resulted in an adverse analytical finding for testosterone or its precursors, which is in the class of anabolic steroids and prohibited under the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing and the rules of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), both of which have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code (“Code”) and the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

Zirbel accepted a two-year period of ineligibility which began on November 17, 2009, the day he accepted a provisional suspension. As a result of the sanction, Zirbel has also been disqualified from all competitive results achieved at and subsequent to the PRO Road Championships 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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