

LANCE ARMSTRONG v. TRAVIS TYGART AND UNITED STATES ANTI-DOPING AGENCY AND ITS IMPACT OF DOPING

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In August 2012, Judge Sam Sparks of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas ruled that, even though “USADA's apparent single-minded determination to force Armstrong to arbitrate the charges against him ... creates doubt the charges against Armstrong would receive fair consideration,” the Court simply has no business telling national and international amateur athletic organizations how to regulate their respective sports. Armstrong, the court concluded, agreed to arbitrate with USADA, and its arbitration rules are sufficient, if applied reasonably, to satisfy due process.

With no more legal defenses available to him, Armstrong simply refused to cooperate with USADA and he was eventually stripped of his seven Tour de France victories. While Armstrong is now facing numerous other lawsuits by sponsors, insurers and newspapers trying to recover millions of dollars in damages, the aim of this paper, is to examine the impact the Armstrong decision on European and American sports organizations and athletes who violate drug policies.

The presentation will begin by reviewing the facts of the USADA's case against Armstrong and examining why it took so long to bring charges against him. Next, the presentation will examine Armstrong's claim that USADA's drug testing programs violated his Due Process rights under the United States Constitution. In particular, the presentation will examine the conflict between USADA's attempt to force Armstrong to arbitrate the charges against him, in direct conflict with Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and USA Cycling's desire not to proceed against him.

Finally, after reviewing the decision in the case, the presentation will conclude by examining the impact the Armstrong decision will have on European and American sports organizations, athletes who violate drug policies and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

References

- 1 Lance Armstrong v. Travis Tygart and USADA, 886 F. Supp. 2d 572 (2012)
- 2 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code