LOUISIANA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

LIA POSITION STATEMENT: SUPPLEMENTS, DRUGS, AND PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

<u>PURPOSE OF FORM (#14.13):</u> All LIA Member schools are required to <u>ANNUALLY</u> communicate this LIA Position Statement on the use of supplements, drugs, and performance-enhancing substances to every participant in interscholastic activities. (See Article 14, Section 14, 13, 2)

The Louisiana Interscholastic Association (LIA) supports clean living and clean playing. A student athlete's participation in sports enhances his/her well-being by providing an environment that promotes growth and development along a healthy and ethically based path.

It is essential that every student athlete eat a balanced diet which supports an active lifestyle and provides sufficient calories to meet his/her nutritional needs. Use of recreational drugs, alcohol, or tobacco have no place in the life of a student athlete, and the LIA supports all legal consequences associated with using these substances.

LIA strongly discourages its student athletes from using supplements – nutritional or otherwise – unless medically necessary.

LIA is strongly opposed to "doping" and discourages all student athletes from using any substance listed on the World Anti-Doping Society's Prohibited List (www.wads/prohibitedlist.org). LIA encourages all member schools to take a similar position.

In pursuit of Victory with Honor, the LIA promotes the use of exercise and sport as a mechanism to establish current fitness and long-term healthy lifestyle behaviors. It is the position of the LIA that the student athlete who consumes a balanced diet and practices his sport frequently and consistently and perseveres in the face of challenges can meet these goals.

NAME OF STUDENT ATHLETE:	Jordan Gautreaux
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT-ATLE	HETE:

14.13 LIA POSITION STATEMENT: SUPPLEMENTS, DRUGS AND PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES.

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- **14.13.1 Communication of position statement.** At least annually, each member school shall communicate the LIA Position Statement on the use of supplements, drugs, and performance-enhancing substances to all students participating in interscholastic activities. (*See Form 14.13*)
- 14.13.2 Use of banned substance during competition. Any coach or competitor using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, including performance-enhancing substances, while participating in interscholastic competition shall be disqualified from the contest or tournament.

EXHIBIT 3

LOUISIANA CHILD FATALITY AUTOPSY DATA FORM

1.	Code # <u>05-1729</u> 2. Gender: Male Female Unknown 3. Date of Death: <u>05/06/2011</u>	
4.	Race: Asian/PAC Islander Black White Other American Indian – Tribe:	
5.	Ethnicity: Hispanic Non-Hispanic	
6.	Place of Death (6a-c on Death Certificate): City/State: Chicory, LA Parish: Creole Hospital / Institution Address: Did the death occur on a reservation? Yes No Unknown. If yes, identify the reservation:	
7.	Date of Birth: <u>02/02/1994</u>	
8.	Residence: State: LA Parish: Creole City: Chicory Census Tract: 1036.09 Type of residence at time of death: Parent's home Residential/group care Correctional institution Shelter Acquaintance Homeless/runaway Other:	
9.	Death Certificate Registration No.: 1274315	
10.	Cause of death as listed on the death certificate: Immediate cause: Heart attack As a consequence of: Drug overdose Other significant conditions:	
11.	Place of Injury (line 56 of death certificate): <u>Home</u>	
12.	Location of injury (line 57 of death certificate): 623 East Crawfish Rd., Chicory, LA	
13.	Was the death certificate adequately prepared?	
14.	Does the cause of death on the death certificate agree with the medical record? Yes No N/A If no, specify:	
15.	Did the team agree with the cause of death? Yes No If no, team's assessment of the underlying cause of death:	
16.	Were there one or more chronic medical problems(s)?	
17.	Were there significant developmental delays?	
18.	If the case was not referred to the Medical Examiner for exam, should it have been? (Answer only if this was no referred to the ME).	
	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown	
19.	What was the manner of death on the death certificate? ☐ Natural ☐ Accident ☐ Suicide ☐ Homicide ☐ Undetermined ☐ Not answered on death certificate	

20.	Was an autopsy done?
21.	Was toxicology done? Yes □ No □ Unknown If yes: □ Positive Findings/Comments: Extremely high level of erythropoietin □ Negative □ Unknown If no: □ Should have been done □ Not indicated
22.	For children under 2 years of age, were x-rays done just prior to/or after death? Yes No Unknown If yes, what were the results? Should have been done Not indicated
23.	Answer for all accidental, homicide, suicide, or undetermined manners of death. Do not answer for natural deaths, unless circumstances warrant review of CPS involvement. Was there prior CPS involvement with the family? Yes No If yes: Open at the time of death Closed prior to death Prior Reports: One Multiple
24.	Family medical coverage: AHCCCS IHS Private Insurance Self-Pay Unknown
ANS	WER FOR ALL CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12 MONTHS, REGARDLESS OF CAUSE
25.	Infant Death: Birth Certificate Registration #:
	natural or medical death, complete #26, then skip to #38. if not a natural/medical death, skip to #27 (all natural and unknown causes).
26.	Was this a natural/medical death?
	Infectious disease specify:

Was	ver for all natural deaths: environmental tobacco exposure a risk factor in this death? Yes No Unknown s, explain:
	stions 27-37 pertain to all non-natural causes of death such as accidents, homicides, suicides, motor vehicle nes, and violence; and unknown causes.
27.	Was this death the result of drowning?
28.	Was this death the result of fire or burns? Yes No (If yes, answer remainder of question #28). Describe the type of burn: Fire Chemical Hot Liquid If this was the result of a fire: What was the type of fire? Residential Business Motor Vehicle Other: Were fire/smoke alarms present? Yes No Unknown N/A If yes, were they functional? Yes No Unknown Was this death the result of smoke inhalation? Yes No
29.	Was this death the result of gunshot wound?
30.	Was this death the result of motorized vehicle crash?
	Was the child a pedestrian in a crosswalk? Yes No Unknown N/A Was the child a pedestrian in a driveway? Yes No Unknown N/A Were there adverse environmental conditions? Yes No Unknown

31.	Was this death the result of non-motorized vehicle crash (Crash that did not involve a motorized vehicle)? Yes No If yes, answer remainder of question #31. If yes, what type of vehicle? Bicycle Skateboard Roller-Skates (Roller Blades) Scooters (Non-Motor) Snow board Skis Other:
32.	If death was the result of #30 or #31, was a helmet worn? Yes No Unknown
33.	Was this death the result of any of the following? Answer question #33 only if questions #27-31 were answered "no". If there are multiple causes for the death, please place #1 next to the principle cause. Animal/insect/reptile bites, stings or other injury. Describe: Choking. If yes, identify item child choked upon: Describe: Descr
34.	Was product safety an issue? Yes No If yes, specify:
35.	Family/household member circumstances (check all that apply): Domestic Violence Physical handicap Substance Abuse Life crisis Recent suicide (friend/acquaintance) Criminal Behavior Previous mental health problem. If yes, was this problem treated? Yes No Unknown
36.	Child's circumstances (check all that apply): Runaway Physical handicap Substance Abuse Life crisis Recent suicide (friend/acquaintance) Previously known suicidal ideation Criminal Behavior Previous mental health problem If yes, was this problem treated? Yes No Unknown
37.≘	Gang related? Yes No Unknown
ANS	SWER THE REMAINING QUESTIONS FOR ALL DEATHS
38.	Did medical error (such as misdiagnosis, surgical error, medication error) contribute to the death? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown If yes, describe:
39.	Did lack of medical care contribute to death? Yes No Unknown If yes, describe:
40.	Was this an unexpected death? (No prior knowledge of any medical condition that would have lead to this death) ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
41.	Was a law enforcement investigation done?

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42.	SUPERVISION:		
	Did lack of appropriate supervisio		
		nknown (If yes, answer the remain	
		nt Stepparent Sibling	Other relative Child Care None
	Other:		
	0	bute to the death? Yes No	N/A L Unknown
	If yes, identify age:		
		aretaker contribute to the death?	
	If yes, identify substance(s):	_ ;	Cocaine Sedative
		Methamphetamine Other:	er sleeping Mental Illness
	List other supervision issues:		I disability Other:
	L	Mental retardation	disability
43.	CHILD MALTREATMENT: (Refer to guidelines* at bottom of pa	ge).] Unknown. If yes, please complete the
		m". Describe maltreatment issues:	
	Cinia Manicatinent Referrar i ori	m . Deserbe mairieatment issues.	
44.	If death was a homicide or resul apply:	t of child maltreatment, who was (were) the alleged perpetrator(s)? Check all that
		☐Girlfriend ☐ Mother ☐	Stepmother Other relative
		Friend/acquaintance Instit	
			•
			_
	Were any of the following factors	present with the perpetrator? So	ubstance abuse Mental illness
	☐ Domestic violence ☐ Menta	l retardation 🔲 Physical disability	Lack of resources Other:
45.			al Accident Suicide Homicide
	Undetermined If undetermined	ed, describe reason for difficulty in o	letermining manner:
10	To subset downs over this doubt and	vantable?	
46.	To what degree was this death pre	ventable? Probably Definitely Un	lmova
	Not at all Probably not [KIIOWII
	Circle preventable issues or factor	s that apply: Describe other factors	not included in list
	Circle preventable issues of factor	s that apply. Describe other factors	not motuded in list.
	01 = Lack of prenatal care	12 = Child alone in/around water	23= Lack of medical treatment
	02 = Criminal behavior	13 = Smoke alarms	24 = Curfew violation
	03 = Lack of immunization	14 = Vehicle restraints	25 = Failure to report abuse
	04 = Exposure to smoking	15 = Inexperienced driver	*
	05 = Medical error	16 = Excessive speed	27 = Lack of mental health treatment
	06 = Prenatal substance abuse	17 = Drugs/alcohol	28 = Maltreatment history
	07 = Infant sleep position	18 = Driver fatigue	29 = Domestic violence
	08 = Co-sleeping	19 = Passenger in back of truck	30 = Public awareness-suicide
	09 = Unsafe bedding	20 = Helmet usage	31 = lack of substance abuse treatment
	10 = Parental supervision	21 = Access to guns/weapons	32 = Failure to recognize depressive symptoms
	11 = Barriers to pool	22 = Gang involvement	
	Other:		
47.	Comments/Recommendations:		
48.	Person completing this form:		
	Print Name: <u>Dale M. Lucas</u>	Date6/15/2011 Signatu	ire/s/ Dale M. Lucas

A "yes" answer to question #43 indicates that the following criteria have been met:

MALTREATMENT:

^{1.} The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines maltreatment as "An act or failure to act by a parent, caregiver, or other person as defined under State law which results in physical abuse, neglect medical neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to a child." This applies to the circumstances surrounding the death.

The relationship of the individual accused of committing the maltreatment to the child must be the child's parent, guardian or caretaker.

^{3.} A team member, who is a mandated reporter, would feel obligated to report a similar incident to CPS (Child Protective Services).

49.	Members in Attendance: Alejand	dro Martinez, Amy Decker, Richard Ma	theson and Keshawna Turner
50.	Documents Reviewed;		
	 ☑ Death Certificate ☑ CPS Report ☑ Behavioral Health Records ☑ Public Health Records 	 Supplemental Death Certificate Medical Examiner Report Law Enforcement Records Probation Records 	☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Hospital Records ☐ Department of Education ☐ Other: Toxicology Report
51.	Signature of Team Chairperson:	/s/ Alejandro Martinez	

CREOLE PARISH OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER PRELIMINARY TOXICOLOGY REPORT

REPORT No.: 2011-01030 DATE OF REPORT: May 11, 2011

NAME OF DECEASED: Jordan Gautreaux DATE OF DEATH: May 6, 2011

Prepared By: R.C. Snyder, M.D. Specimen Type: Blood serum

I tested the specimen for the following substances, and my findings are set forth below:

Suspected Substance Level

CNS Depressants Negative **CNS Stimulants** Negative Hallucinogens Negative **PCP** Negative Narcotic Analgesics Negative Inhalants Negative Cannabis Negative Alcohol Negative 10,000 miu/ml Erythropoietin

By comparison, in normal patients, serum levels of erythropoietin range from 10 to 30 miu/ml (milliunits per milliliter). These levels may increase 100- to 1000-fold during hypoxia or anemia.

CHOICE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. As an athlete, you make choices everyday that can determine if you succeed or fail.

Split-second decisions made during competition can immediately affect whether you win or lose. Other choices like how hard you practice, what you eat, and how much you sleep you get will influence how well you perform on any given day.

Another choice athletes must make involves the use of drugs to enhance athletic performance or appearance. And, like all other choices, the decision to use drugs like steroids will have both immediate and long-term consequences. All choices have consequences, but those that affect your health are more serious than others.

STEROIDS

Steroids are hormones used by some athletes to increase muscle mass and strength. Most steroids are synthetic forms of the male hormone testosterone, but some, like Erythropoietin ("EPO"), are both synthetic and produced naturally by the kidneys. And, what most steroid users don't realize is that steroids won't lead to muscle growth without also leading to other unintended, undesirable side effects.

The temptation to use steroids is understandable. Young people are under a lot of pressure to excel in athletics or to have a certain type of body. Research shows that athletes use steroids for one of two reasons: (1) to gain strength or (2) to recover more quickly from injury.

GET THE FACTS:

If you're thinking about using steroids because you want to be a better athlete or you want to change how you look, here are a few things you should know:

- Steroids are powerful drugs. Doctors prescribe them only for specific diseases.
- It is illegal to possess or sell steroids without a prescription in the United States.
- The vast majority of high school and college athletes compete steroid-free.
- High School athletes who use injectable steroids have tested positive in collegiate drug tests, sometimes months after they stop injecting steroids.
- Drug users who inject steroids are at greater risk for infections, including HIV and hepatitis.

SIDE EFFECTS FROM USE OF STEROIDS

All professional and amateur sports organizations ban the use of steroids because of their dangerous side effects and because steroids give competitors an unfair advantage.

- The use of steroids by young people whose bones are still growing will result in stunted growth.
- Girls who use steroids can grow body and facial hair and experience permanent voice lowering.
- Boys who use steroids may begin to lose their hair.
- Boys and girls who use steroids can have thick, oily skin which often leads to severe acne on the face and body.
- Steroid users report an initial feeling of well-being that is later replaced by mood swings, loss of sleep, and paranoia. Reports of depression are common in people who stop using steroids.
- Some athletes have died from steroid use either because of the effects of the steroids on their body or the effects of discontinuing steroid use without a doctor's help.



Athletes who are caught using steroids embarrass themselves, their parents, their coaches, and their schools. Sponsored by: Association of High School Athletics

Making the Steroid-Free Choice

Given all of the negative aspects of steroid use, it just doesn't make sense to risk your health and your reputation. You have all sorts of great options when it comes to enhancing your sports performance or your appearance. Consider these:

- Talk with your coach, parent, teacher or counselor about any frustrations you might have about how you are performing in your sport.
- Set short-term and long-term goals that will help you excel.
- Be well-hydrated while you compete.
 This will give you a natural advantage over your competition.
- Focus on eating a proper diet and getting plenty of rest.
- Don't trust gimmicks or quick-fix approaches.
- Support your friends' decisions to be steroid-free. Talk to a trusted adult if you suspect a friend or teammate is using steroids.
- Ask your coaches to lead a team discussion about steroid abuse.
- Work with a registered dietician to develop a plan for weight gain or fat loss.

STEROIDS & Students

Additional Help to Make the Right Choice:

There are many resources available to you to help you achieve your athletic and personal goals – resources geared specifically to athletes like you who want to succeed without using steroids. A list of excellent online resources is available at www.ahsa.org.

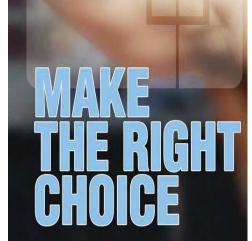
References:

"Hormone Abuse." The Hormone Foundation

"Steroid Abuse by School-Aged Children." U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration

"Use of Performance-Enhancing Substances." American Academy of Pediatrics

*This brochure, in a pdf format, can be downloaded from the AHSA website at www.ahsa.org.



It's not really winning if you cheat.



ASSOCIATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS Po Box 690 /Ft. Dale, Indiana 46206 Tele: 317-972-6900/Fax: 317-822-5700

GET THE FACTS!

STEROIDS DO A LOT MORE THAN MAKE YOU FASTER. DID YOU KNOW STEROIDS CAN:

- Cause severe acne
- Cause you to have bad breath
- Give girls a deep voice
- Give girls facial hair and cause boys to lose their hair
- Cause nosebleeds
- Cause liver problems
- Decrease your immune system

STEROIDS ALSO AFFECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND CAN CAUSE:

- Depression and thoughts of suicide
- Aggressive behavior
- Mood swings



EXHIBIT 7



MAKE THE SMART CHOICE.

DON'T USE STEROIDS.

WORK HARD AND RESULTS WILL COME NATURALLY.



ASSOCIATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Po Box 690 /Ft. Dale, Indiana 46206 Tele: 317-972-6900/Fax: 317-822-5700

www.ahsa.org

COACH'S TALLY GULFSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

$100\ m$ INDIVIDUAL BESTS (through April) 2010-2011

STUDENT	TIME	CLASS YEAR
Gautreaux, Jordan	11.50	Senior
Pierce, Morgan	11.86	Senior
Hale, Trippe	11.92	Senior
Gonzales, Giani	12.40	Senior
Patel, Shar	12.18	Junior
Himmel, Sam	12.52	Sophomore
Young, Kris	12.63	Freshman
Lee, Kim	12.79	Sophomore
Jones, Aberon	12.80	Freshman
Sanders, Eli	13.14	Freshman

100 m FINAL MEET INDIVIDUAL TIMES 2009-2010

STUDENT	TIME	CLASS YEAR
Oswald, Jessie	11.72	Senior
Rosenstein, Andi	11.96	Senior
Hale, Trippe	12.08	Junior
Gautreaux, Jordan	12.21	Junior
Pierce, Morgan	12.21	Junior
Patel, Shar	12.43	Sophomore
Himmel, Sam	12.58	Freshman
Lee, Kim	12.86	Freshman
Lindros, Sid	12.02	Senior

100 m FINAL MEET INDIVIDUAL TIMES 2008-2009

STUDENT	TIME	CLASS YEAR
Rueles, Angel	11.68	Senior
Lewelan, Rory	11.84	Senior
Oswald, Jessie	11.92	Junior
Rosenstein, Andi	12.18	Junior
Gautreaux, Jordan	12.19	Sophomore
Lindros, Sid	12.28	Junior
Pierce, Morgan	12.32	Sophomore
Gonzales, Giani	12.57	Sophomore
Patel, Shar	12.8	Freshman
Hale, Trippe	12.25	Sophomore

100 m FINAL MEET INDIVIDUAL TIMES 2007-2008

STUDENT	TIME	CLASS YEAR
Andrews, Pat	11.77	Senior
Rueles, Angel	11.90	Junior
Lewelan, Rory	12.08	Junior
Oswald, Jessie	12.09	Sophomore
Rosenstein, Andi	12.34	Sophomore
Gautreaux, Jordan	12.34	Freshman
Lindros, Sid	12.49	Sophomore
Hale, Trippe	12.50	Freshman
Pierce, Morgan	12.55	Freshman
Gonzales, Giani	12.97	Freshman

	First Chicory Bank "Trust First Chicory Bank" WITHDRAWAL SLIP	
Date <u>12/17/2010</u>		Trust⊠ Savings □
Account holder: <u>Jordan Gauteaux</u>	<u> </u>	Account No. <u>1966-0802</u>
Amount \$ 8,500.00		Teller ID_H47
		Ornday Cauthagan
		<u>Jordan Gautreaux</u> Authorized Signature

	First Chicory Bank "Trust First Chicory Bank" WITHDRAWAL SLIP		
Date <u>2/1/2011</u>		Trust⊠ Savings □	
Account holder: <u>Jordan Gautreaux</u>	<u> </u>	Account No. <u>1966-0802</u>	
Amount \$ 8,500.00		Teller ID_A14	
		Jordan Gautreaux	
		Authorized Signature	

	First Chicory Bank "Trust First Chicory Bank" WITHDRAWAL SLIP		
Date3/18/2011		Trust⊠	Savings
Account holder: <u>Jordan Gautreaux</u>	<u> </u>	Account N	No. <u>1966-0802</u>
Amount \$ 8,500.00	<u> </u>	Teller ID_	<u>C23</u>
		a	•
		, ,	iautreaux
		Authorize	d Signature

Gulfside High School Internet Printing Summary Report

Date/Time of Request:
Student Name:
JORDAN GAUTREAUX
Student ID No.:
05-6357

Documents: 1 Pages: 2



Enhancing Your Performance the Unnatural Way: A Look at the Banned Substance EPO

By Chris Tull B.T.com contributing writer

Everyone's talking about performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) now thanks to Congressional hearings held this past March which highlighted steroid use in Major League Baseball. No sport is immune from this inquiry's hot seat. Even the sport of triathlon, a competitive yet under the radar sport for years, has the bright lights of shame shining on it. The biggest PED story in triathlon broke last fall when Nina James won the 2010 Triathlon World Championship then tested positive for the banned substance Erythropoietin or EPO.

So, what exactly is EPO? What does it do? Why is it banned? And, why would someone as talented as Nina James use it in the biggest triathlon competition in the world?

The Miracle Drug

EPO first appeared on the market as a medical drug. The drug, when injected into the body, increased production of the oxygen-carrying red blood cells. It's still used today to treat several medical conditions.

EPO benefits cancer patients with blood weakened by chemotherapy treatments. It's also given to patients suffering with kidney disease and helps repair blood damaged by kidney dialysis. When provided under strict medical supervision, EPO can be administered safely. But, the focus on EPO began in the late 1980s when the sports community discovered EPO can significantly heighten athletic performance.

Magic Shoes

In 1989, seven athletes underwent an EPO experiment in Sweden. Swedish scientist, Dr. Bjorn Ekblom of the Stockholm Institute of Gymnastics and Sports, injected the athletes with EPO then measured their endurance levels on a treadmill. All subjects outperformed their previous endurance levels after being injected with EPO. Dr. Ekblom reported that, on average, EPO cut up to 30 seconds off a 20-minute running time. The benefits of EPO for athletes competing in world-class events – where fractions of a second separate winners from losers – are huge. So, why does EPO work so well for endurance athletes?

Muscles need oxygen to perform. Red blood cells in the blood carry oxygen to the muscles. More red blood cells in the blood mean more oxygen can be carried to the muscles. This continual boost of oxygen allows muscles to perform longer. Thus, for endurance athletes, more oxygen in their blood is like growing wings on their feet. With EPO a grueling uphill marathon suddenly feels like a walk in the park.

Of course, there's a catch. A medical doctor can safely supply EPO to patients. However, an EPO overdose (a big problem with athletes and their "more is better" attitudes) results in thickened blood. When a person who has overdosed on EPO rests, their slowing heart tries to pump this thickened blood through their body. The result is heart failure and usually death and, hence, one of the major reasons for banning EPO from professional sports. Many athletes found this out the hard way.

The Lore of Athletic Glory

In February 1990, 27-year old Dutch professional cyclist, Johannes Draaijer, died suddenly of a heart attack. This occurred roughly six months after he placed 20th in the month-long 3,500-km Tour de France. At the time, cycling authorities credited his death to "cardiovascular abnormalities" agitated by the rigors of his sport. However, Draaijer's wife later told the German news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, that her husband became sick after using EPO.

Overall, doctors credit EPO overdose to the deaths of over 20 professional cyclists from Europe to Central America during the late 1980s to early 1990s. Of course, the lore of athletic glory isn't only limited to cyclists. In his book, *Drugs in Sports*, Edward F. Dolan recounts a survey where 100 runners were asked if they would take a drug that would make them Olympic champions, but kill them in a year. More than one half of the runners surveyed replied yes.

I don't think many would disagree that athletes have become competitive in all the wrong ways. I'm not sure when the change happened. I'm guessing sometime within the second half of the 20th century, when commercials and television started blending with sports. Sporting participants are obsessed with victory. And, I'm not just talking about sports on the professional level. Amateur and masters athletes are just as crazy-competitive as the pros.

With this "victory at any cost" mindset, it's easy to see how getting any edge (even if it means using an illegal PED) is tempting. Meanwhile, PED-free athletes watch in frustration as their competitors illegally achieve record performances in competition.

So What's a Beginning Triathlete To Do?

If you are competing, check the rules of your sport. If the sport considers a substance illegal, don't use it. Chances are the substance is banned for a reason.

As of this writing, the World Anti-Doping Society and the International Olympic Committee have begun toughening testing standards. The National Football League and other professional leagues have proposed toughening the same testing standards. In other words, it's only going to be harder to get away with using banned substances in sports. Don't take a chance. Besides, there's no victory worth ruining your heath by taking drugs.

In addition to the health risks, using illegal substances can lead to criminal charges, being banned from your sport, and possibly losing the titles you risked your life for in the first place. Using illegal substances will tarnish your reputation and bring shame to your sport.

Consider this, as Nina James cycled to the finish of her bike leg in the 2010 Triathlon World Championship, she hung her head low. In first place, observers thought she was either being modest or focused. James said she was simply ashamed. She knew she cheated. Maybe for someone as talented as Nina James that's punishment enough.