

You have joined an inter-class debate. You are writing a speech on the motion 'Athletes who are found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs should be banned for life.' Write your speech for the Negative Side in about 300-350 words.

Good morning, honourable adjudicators, principal, teachers and all fellow schoolmates. I disagree with the motion "Athletes who are found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs should be banned for life." I really think a life ban is unnecessary and unreasonable for athletes taking drugs.

First of all, I want to clarify what "performance-enhancing drugs" mean. Performance-enhancing drugs mean any drugs taken to increase the level of energy, power and strength of a person for a short while. With these performance-enhancing drugs, an athlete has a higher chance to attain better results, and can probably prevent the chance of getting hurt. Understandably, athletes taking drugs want to do better than their rivals. Although it is unfair, I think a ban for life is an inappropriate method to stop athletes from taking drugs. In short, I don't think a ban for life is a good way to stop that from happening.

We all know taking performance-enhancing drugs to get an edge over other competitors is foul and it is almost like hitting below the belt. It is despicable behavior. Taking drugs is wrong and have serious consequences, but it is not necessary to take away the athletes' future and their dreams. They spend a long time practicing and training. The act is wrong and deserves punishment, no doubt about that, but a life ban is too harsh. This is the point I am driving at.

Many people support banning professional athletes from some future competitions if they are found taking performance-enhancing drugs. Professional athletes like those in Formula one and Grand Prix, French Open, Grand Slam, etc have huge cash prizes. They should follow the rules. Breaking the rules is unacceptable.

In a nutshell, I think we should have more opportunities for athletes because it is too harsh to take their dreams away. Also, I don't think a life ban works. We can't control their mind. If an athlete is found taking drugs for a second time, then I suggest they should be punished, but in a more lenient way. They can be suspended for a while. That is the best way to punish the athletes. It is enough just to take their chance away, not ruin their future and take their dreams away.

This, then is my team's approach. I'm certain that you will find the arguments fully convincing and that you will support my view that athletes who are found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs should not be banned for life. That's all I want to say. Thank you.

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