

Fury clears licence hurdle, moves step closer to Joshua showdown

London

Controversial boxer Tyson Fury moved closer to his dream all-British world heavyweight showdown with Anthony Joshua when he was told on Friday that he will get his licence back if he passes a medical.

The 29-year-old -- who has not fought since his shock win against Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015 to become the undisputed heavyweight world champion -- cleared a hurdle in his battle to fight again after a meeting with the British Boxing Board of Control (BBC) on Friday.

"Following (an) interview with Tyson Fury at the BBC offices earlier today, the suspension of his boxer's licence will be lifted subject to receipt and clearance of all

medical requirements," a statement read.

That announcement follows another favourable ruling last month as the troubled boxer tries to return to the ring following a positive test for steroids.

In December, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) cleared Fury to return, after an absence of over two years, following his acceptance of a backdated two-year ban.

Fury -- who will have to bide his time to fight Joshua as the WBA and IBF champion is due to box New Zealand's

WBO titleholder Joseph Parker in Cardiff on March 31 -- had been charged along with his cousin and fellow boxer Hughie, who also

failed a test for nandrolone in February 2015. Both insisted the positive tests were a result of eating wild boar that had not been

castrated. Fury also failed a test for cocaine in September 2016

and later admitted using the drug to deal with depression.

(AFP)

Tyson Fury



IOC tests athletes ahead of Winter Olympics

Geneva

Over 14,000 doping tests have been conducted ahead of next month's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in an effort to protect clean athletes and safeguard the Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Thursday.

The Pre-Games Anti-Doping Taskforce along with National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (IFs) tested over 6,000 athletes from 61 countries. The IOC said there was a 70 percent increase in the number of tests conducted between April and December

2017 as compared to same period in 2016.

"Protecting clean athletes by fighting doping is a top priority for the IOC... we are committed to working with our partners to ensure that Pyeongchang 2018 provides a level playing field for all clean athletes," IOC medical and scientific director Richard Budgett said.

The taskforce, which was set up to monitor and optimise the testing, has placed extra scrutiny on Russian athletes.

Twice the number of Russian athletes were tested in November and December, as compared to those from any other country. (Reuters)

Team Sky will not suspend Chris Froome

London

Team Sky have assured Chris Froome they will not suspend him from competition despite the advice of the head of cycling's world governing body.

David Lappartient, the president of the International Cycling Union, told a French newspaper the team should suspend the four-times Tour de France winner while an investigation continues into how he failed a drugs test at the Vuelta a España last September.

But the Guardian understands Team Sky will still enter Froome for the Giro d'Italia and this year's Tour de France as planned unless any anti-doping rule violation is brought against the 32-year-old before then.

Lappartient, who found out about the failed drugs test the day after taking over from Brian Cookson as head of the UCI last September, told the French regional Le Telegramme he thinks the case against Froome could last

another nine months.

"Sky should suspend Froome," he said. "Now, it's not up to me to interfere. Without wishing to comment on the rider's guilt, it would be easier for everyone [were Sky to suspend him]. It's up to

[Sky's team manager Dave] Brailsford to take his responsibilities.

Quite apart from

that, I think

that's what

the other

rider's

want.

They're

fed up

with the

general image."

A joint investigation by the Guardian and Le Monde in December revealed a urine test taken by Froome showed twice the permitted amount of the asthma drug salbutamol in his system. Froome admitted the adverse finding may never have been made public had the newspapers not investigated.

Team Sky and Froome deny breaking any anti-doping rules and are seeking to provide a legitimate explanation for the failed test. The team declined to comment on Lappartient's remarks. UCI rules state that in cases like Froome's the rider is not subject to a provisional suspension and is free to compete while the process continues. Froome competed for Great Britain

in the world time-trial championships after

being notified of

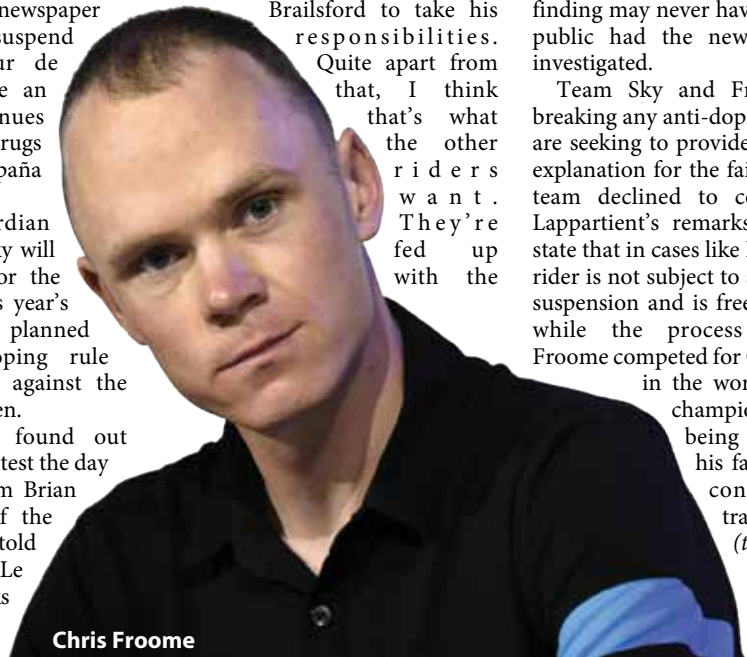
his failed test and

continues to

train as normal.

(theguardian)

Chris Froome



Peter Sagan: I didn't expect to climb like that



Peter Sagan powers over climb to win stage four of Tour Down Under

Adelaide

On its 20th birthday, the Tour Down Under has a stage win by a world champion. The new finish into Uraidla Friday afternoon promised to shake up the race and duly delivered. The stage finish is sure to go down as an all-time highlight due to the exploits of Peter Sagan.

The new finish, via the category 1 Norton Summit climb, was a stage that had no outright favourite. Predictions were mixed, with riders and sports directors alike suggesting the result could go the way of a climber or a puncheur, but with no one discounting Sagan.

On the climb up Norton Summit, BMC Racing drilled the pace to thin the field but couldn't shake Sagan. The ascent was just seconds slower than when they raced up Norton Summit two years ago. Over the top of the climb, Richie Porte (BMC Racing) and George Bennett (LottoNL-Jumbo) led the attacks and briefly got clear before Sagan made his counter-attack with 3.5 kilometres to race.

Despite being reeled in by the 34-rider group in his wake, Sagan then finished off his early work with a canny sprint finale to take the win ahead of a charging Daryl Impey. With victory came the race leader's ochre jersey.

"It was a really tough day. It was really hot and when we came to the bottom of the last climb, it was not about pain or legs," Sagan said after his finishing his podium duties as stage winner, race leader and holder of the points jersey.

"It was a really strange feeling. I didn't expect I could climb like that in this period." (cyclingnews)