

WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
7 November 2005

WADA Current Events: The Committee discussed some of the current topics on WADA's radar screen. Committee members would like to be able to have conference calls between meetings whenever there is an issue in the news about which they have questions or receive media calls. They stated that speaking to the media without full knowledge of the issues can lead to miscommunication of important messages.

WADA Programs Feedback: Committee members provided their views on how current anti-doping activities and future initiatives can be enhanced. Some of these comments include:

- I. **Storage of samples, informed consent, and doping control forms:**
 - A. The Committee supported samples being kept for eight years for re-testing, stating that clean athletes have nothing to hide. They also supported this policy being applied for other major international events, in addition to the Olympics.
 - B. The Committee also supported the samples being used for research after the eight-year period, and that all doping control forms should provide an opportunity for informed consent. The Committee recommended that there should be more education about what the consent means: the positive message to clean athletes is that their samples could be used to help advance the fight against doping in sport.
 - C. Committee members mentioned the inconsistency from country to country in DCOs' explanation of the doping control process.

- II. **Whereabouts:**
 - A. Committee members noted that some athletes are disappearing/avoiding testing by playing with their whereabouts information.
 - B. They agreed that providing seven-day whereabouts information is important to protect athletes who are clean.
 - C. They also said that whatever changes are instituted should make the system easier and cheaper for athletes. The Committee is very interested in using technology to update whereabouts info as it can change spur of the moment.
 - D. The Committee agreed that one important element to any whereabouts system is allowing athletes to nominate an agent/representative to update their information.

- III. **IO Program:** Two members of the committee were aware of the IO program. They said that in principle it sounds like a valued program that deserves more publicity. The Committee recommended that members of the Athlete Committee serve on IO teams.

Speaking Out—The Negative: Committee members discussed what should be done when high-profile athletes make public comments that are detrimental to the fight against doping. The Committee agreed that the attached statement supporting the fight against doping in sport should be used if needed. (See Attachment 1.)

Making a Statement—Stronger Sanctions: Committee members continued the discussion that began several months ago and drafted a statement supporting the harmonization efforts behind the World Anti-Doping Code and communicating the need for strong sanctions to help deter doping.

The Committee agreed to issue a position statement under the Chairman’s name that supports the harmonization achieved by the Code and calls for all parties to implement the Code in their rules (especially relating to the sanctioning of cheaters), but that also calls for increasing the minimum two-year sanction at the next opportunity to ensure that sanctions deter cheating. (See attachment 2.)

Speaking Out—The Positive: Committee members talked about public service announcements, educational programs, and promoting clean sport. Marcus de Friere and WADA agreed to work together on a pilot project: a competition in Brasil for musicians to write songs about anti-doping. Slava Fetisov, as Sport Ambassador to UNESCO, offered to send a letter to UNESCO encouraging it to launch a “Play True” Ambassador program that would recognize athletes annually from different countries as “Play True” Ambassadors. The Committee stated that more steps needed to be taken to promote clean sport at the Olympics and other major events. Committee members supported the concept of an e-mail newsletter to which athletes can subscribe in order to learn more about anti-doping. They said that information does not get passed through usually from the IF/NADO to the athlete who needs it

Other business:

- I. **IOC Athletes Commission:** Committee members received a report from representatives of the IOC Athletes Commission on the International Athletes Forum held in June 2005. Committee members agreed to work with the IOC Athletes Commission as much as possible on anti-doping activities. The next International Athletes Forum is in 2007 in Dubai; it was suggested that WADA present at this Forum.
- II. **Next meeting:** The next WADA Athlete Committee meeting will be hosted in Moscow during the last week of April 2006.