



WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

INDEPENDENT OBSERVER'S REPORT

14TH FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - WOMEN

14 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2002

(NANJING, CHINA)

Independent Observer Team

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Background

A WADA Independent Observer team (IO) was established for 14th FIBA World Championships in Basketball – Women. The championships were held in various cities in China over the period of 23-26 September 2002. The preliminary matches took place in Wuzhong, Taicang, Zhangjiagang, Changshu. The Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals were held in Nanjing, where all doping controls were conducted and observed by the WADA IO team.

Accreditation

The WADA IO team was provided with full accreditation to all required areas of the event – all seating areas, the field of play, doping control area and VIP function areas.

Accreditation was provided by Local Organizing Committee and FIBA, who were informed about and welcoming of our presence.

Short informal meetings were conducted on Sunday 22nd September with the FIBA Medical Commission representative and Local Organizing Committee Liaison Officer to ensure that the purpose and activities of the WADA IO team were understood and accepted.

Purpose

The purpose of the IO mission was to observe the manner in which the integrity, independency and transparency of the doping controls were conducted and to observe the manner in which athletes' rights and responsibilities were respected.

Training

Ms Krouvila attended an IO training program organized during the 32nd FIBA European Championships for Men 31st August – 9th September 2001. Ms Anne Gripper was well informed before the mission of duties and responsibilities of an IO by the WADA office.

Scope of Observations

1. Doping Control Facilities
2. Doping Control Equipment
3. Doping Control Personnel
4. Athlete Selection/Notification Process
5. Athlete Chaperoning
6. Sample Collection Procedures
7. Chain of Custody
8. Results Management

Laboratory analysis was not observed, as the samples were sent to the IOC-accredited laboratory in Beijing.

1. Doping Control Facilities

The doping control facilities were situated within the basketball hall where all the games were played. Access to the doping control station was clearly marked. The doping control station was constantly guarded and there were no possibilities for non-accredited people to enter the station.

The doping control station was spacious enough to ensure a proper waiting area, calm processing and a separate lavatory for the controls. A TV set was available for the athletes while waiting. The athlete giving information to the doping control officers (DCO) was situated in the same area as the general waiting area, but separated from it by a curtain. To ensure athletes' privacy while giving the personal information such as medications taken, it is recommended to have a separate room for the processing from the waiting area. The space was large enough for the 4 athletes and their accompanying persons, but if a larger number of athletes were to be tested at the same time it would be better to have a larger waiting room and a separate processing room.

2. Doping Control Equipment

Swiss production Berek-Kits approved by IOC were used as sample collection equipment for the event. All athletes were not familiar with the equipment, but the DCOs were very patient and advised all athletes, in detail, of all necessary matters.

FIBA Doping Control forms were used, with separate forms for notification and doping control.

The forms were proper for competition purposes and simple to use. The DCOs were very patient in collecting the correct information from athletes.

3. Doping Control Personnel

The Doping Control program was conducted under FIBA rules and was supervised by FIBA Medical Commissioner, Dr. Pascal Stringer. Dr. Stringer approved the layout of the Doping Control Station, conducted the selection of athletes, notified the team doctors of selection and supervised the sample collection process.

The Local Organizing Committee's Liaison Officer was Mr. Wang Mingzuan from the Jiangsu Institute of Sport Sciences.

The Chinese Olympic Committee Anti Doping Commission (COCADC) conducted the operational aspects of the doping control process. COCADC personnel were as follows:

- Mr. Chen Zhiyu – Head of Doping Control
- Ms. Li Jing – Drug Control Officer
- 4 female chaperones

All team members were well qualified and experienced. The DCOs English was limited enough to be at times problematic and the FIBA supervisor Dr. Stringer spoke only French. On occasion, interpreters were used to assist in communication between doping control personnel, athletes, FIBA representative and the IO team.

Chaperones were used to observe athletes from the time of notification until entering the doping control station. Security cards were provided by the FIBA games organization team.

WADA observers were not able to observe the briefing of the DCO and chaperone team, but it seemed to be done adequately.

4. Selection and Notification of Athletes

The selection process was run according to the FIBA rules. It was carried out 5 to 10 minutes before the end of the game. Dr. Stringer had team numbers in a bag and the team medical doctor blindly selected two numbers from each team for the control. In the second last game, between 3rd and 4th places, only one member of each team was selected.

The chosen numbers were compared to the list of athletes and the selected athletes were notified at the end of the game by their team doctor. The name of the athlete was written in the notification form. The athlete signed the notification form only after arriving at the doping control station.

5. Athlete Chaperoning

Athletes were chaperoned right from the moment of notification until arriving to the doping control station. On one occasion, the chaperone did lose contact with the athlete, when the athlete visited the dressing room with other members of the team, while the chaperone stayed outside the dressing room. Otherwise chaperoning was conducted with great consideration, even when situations were not always easy.

6. Sample Collection Process

1. The sample collection process was carried out by two doping control officers; one supervising the process and signing notification and doping control forms and one actually running the process. Dr. Singer also signed all doping control forms.
2. Most of the athletes communicated in English. Those who did not speak English were mostly helped by their team doctors. Because the language sometimes created barriers for communication, it would have helped to have written and pictured doping control process descriptions in several languages for the athletes to read while waiting for their turn to give the sample. It would be also helpful to have, in several languages, written material regarding the rights and responsibilities of athletes in doping control.
3. The selected athletes were provided a choice of sample collection equipment to use and athletes were the only one to handle the equipment they used.
4. There were four (4) athletes chosen for controls at a time and they were followed, mostly by their team doctors. There were usually eight members of the team, three members representing the doping control unit, one or two interpreters and IO observers (2). The venue was spacious enough, but if there were to be any more controls, it would be better to have a bigger waiting room and a separate room for processing and waiting. The area was guarded by security guards all the time.

5. Doping control forms were filled in carefully. Medical declarations were filled by the team doctors, who usually also helped athletes with filling in the form describing the medications used by the athlete.
6. The athletes were supervised in the lavatory by the same DCO who completed the doping control forms. She was the same gender as the athletes.
7. In general, the sample collection process was completed correctly, only occasionally being problematic because of the language barriers. In this case written material in several languages would be of great help.

7. Chain of Custody

Collected samples (20) were put in Berek-kit containers and sealed with security tape. The samples were stored in a locked refrigerator until the end of the competitions. At the end of the competitions on 26th September, all samples were packed into two transportation bags. The transportation forms were used for this purpose. The bags were sealed and transported by Mr. Chen Zhiyu the next day to the Beijing laboratory.

8. Results Management

All samples were analyzed by the IOC-accredited Beijing laboratory. The IO observers could not follow the process. Results of the analysis were received only after the competitions. They were sent to WADA office and IO observers received them by mail thereafter.

General

In general, the doping control process was conducted professionally. Security of the process and the samples was guaranteed during the observation time. The Chinese doping control team lead by Mr. Chen Zhiyu was most competent and filled its task properly.

Dr. Pascal Stringer from FIBA was very helpful for the WADA IO team and for the Chinese doping control team during the whole process. There was some initial confusion as to whether the doping control forms and results could be given to the WADA observers, but Dr. Stringer solved the problem. Doping control forms, as well as notification forms, were given to IO observers during the games and results as reported after the event. Also very helpful was Dr. Stringer's open, but firm, contact with the athletes in the waiting room.

Recommendations

1. For FIBA it would be most helpful to produce some written material for the athletes about the doping control process, rights and responsibilities of the athlete and some preventive information which the athletes could be reading while waiting for their turn. This kind of material is available in several national antidoping agencies and would only need to be slightly modified for the purposes of FIBA. The material could be simple enough to be used in several purposes and translated in several languages.
2. If this kind of material is not available, then the DCO should give all the athletes full description of the doping control process and information of athlete's rights and responsibilities during the doping control process.
3. A TV set was available in the waiting room, but some reading material could also be useful while the waiting time can be considerable.
4. The doping control processing room could be separate from the waiting room to guarantee full security of the samples and to provide athletes with full confidentiality while declaring their personal information and medications.
5. ISO PAS 18873/ International Standard for Doping Control could be useful to all doping control officers providing their services for international competitions.

6. Advance agreement with the responsible International Federation (in this case FIBA) and WADA should be reached in all events where Independent Observers act, to ensure that all rights and responsibilities of the WADA IO team will be clear from the outset.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Anne Gripper

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