

Athlete Testimonies on Whereabouts System

"I like the new WADA one-hour rule. I find it much easier to give one hour every day that I'll be home, rather than trying to designate where I am all the time. Although, in the past, the United States Anti-Doping Agency used to call our emergency contact when we weren't home to find out where we were. This is no longer allowed as it gave athletes a 'heads-up' that they were going to be tested."

**Lisa Galaviz, athletics (steeplechaser), USA
17 March 2009, prettytough.com**

"It's the price you have to pay to be a professional athlete. If you want to have a clean sport you have got to sacrifice something. And I don't think that's a very big sacrifice compared to other jobs."

"For me it is really not a big problem because I have been working with such a system for many years, ever since I had my breakthrough internationally," said the 2004 and 2008 Olympic gold medallist. We have been notifying the anti-doping body about where I was every day. I have kind of gotten used to it, so it is not a big deal. I have a very good team around me, and my coach does the planning and says where I am each day. He goes online and lets them know I'm available for example from 7-8am every day."

"It is the possibility of it which is so important. Of course they will not come to test you every day; most athletes will be tested around 5-20 times out of competition. But most athletes know where they are going to be because of their training planning. I know three months in advance where I'm going to be. For me it was never a big deal."

"Sport is not a job like being a journalist or a construction worker. It is not the same in that sense. I think doping is cheating people out of their livelihood. If I go into a competition and somebody uses doping to beat me, they get my prize money. I'd like everyone to be clean. But as long as it is possible to cheat, someone will cheat."

**Andreas Thorkildsen, athletics (javelin), Olympic champion, Norway
17 March 2009, Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA)**

"The anti-doping agencies are just trying to keep our sports as clean as possible. So I think it's no big deal now to give them an hour a day if you honestly want to prove you are clean."

**Ryan Lochte, swimming (three-time Olympic champion), USA
23 March 2009, New York Times**

"The drugs testers don't expect you to go anywhere, they come to you.

If we want to be 100 per cent sure (that football is clean), we need to be certain that the system is in order.

Contrast that with athletics and we are lagging behind. When I used to go and watch my friend Colin Jackson compete, he had to stay behind after every race for a drugs test. We tend to think athletes in individual sports are under more pressure to perform, and therefore more likely to succumb to performance-enhancing drugs, but I have heard stories from America about young athletes in the collegiate system trying to make American football or baseball drafts and taking drugs to increase their chances.

Young footballers coming through the academies in this country (the UK) are under pressure to secure professional contracts, but there is so far no evidence to suggest that they are turning to performance-enhancing drugs. (...)

I genuinely think our sport is clean (...). That doesn't mean we should be complacent, though, and the new rules on drug testing in football are to be welcomed, not moaned about."

**David James, football (Portsmouth goalkeeper), UK
16 March 2009, The Guardian**

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"Everybody should be on the same level whether you are a footballer or not. Hopefully no-one wants to take drugs but the possibility is that they could do if they do not have to give their whereabouts. I just give my whereabouts as my training session. You know where the training session is going to be. They (footballers) can put their training sessions down and if someone wants to test them then they can."

"I get tested all the time. Before the trials last week I got tested three times in the space of two weeks. At the Olympics you are tested every time you race and have to have blood tests. I did blood profiling before the Olympics as well so that if anybody ever said 'She's on drugs' I can prove I'm not. I'm not and never will be. I don't agree or believe in it."

**Rebecca Adlington, Swimming (Olympic champion), UK
17 March 2009, The Guardian**

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"It's a little strict. They've been showing up a lot at our house, especially last year before the Olympics, but we want fairness in our sport. We don't want it looked upon like baseball. We want integrity in our sport."

**Bob Bryan, tennis, USA
26 March 2009, Miami Herald**

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"It's a little strict, but it's the same for everyone. It's gonna really clean up our sport. There will be no questions in anyone's head if anyone's cheating."

**Mike Bryan, tennis, USA
26 March 2009, Miami Herald**

"It's a tough system, no doubt. It's a significant change to what we were used to before, so I think it takes some getting used to it."

"I feel like this is how you're going to catch them, right? You're not going to catch them ringing them up and saying, 'Look, I would like to test you maybe in two days.' The guy's cheating and they're smart, right? It's an hour a day. I know it's a pain, but I would like it to be a clean sport, and that's why I'm OK with it."

**Roger Federer, tennis, Switzerland
1 February 2009, The Associated Press**

"Once we get used to the system, it is no problem. I am no computer expert but it is easy to submit my whereabouts in ADAMS. You can update your information at all times, even by text message or by calling your anti-doping organization. Therefore I have no understanding for athletes who complain about the system. This system helps us catch the cheats and protect the credibility of sport."

**Anni Friesinger, speed skating (Olympic champion), Germany
1 March 2009, Welt am Sonntag (translation)**

"Of course giving your whereabouts is demanding, but it is normal to request top athletes from all sports to do it. I prefer losing time to provide my whereabouts with the hope that there will be fewer cheaters. Enhancing the number of out-of-competition tests is a good thing."

"It is not complicated to provide a location for one hour a day. We are lucky to be able to make a living from our passion, so if it takes this kind of efforts to make sport more credible, everybody should contribute to this system."

**Thomas Voeckler, cycling, France
24 February 2009, Ouest-France (translation)**

"I have nothing to hide. It is aimed at cleaning sport and I agree to be part of that. In high-level sport, cheating is part of the game. We will only be able to get rid of the cheats by multiplying testing."

**Sébastien Hinault, cycling, France
24 February 2009, Ouest-France (translation)**

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"I think this system is demanding but necessary to ensure that everybody can be tested anytime."

**Gilles Simon, tennis, France
18 February 2009, L'Équipe.fr (translation)**

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"I consider this responsibility to be part of my job, like an office employee who has to be in the office at certain times. No-advance-notice testing is the only way for me to ensure that I remain competitive at the highest level."

**Tina Hellebaut, athletics (high jump), Olympic champion, Belgium
16 February 2009, Le Soir (translation)**

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"Athletes from other sports are discovering a system that we have been experiencing for quite a bit of time in cycling. Informing authorities of our whereabouts every three months is heavy, but I have no problem with it because it gives credibility to our sport."

**Linus Gerdemann, cycling, Germany
20 February 2009, Westfalen Rundfunk (translation)**

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"It can be a bit of a hassle if you have to make a quick change to your schedule or you are ill. But the bottom line is it is there to make sure sport is fair and if that means telling them where I am for an hour a day then I don't mind. It hasn't changed my lifestyle that much anyway."

"All you have to do is go online and say where you will be. When it first came in it was a bit of a pain but once you have done it the first time it is pretty easy."

**Kate Haywood, swimming, UK
19 February 2009, Grimsby Telegraph**

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"I have nothing against it. Every effort needs to be made to flush out cheats and that requires some cooperation by athletes. Rules are rules and I follow them."

**Abhinav Bindra, shooting (Olympic champion), India
19 February 2009, Indian Express**

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"It is no fun. But to fight cheats I will do it. I am already giving my daily."

**Mahesh Bhupathi, tennis, India
19 February 2009, Indian Express**

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"I do not understand why the whereabouts rules create so much controversy. For clean athletes there is no issue whatsoever. It strengthens chances to catch cheats. The objective of the rule is to protect clean athletes. Submitting whereabouts takes time, but whereabouts can always be updated."

"Intelligent testing is crucial. To protect clean sport, athletes need to accept it and contribute to this system. Anti-doping protects athletes' and sport's credibility."

**Sabine Spitz, cycling (mountain bike Olympic champion), Germany
12 February 2009, Der Spiegel Online (translation)**