

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

INDEPENDENT OBSERVER REPORT

INDEPENDENT OBSERVER TEAM

- Dr. Ismail Jakoet (South Africa)
- Ms. Anne Cappelen (Norway)

EVENT: World Athletic Championships

Venue: Edmonton Canada

Date : 3rd to 12th August 2001

Basis for observation :

- IAAF; Procedural guidelines for Doping Control
- Olympic Movement Anti Doping Code

Scope of Observation:

1. Doping Control Station
2. Doping Control Equipment
3. Selection process
4. Athlete Notification
5. Chaperoning
6. Sampling Procedures
7. Documentation
8. Result management

Doping Control Station

The organizers did extremely well transforming the squash courts in the basement of the Main Stand into a very spacious, practical and comfortable Doping Control Station. From the notification area, there was easy but well controlled access to this area by athletes.

Reception area was adequately staffed to ensure that crowding when reporting never occurred.

Waiting area was very spacious, neatly kept at all times, well stocked with both cold and room temperature sealed drinks.

The 2 television sets provided kept athletes who were waiting to be tested up to date with activities on the track and field.

Security at the entrance to the Station was very tight and only properly accredited persons were allowed access.

The 4 cubicles occupied by the DCOs were adequately partitioned off to ensure privacy for the athletes.

The toilet facilities were more than adequate and always spotlessly clean.

The cubicle for the Blood sampling was in another section within the confines of the Doping Control Station. This area was very basically furnished. There was an examination couch and 2 chairs. Although not the most sophisticated set-up, it proved to be practical.

Doping Control Equipment

The equipment used was the Berlinger system.

For the Blood testing that was done as a screening procedure for EPO usage, a sealed blood sampling kit was designed by Berlinger for IDTM who were responsible for this aspect of the testing procedures.

In house equipment was set up by IDTM so that the screening for EPO could be done within the confines of the Doping control Station where a separate area was cordoned off.

The kit consisted of a sterile needle, swab for cleaning the puncture site, 5mls sterile test tube (vacuum sealed), test tube holder and a container very similar to that used for the urine sampling.

The blood analysis consisted of hemoglobin readings, reticulocyte count and haematocrit estimation. After the blood samples were analysed in the Doping Control Station, any corresponding urine sample for a suspicious blood result was sent to Lausanne by IDTM. If the blood sample was not suspicious, the corresponding urine sample was sent to Montreal for typical full screen test.

Selection Process

The Chief DCO under the scrutiny of the IAAF representative completed this process one and a half hours prior to commencement of the day's competition. Determining the event and the athletes to be tested was done completely randomly. No single athlete/ group of athletes was targeted.

The target set was to test approximately 35 athletes per day depending on the nature of the events. On the day there were records broken and in the case of finals more tests were expected and the selection became automatic/mandatory.

The total number of samples collected for the Championships was 350.

The IAAF official introduced 4 “blind” urine samples into the process

Athlete notification

Notification of the athletes took place in an area called the “**Mixed Zone**”. It was an area cordoned off specifically for athletes to collect their clothing en route from the track and field upon completion of their specific events.

On the first day of competition it was somewhat chaotic with large numbers of athletes filtering through upon completion of the marathon.

Thereafter matters settled down and things ran very smoothly. Under supervision of a senior DCO the chaperones notified the athletes and thereafter accompanied them at all times

The experience of the senior DCO ensured that this process was very competently handled

Some notified athletes did not speak English or French. Although athletes in a World Championship should be well acquainted with doping controls, some athletes appeared to have difficulty understanding the notification.

Interpreters were present nearby but were not present during the initial notification approach. The Chaperones presented notification in writing. It should be considered to have other means of notification to foreign athletes such as pictures or drawings. The written notification used the word “drug control.” The word “doping control” is more international and should be considered to be used instead.

Chaperoning

A total number of 37 chaperones were effectively trained by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and they did superb work chaperoning these high profile athletes over a period of 10 days.

The observation showed varied knowledge and experience at the beginning of the competition. The situation improved and caused no severe problems. The senior DCOs showed secure, confident and responsible behaviour, handling all incidents to the best satisfaction. Although a certain amount of hesitancy and apprehension could be detected amongst the chaperones in the first few days, they became more and more confident in their task as time progressed.

In terms of Procedural Guidelines (2.8) athletes had to report to the Station within one hour of receiving notification.

The average period of time that elapsed between notification and reporting to the Doping Control Station was 15 minutes. Athletes were however permitted under the IAAF Procedural Guidelines (2.8) to leave the Doping Control Station “only under unusual circumstances, and only if accompanied by an official steward”. This did occur when athletes went to medal ceremonies and press interviews and were at all times accompanied by the chaperones.

We do have a few concerns

- ***The purpose for leaving the Doping Control Station was not recorded***
- ***The time that the athlete re-entered the Doping Control Station was not entered***
- ***No time restriction is placed on athletes to return to the Station once they had left “under unusual circumstances”***

- *The athlete can leave and return at any time, unrecorded of time and reason for leaving.*

We do appreciate that the process conforms to the “Procedural Guidelines” of the IAAF.

In order to keep adequate track of the athlete at all times after notification and to have a clear understanding of “unusual circumstances”, movements outside the controlled area should be recorded.

It should clearly be spelt out in the Procedural Guidelines when an athlete is expected to return to the Station once he has left after his initial reporting.

Sampling Procedures

Both blood sampling and urine sampling procedures were witnessed.

BLOOD SAMPLING

A qualified medical practitioner, who explained both the purpose of the blood sampling as well as the procedure itself to each athlete, carried out this procedure. Each athlete was asked to sign a consent form the content of which was also explained to the athlete. No athlete refused to sign consent

Only 3mls. of blood was withdrawn into 1 single tube (***This was clearly not in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines 2.32 & 2.34) We do not know if any other regulations applied.***

The rest of the procedure was carried out in accordance with the Guidelines

URINE SAMPLING

This procedure was very professionally carried out by the DCOs on duty during the championships. Each particular step of the Sample Collection Procedure was carried out meticulously without creating any congestion of athletes waiting to be tested

Most of the athletes were accompanied by their team doctors. There was only one incident witnessed when an Ethiopian athlete reported unaccompanied. This did create a bit of a communication problem for the DCO but she managed to cope in the end.

On another occasion a non English-speaking athlete insisted to have as her accompanying person someone other than her team doctor. (***not a violation in terms of 2.9***) She chose a journalist. It was made perfectly clear to him that he was fulfilling the role of an escort and interpreter

During the session the journalist abandoned his role as an escort and interpreter and started asking questions concerning doping control sessions. The questions were of a general nature and not confined to the sampling procedure that was taking place. The athlete was obviously concerned and feeling uncomfortable with the questions that were being asked by the journalist.

The DCO answered the questions in general terms. The journalist, no longer representing the athlete as an escort, was not escorted away from the Doping Control Station.

Although the presence of a journalist within a Doping Control Station does not constitute a non-conformity, we recommend that this presence should be restricted to ensure that the Olympic Movement Anti Doping Code (2.11) is strictly respected. The point 2.11 states clearly “ no photographs, video or tape recordings may be taken inside the Doping Control Station during the doping control procedure”.

Documentation

The IAAF supplied documentation for the entire Doping Control Process .The completion of all documentation was generally handled satisfactorily

We would recommend that when" times" are entered onto the documents that there be uniformity in the system used. Either the GMT system (16h00) or 4pm be used since switching from one system to the other may cause confusion as it did in one instance. This was adequately attended to by completing a new set of documents in the presence of and with the consent of the athlete and his escort

Result Management

We were privy to all the results received from the laboratory by the 11 August (Championships finished on 12 August).

All the positive results returned were dealt with in terms of Article 3 Chapter 11 of the Olympic Movement Anti Doping Code.

Dr. Gabrielle Dolle (IAAF Medical Director) bent over backwards to accommodate us in scrutinizing the results obtained. We appreciate the utmost transparency displayed by his actions.

General remarks

1. The Independent Observer team was not provided with adequate documentation to conduct our activities, as we would have wished. ***We recommend that Independent Observers be issued with the following documentation when called upon to officiate in this capacity***
 - ***Procedural Guidelines of the International Federation***
 - ***The tournament guidelines which often differs from the IF guidelines***
 - ***The terms of reference for the Observers***
2. ***A meeting between the Chairman of the Observer team and the IF and/or its Medical Director to sort out the scope of the Observer Team and numerous other logistic issues is essential.*** We were very fortunate indeed that Dr. Ismail Jakoet could meet with Dr. G. Dolle 2 days prior to the commencement of the Championships. His willingness to assist us in every possible way contributed largely to the very few problems we encountered.

It is essential that "all access" accreditation, including track, are given to Observers to enable them to observe all aspects of the Doping Control Procedure

3. ***Clothing worn by Doping Control Officials should not be the same as the Medical personnel at the championships. It creates confusion amongst the athletes and security staff***

4. *A “dedicated car and driver” should be assigned to the Chair of the Observer team .It becomes extremely difficult to procure transport during peak times and late at night when everybody except the DCOs, the last batch of athletes and the Independent Observers have already left the stadium*

SUMMARY

All doping control activities were overall well organized and carried out efficiently with respect to overall and daily planning, training, assigning tasks to chaperones and DCO's, sampling and documentation. The Doping Control Officers in charge were dedicated and maintained control of all situations at all times.

The Doping Control Area, including waiting area and toilets were spacious and very well planned and designed.

IAAF representative Dr. Gabrielle Dolle was at all times cooperative and constantly provided information to ensure transparency and openness of all activities concerning the doping control activities related to the championships.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WADA Board and Mr. Harri Syvasalmi for giving us the opportunity to serve as Independent Observers
- WADA staff, in particular Jennifer Ebermann for all her efforts
- Dr. Gabrielle Dolle for his cooperation
- The DCOs from CCES for their excellent work
- Our employers from South Africa and Norway respectively for giving us time off to perform this task
- The people of Edmonton for making our stay there a pleasant one

24 August 2001

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