



Independent Observers (IO) Report

IX Paralympic Winter Games, Turin, Italy, 2006





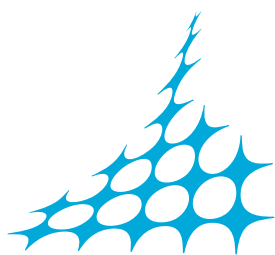
Preface

The IXth Paralympic Winter Games in Sestriere, Italy were a good experience for all the IO team members. There were no barriers when communicating with the IPC and TOROC people nor with the athletes. The atmosphere was open, easy and relaxed. It made the work of the IO team uncomplicated and fluent.

For the observed parties, observations are always connected with some form of excitement. Having been several times on both sides of the observations, I am now personally always waiting eagerly to be observed. Very seldom you get the possibility to receive feedback from the work you are doing. For me, it was a good learning opportunity and I do hope that it was the same for those whom we observed during the Paralympic Winter Games. No major mistakes were found which would have jeopardized the integrity of the doping controls in these Games. The observations of the IO team are more to be seen as a possibility of improvement with regard to the quality of future activities.

The IO team would like to sincerely thank the IPC and TOROC together with all its devoted volunteers and the athletes for the well organized sport events carried out in an open, warm and welcoming atmosphere.

*Pirjo Krouvila
Chair of the IO mission*



Independent Observers Report, IX Paralympic Games, Turin 2006

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I – INTRODUCTION

THE MISSION

The Office of the Independent Observer was set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in 2000 in time for its first mission to the Sydney Olympic Games. The first Paralympic Games to be observed by the Office were the Salt Lake Winter Paralympic Games in 2002.

The goal of the program has been to add transparency and integrity to the doping controls in international competitions.

It is of outmost importance to publish a public report comprising all phases of doping control as it therefore adds to the value of fair play in sports and guarantees the rights of the athletes.

The Independent Observer Program also aims at the harmonization of international doping control by publishing recommendations to the respective doping control organizations at the international competitions. In this way, all future Games Organizers take advantage of the recommendations on how to develop good quality doping control during their future activities.

The Independent Observer (IO) team at the IXth Winter Paralympics observed and recorded:

- i) Regulations concerning the doping control process;
- ii) The results management;
- iii) The doping control process including the:
 - Test distribution planning;
 - Selection of athletes;
 - Notification and escorting;
 - Doping control stations;
 - Sample collection;
 - Doping Control Officers;
 - Blood sample collection;
 - Documentation;
 - Post test administration and transportation;
 - TUEs.

The IO team did not have a laboratory expert within the team. The Turin laboratory was only visited while following the chain of custody and transportation of the samples.

The present report consists of the following chapters:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) General observations
- 3) Doping control observations
- 4) Summary of recommendations

II – GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

- i) Having observed the majority of the doping controls in IXth Paralympic Winter Games, the IO team came to the conclusion that the doping controls were carried out with effectiveness, professionalism and expertise and no major mistakes were found which could have jeopardized the integrity of the process. All recommendations in this report are minor in nature but they hopefully have the potential to generate an input for the development of anti-doping programs in future Games.
- ii) The working environment in the Paralympic Games was very open. The IO team had easy access to all people and places that they were supposed to have. The IO team thanks the IPC and TOROC for this and sees it as a good example for all events to come.

THE TEAM AND THE OFFICE

The IO team members were originally chosen by WADA but worked independently from the Agency. The team members were experts in the following fields: international anti-doping, sports medicine, sports with disabled people and legal matters. As the Chair of the team I would like to thank all the members of the team whose work I highly appreciated and whose experience and professionalism, as well as very good team work, was essential for ensuring the success of the mission.

The team was very grateful to the WADA headquarters for providing one of the best experts of the Independent Observer Program, Ms. Jennifer Ebermann, to manage all logistical issues like setting up the office, handling all the documentation, participating in the anti-doping meetings and creating a network of contacts with both IPC and the Games Organizers. This was also most vital for the overall success of the mission.

Both TOROC and the IPC were very helpful and provided a motivating and pleasant working environment together with the enthusiastic volunteers.

In all doping control stations the IO team was greeted warmly and treated with kindness and a helpful attitude.

The IPC provided full level accreditation to the team members. It gave the IO team proper access to all venues and sufficient transportation to enable efficient observing of doping controls in all different sports. Sometimes the waiting hours in the doping control stations were difficult to foresee, therefore the transport pick-up times were difficult to estimate. The Paralympic Lounge transportation services closed 1 hour after the

competitions as well as the loading zones. The doping controls occasionally finished 2-3 hours after the competition and the transportation was therefore not available immediately. It is to be noted that in recognition of the unpredictability of the length of time doping control can take, and the very late hours that can be involved, the TOROC doping control personnel had their own transportation.

When an IO team has to cover a larger number of doping controls in several different and widely-separated venues, dedicated cars would be helpful. This was the arrangement at previous Games. Otherwise the time lost in waiting for transport reduces the time available to observe doping control operations (including a detailed review of the doping control documentation). This point is important to consider for future Paralympic Games given the fact that the amount of overall doping controls increased 100 % from the Salt Lake City Winter Paralympics in 2002 to the Torino Winter Paralympics in 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The IO team should have dedicated transportation to maximize its coverage of the anti-doping program and its effectiveness.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE IPC AND TOROC

The IO team would like to thank Sir Phil Craven for his devotion in the field of anti-doping.

In his opening speech of the Games he reminded the athletes and their supporting personnel of the principles of fair competition and of the importance and commitment to anti-doping activities. He also strongly supported the work of the IO team.

Mr. Andy Parkinson and Ms. Betsy Liebsch were very highly valued by the IO team. They invited the team to all important meetings before and during the Games, provided and supported the team in creating good working conditions, timely informed of arrangements linked to anti-doping matters, delivered all relevant documentation to the team and generously offered their time to listen to and help the team whenever needed.

Dr. Toni Pascual was responsible for the doping controls together with TOROC and Dr. John Bourke was responsible of TUEs during the Games. They are to be thanked for their expertise, for their hard work towards the success of their mission, and for their kindness and helpfulness concerning issues the IO team approached them with. Dr. Björn Hedman and Dr. Nick Webborn



also collaborated for a successful doping control program during the Games. Their level of expertise, knowledge, experience and kindness helped the IO team on many occasions, when anti-doping activities were discussed during in the Games. Overall, all IPC representatives who were present in Sestriere were extremely helpful and welcoming.

CONCLUSION

The IO team especially wants to thank the IPC with regard to its openness and transparency concerning anti-doping matters during the Games. It was more than important to the work of the IO team. The IPC also provided warm hospitality to the IO team during the Games, of which all members are very grateful.

THE IPC

IPC has been a signatory of the WADA Code directly from the beginning in March 2003.

Prior to the Athens Olympic Games 2004, all NPC's (National Paralympic Committees) and International Paralympic Sports Federations formally accepted the WADA Code.

During the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games and for the first time, the IPC took blood controls into its Anti-doping Program.

The only exception to the IPC anti-doping rules is that disabled athletes in the sport of curling are under the anti-doping rules of the World Curling Federation.

However, the curling athletes in the IPC out-of-competition and in-competition testing program in Turin, fell under the IPC Anti-doping Code and did not constitute a problem in terms of the success of the overall anti-doping program during the Paralympic Games.

The IPC underwent a structural change within its organization just before the Games as the IO team was informed during a medical meeting on the 8th of March. The biggest changes that occurred in the IPC rules were that the IPC Management Committee was replaced with the IPC Governing Board and the IPC Anti-doping Sub-Committee changed its name to become the IPC Anti-doping Committee. Within the IPC, the Anti-doping Committee falls under the authority of the Medical and Scientific Department.

Within the anti-doping program in the Paralympic Winter Games, the Director of the IPC Medical and Scientific Department, Mr. Andy Parkinson, was responsible for:

- i) Anti-doping rule violations;
- ii) Anti-doping hearings;
- iii) Preparation of the anti-doping hearings.

The IPC Anti-doping Committee activities were under the responsibility of Dr. Toni Pascual including:

- i) Coordination of the activities;
- ii) Test distribution planning and its implementation in co-operation with TOROC;
- iii) Review of the doping control forms;
- iv) Review of the laboratory results;
- v) On site visits;
- vi) Acting as a chair during the hearings;
- vii) The daily activity reports.

A different Committee was handling the TUEs and it was led by Dr. John Bourke.

The organization functioned well and the responsibilities were clear. The IO team had several opportunities to liaise with the IPC experts due to their open attitude when handling anti-doping issues.

The IPC and TOROC published an Athletes Guide on Doping Control especially for the IXth Paralympic Winter Games. It included:

- i) A message from the IPC President;
- ii) A summary of the WADA Code;
- iii) A summary of the IPC Anti-doping Code;
- iv) An outline to the Doping Control Guide;
- v) An introduction to the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games Doping Control Program and
- vi) The Therapeutic Use Exemptions process.

The Prohibited List as well as the Doping Control Leaflet from WADA were directly reproduced in the Guide. This initiative represents a very good example of how WADA content can be easily used in order to reach the relevant target groups.

For the athletes and their support personnel, the Athlete's Guide was a very good tool summarizing all the different aspects of the anti-doping rules and activities during the Games. It was also widely distributed in different meetings and at the doping control venues.

CONCLUSIONS

The IO team would like to praise the IPC and TOROC for its short and easily understandable information package. Especially remarkable was the fact that the Athletes Guide functioned well as a summary of the IPC Anti-doping Code and procedures without suggesting that it replaced or superseded those rules and procedures (a problem that has been noted in previous IO Reports). There were no conflicts between the IPC Anti-doping Code and the Athlete's Guide.

LIST

The WADA 2006 List was used for conducting both in- and out-of-competition controls. Later in this report, the distribution of the blood controls is explained. The IPC follows the World Anti-Doping Code definition of in-competition testing as “a test where an athlete is selected for testing in connection with a specific event, where the event is defined as a single race, match, game or singular athlete contest, for example the final of the ice sledge competition”.

Practically speaking, this definition allows the organization to conduct out-of-competition controls also during the actual Games. It should be highlighted that the IOC did change this definition by considering an in-competition test any test performed not connected to any competition but during a certain period of time around the event (from the opening of the village to the closing ceremony). Whether those changes by other organizations might be confusing to the paralympic athletes or not is something to consider. However, in this case, the impression of the IO team was that during the Games (10-19th March), no out-of-competition controls took place.

RESULT MANAGEMENT

There were no positive doping cases during the IXth Paralympic Winter Games. The only matter of concern to the IO team in the process of result management was the role of the IPC Governing Board and the IPC Legal Committee. According to the IPC Anti-doping Code the athletes had an “in-house” possibility to appeal. After the first hearing, based on the results of the A split-sample, the IPC Anti-doping Committee issues a recommendation to the IPC Governing Board. After the final decision is communicated by the IPC Governing Board, an internal appeal can be requested, including or not, the demand of the B analysis. The appeal is managed by a different panel, this time the IPC Legal Committee. The procedure of appeal seems to function but it was not possible to test the function of the hearing process during the Games as there were no positive cases.

III – DOPING CONTROL OBSERVATIONS

OBSERVATIONS ON DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE DOPING CONTROL

COVERAGE

The mandate of the IO team was to observe the in-competition controls. As these controls only numbered 139, the IO team decided to cover them as widely as possible within the limits of the logistical arrangements. Within the 139 controls there were 103 urine, 32 EPO and 36 blood controls.

The IO team succeeded in observing 83 % of the urine controls including all (32) EPO controls and 47 % of the blood controls (Appendix IV).

TEST DISTRIBUTION PLANNING

During the IXth Paralympic Winter Games a total number of 242 doping controls were conducted between the 4th March and 22nd March. As mentioned earlier, the amount of controls increased approximately by 100 % compared to the Salt Lake City Paralympic Winter Games in 2002. Of the 242 controls conducted, 103 were out-of-competition controls conducted at training venues and athlete's villages before the beginning of the Games on the March 10th. After March 10th, only in-competition controls were conducted, the total number reaching 139.

The mandate of the Independent Observers was focused on the in-competition controls. Of the 139 controls, the amount of urine controls was 71, urine + EPO 32 and 36 additional blood controls. Within the blood controls, both synthetic hemoglobin and blood transfusions were analyzed. The blood controls were targeting the endurance sports which was very appropriate, taking into consideration the total number of blood controls.

CONCLUSION

The IO team would like to congratulate the IPC for the increase of controls and for the efficiency with which the control management was organized for the in-competition controls. There were no complaints by athletes or athlete support personnel to be noticed during the Games.

With regard to the blood controls, the organization was very professional and flexible, taking athlete's wishes and the overall conformity into consideration.

SELECTION OF ATHLETES

In alpine and cross country skiing, only gold medalists were selected for the in-competition controls. In these two sports, this caused some athletes to be tested 2-3 times in successive days. Nevertheless, none of the athletes complained about the situation.

Random selection for doping control was applied in ice sledge hockey and wheelchair curling. According to the IO team observations, the random selection was undertaken in most cases without a representative of either team. It would be better practice, as is done in many other team sports, to have one representative of each team present when making random selections in team sports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- If in future Games, the number of controls is to be radically increased, it would be recommendable to add some random selections for finishing places 1-5. In this case it would be good to have an IPC rule concerning such a selection, i.e. the gold medalist and one random between finishing places 2-5.*
- One representative of each team should be present when making random selections in team sports.*

NOTIFICATION AND ESCORTING

The IO team is very grateful for all the information it received during the Games in order to better understand the nature of Paralympic sports in the different disciplines. As explained very clearly by the IPC team, classification is a vital issue in Paralympic sports.

When considered from the doping control point of view, the classification system in alpine and cross country skiing gives an athlete a protest time after the competition should he or she feel that the classification has in some way been unfair with regard to the competition results. For this reason, the final results were usually clear only half an hour, or in some instances up to two hours, after the event had ended.

This places tremendous importance on the notification and escorting of the athletes. In the Turin Paralympic Games, the notification of cross country and alpine skiing athletes (potential gold medalists) took place orally for the most part, right after the competition. Then, only the chosen athlete (gold medal winner) was escorted from the finish line until the official results of the competition. On one occasion, the results changed following the described procedure and the athletes'

order changed as a result of that, so that the second athlete actually became the winner.

Both the potential winner and the official winner were eventually tested, but the athlete who officially won remained unescorted for almost 2 hours as only the first identified gold medalist was properly escorted.

Additionally, in several cases the time lag between the oral notification and the written notification (done after the official results were announced) ranged from 30 minutes to 2 hours as the doping personnel was waiting for the official results. Once, the athlete did not fully understand from the oral notification that he was officially notified and therefore he was left unattended in his locker room (both with the doors open and the doors closed) while the escorts stayed outside the locker room. This was subsequently noted on the doping control form upon request of the athletes' accompanying person.

On several other occasions the potential and official gold medalists were properly escorted but in order to ensure that the organizers are aware of the potential risks this situation entailed, the IO team decided to intervene and organized an informal meeting on March 14th with Mr. Andy Parkinson. The IO team summarized the situation it was observing and recommended that the second- and third-placed athletes in the results be escorted in the following days of the competitions if the number of escorts permitted. In the last two days of the competitions the IO team noted that their advice was followed.

Within the team sports, the notification and escorting was conducted according to the rules and procedures.

However, most of the escorts in the Turin IXth Paralympic Winter Games carried their functions out well and in an appropriate manner according to the training and guidance which they had received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *For future Paralympic Games the IO team recommends that because of the classification system and protest time allowed in some sports, the potential target athletes for doping control are escorted until the official results are final.*
- *Notification and escorting are in the experience of the IO team, the most vulnerable parts of the doping control and therefore the attention should be focused on education in order to properly organize and complete these processes. It is also recommended by the IO team that for major sports events, only very experienced escorts are to be chosen.*

DOPING CONTROL STATIONS

All the doping control stations (DCS) were appropriate, clean and useful in general. Most of the time the DCSs were spacious enough for the controls. In curling, the IO team noted twice that on occasions when there were 6 athletes present in the waiting room, the space was not sufficient enough for all the athletes and their accompanying persons, some of whom had to wait outside in a narrow corridor.

In all DCSs there were two processing rooms and toilets but only one DCO of each gender to witness the passing of the sample and the same DCOs were responsible for the doping control process. So, in fact, only one toilet at a time could be used by either males or females. In some cases 2-3 athletes of the same gender were ready to provide their sample and this situation created frustration for the ones who had to wait. On one occasion, all the waiting athletes had to leave for the medal ceremony. This caused a bit of confusion at the DCS and one escort lost the athlete he was supposed to follow for a short while.

Some minor problems were observed logging in to the stations. What is more, athletes' privacy was disturbed on some occasions and sometimes it was noisy - but the DCOs handled all of these situations in a very professional way.

Extremely good organizational skills were displayed when the decision was taken to transfer the blood controls from the DCS which was too busy, to the medical station of the cross country skiing venue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *If more athletes are to be tested at the same time, the IO team recommends that the DCO processing and the DCO witnessing the sample should be two different persons and that all the possible rooms and toilets ought to be used in a way that maximizes the efficiency and minimizes the athletes' waiting time.*

SAMPLE COLLECTION

The IPC and TOROC are to be thanked for very professional sample collection processes.

In most of the cases the DCOs seemed to be very competent according to the observations of the IO team. It is to be noted that especially the blood collection officers were very efficient and skillful.

Some minor observations were noted as opportunities for improvement. The additional security bags in which

the sample bottles were wrapped up – a new procedure required by European legislation (a law for the transportation of biological material ensuring that the security bags are used as a way of protecting people from accidental spills or breakage) – were unfamiliar to the athletes. The meaning of the security bags was quite clearly explained to the athletes but sometimes the sample bottles were wrapped up by the athletes and sometimes by the DCOs.

It would have been better to use the same procedure in all phases of the doping control to avoid confusing the athletes.

In Paralympic sport, at times the athletes are not able to handle their own samples and therefore ask the DCO or accompanying person to help them. If another person other than the athlete handles the sample until it is sealed this should be recorded on the Doping Control Form (DCF). This did not happen in most of the cases. There were also other exceptional cases where the DCO did not write an additional report or a comment in the DCF although it would have been useful. In some cases it was not possible to provide translation services but it did not endanger the process; it only caused some delay in the process.

It would be preferable that all exceptional circumstances are noted on the DCF.

In some cases the DCFs were signed by the DCO before the process started. It also happened at times that the DCO did not review the DCF properly together with the athlete before signing.

The IO team understood that these were attempts to facilitate and speed up the process but it is not recommended to speed up the sample collection process as the quality of the process could be compromised.

In one case, the B bottle was unwrapped, opened, filled and sealed before the A bottle. If there had been problems with the A bottle, the athlete would have had to start the process all over again. On one occasion the athlete was already in the toilet but could not provide the sample. The DCO then waited together with the athlete inside the toilet for 40 minutes. It would have been much better to wait in the waiting room.

Once, the IO's observed a mistake when an athlete was not allowed to drink after providing a diluted sample. This was later corrected. On one occasion some hot beverages were served to the athletes at the finish line without any explanation concerning the contents of the drink.

As explained above, these additional comments with regard to the sample collection were of minor nature and the situation can be easily improved with more care and education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *It is recommended to use the same procedure during all phases of the doping control to avoid confusing the athletes.*
- *It is recommended that all exceptional circumstances are noted on the Doping Control Form.*
- *It is not recommended to speed up the sample collection process as the quality of the process could be compromised.*
- *It is nevertheless recommended that during major Games, DCOs report either in writing or by phone all possible difficulties, unexpected or exceptional situations to the head of the doping control who then collects the notes and who immediately informs all DCOs of the right procedure. This would guarantee the improvement of the process in due time during the Games.*

DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS

The DCOs working at the IXth Paralympic Winter Games were all recruited by TOROC and they had worked already at the Olympic Winter Games. Their experience was of a high calibre. Generally speaking, the DCOs were carrying out their duties efficiently and professionally.

There were a few exceptions where the DCOs were not as organized, occasionally forgetting to put the stickers on the DCFs, or asking about athletes' comments concerning the overall process, or forgetting to wrap up the bottles in the plastic bags before putting them into the containers. These minor errors might occur as a result of human error but also due to the level of activity during late working hours etc.

The IO Team observed that most of the DCOs working for TOROC were medical doctors. For the consideration of future Games organizers, the IO team suggests that other professionals be also recruited. If the recruitment is limited only to medical doctors, the risk is that in many countries very experienced DCOs will not be able to present themselves for major Games and many new DCOs with no former experience will therefore have to be recruited. Several anti-doping programs have had very good experience using qualified nurses, physical education teachers and sports instructors as DCOs.

The IO team also discussed the organization and future development of the DCO work at major Games. Several items could be rationalized: for example developing an IT system that would record the athletes when logging into the DCS by means of their accreditation card. All information relating to the athlete could then be picked up and printed out by the DCOs on their computers at the procession desk. Currently much effort is expended when filling in the DCFs and checking the correctness of

the information including the athlete's medication. This could all be done beforehand through electronic scanning of the athlete's accreditation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *It is recommended that serious effort should be put into the education of all the DCOs so that they can complete their duties with extreme care. The working hours should also be planned according to the capacity of the personnel.*
- *It would be recommended to develop the athlete's accreditation system as computerized as possible in order to be able to feed all information needed in the doping control process. The accreditation cards could then be used at the DCSs.*

BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTION

The blood samples were collected in an excellent way. The IPC and TOROC decided not to use the centrifuge at the DCS but instead bring all blood samples to the polyclinic in Sestriere.

The athletes were also given the choice of producing the blood sample immediately after the urine sample, on the same evening or during the next morning at the Sestriere polyclinic.

While the urine samples were taken at the DCS, the blood samples were taken at the adjacent medical center. This was a very good and flexible organizational decision.

SITE VISITS

After the first few days of the Games, the IPC was very rarely present at the DCSs. They only visited the stations from time to time and no interventions were made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *While the IO team is not allowed to make any interventions during the doping control process it is recommended that the IPC should more frequently visit the DCS's and intervene in the process if appropriate.*

DOCUMENTATION

In the vast majority of cases, the doping control documentation was clear and complete. There were a very small number of minor errors (such as a wrong date or a time that was not recorded). None, however,

compromised the integrity of the doping control process.

The IO Team observed that doping control forms with carbon backing (for multi-copy forms) could generate additional markings, numbers and signatures caused by completing the information on the exterior of the sealed envelopes (used to convey copies of the documents to the WADA IO team and presumably to others) while containing copies of those documents. While in no cases were the doping control documents unclear due to the inadvertent information from the envelopes, it would be better to complete the envelopes before placing and sealing the documents inside.

The system of sending the different types of blood samples (serum and whole blood) to different laboratories complicated and duplicated the transportation of the documentation. The IO team also noted that the lab copies of the doping control forms could only be sent to one laboratory (unless photocopies were made at the time the blood samples were packaged for transportation at the Sestriere polyclinic).

While no problems were observed, such a system has the potential for chain of custody problems if human error occurs, for example, by sample collection officials or laboratory personnel.

The IO team believes, that in the future, all doping control samples be sent to the same laboratory for analysis for the sake of economy, simplicity and to eliminate the potential for errors.

A review of the doping control forms for cross-country skiing on March 12, 2006, appears to confirm the assertion that one athlete was unescorted for approximately 30 minutes after completing his race: according to the official race report, the race ended at 11:45. According to the doping control notification form, the athlete was notified at 12:24. This is consistent with the observations of the IO team that the athlete was out-of-sight of an escort for much of the period between the end of the race and formal written notification.

There were very few supplementary reports containing either doping control officer, athlete or athlete representative comments. The report made by the team concerning the escort issue of March 12, 2006, was the only one of any consequence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *It would be better to address the envelopes before placing and sealing the documents inside.*
- *The IO team recommends that in future, all doping control samples be sent to the same laboratory for analysis for the sake of economy, simplicity and to eliminate the potential for errors.*

POST TEST ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION

The post test administration and transportation of the samples were followed twice and no irregularities were found in the procedure.

TUES

Prior to the Games, the athletes of alpine skiing, cross country skiing and ice sledge hockey applied for TUEs to the IPC and the IPC subsequently handled them. The wheelchair curling athletes applied for TUEs to the World Curling Federation (WCF) and the WCF subsequently handled them. During the Games however, the IPC was authorized to handle all applications of TUEs for all sports. In acute situations, TUEs were handled within 24 hours of receipt.

A total of 62 TUE applications were handled at the Paralympic Winter Games, 41 of them before the Games and 21 during the Games.

Six applications were refused, a total of 56 TUEs were therefore accepted. Of the granted TUEs, 4 were unnecessary because the substance concerned was not in the 2006 Prohibited List. However 3 of them were granted before 2006 and followed the Lists published before 2006. Only one TUE was unnecessarily granted (by the WCF). Of the refused applications 2 were either not readable or otherwise incomplete. In alpine skiing there were 19 accepted TUEs, in cross country skiing 16, in ice sledge hockey 17 and in wheelchair curling 9. The greatest amount of applications concerned beta 2 agonists and glucocorticosteroids.

The TUE process was handled by a newly appointed TUE Committee and was run efficiently and with expertise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *It is recommended that great care should be taken in granting the TUEs and informing the athletes and the athlete's entourage of the TUE to assure rightful and timely completion of the TUE forms.*

APPENDIX I

Mr. David Howman
World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
Director General
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Montreal (Quebec) H4Z 1B7
Canada

Via Email

Bonn, 22 April 2005
AP/IPC/140

Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games

Dear David,

Further to your letter of 5 April 2005, I wish to inform you that the IPC is delighted to approve the presence of WADA's Independent Observer and Athlete Outreach programmes at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Both these programmes are a great mechanism for promoting the work of WADA and the combined commitment of WADA and the IPC towards a doping free sporting environment. In addition, WADA's role in the pre-Games testing prior to the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games added significant value to the overall doping control programme.

As you know the contact person at the IPC Headquarters is Mr. Andy Parkinson, Medical & Scientific Director, who shall work with WADA to successfully facilitate both programmes.

The IPC looks forward to working with WADA in the build up to the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Craven
President

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APPENDIX II - IO TEAM MEMBERS

Pirjo KROUVILA

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Finnish Anti-doping Agency

As director for international and developmental affairs with the Finnish Anti-doping Agency (FINADA), Pirjo Krouvila's tasks include international outreach, such as liaising with WADA, the Council of Europe, ANADO, and IADA; assisting in Nordic cooperation; spearheading education and research strategies; and working on developmental projects. She is a member of the WADA Ethics and Education committee and serves as vice-chair of ANADO.

Halim JEBALI

Tunisia

Doctor, National Centre of Sport Medicine

Dr Halim Jebali has many years of experience in doping control as a doping control officer. He has served as the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) International Classifier (Athletics) since 2002, and is member of the Executive Committee of CP-ISRA (International Federation of Sport for Cerebral Palsy Persons) since 2002. Jebali is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Sport for Disabled, and is President of its Medical Commission. He is author of two manuals in French and Arabic about the presentation of different systems of classification concerning the categories of disabled athletes in track and field.

Keun-Youl KIM

Korea

Secretary, Medical Committee
Olympic Council of Asia

Dr Keun-Youl Kim is a graduate of the Medical College of Seoul, Korea, as well as the Graduate School of Seoul National University. He is a member and secretary of the Medical Committee of the Olympic Council of Asia as well as the Chair of the TUE Subcommission of the same Council. As a representative of the Medical Subcommission, Kim was in charge of the IOC Solidarity Sports Medicine Courses on the Asian continent from 1986 to 2004.

Joseph DE PENCIER

Canada

Director of Sports Services and General Counsel
Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport

Joseph de Pencier directs Canada's national anti-doping program, which he drafted for Canada's implementation of the World Anti-doping Code and mandatory International Standards. In addition, de Pencier prosecutes domestic doping violations. He has been involved in anti-doping since 1988 when he served as legal counsel to the Government of Canada at the Dublin Inquiry into the Ben Johnson positive at the Seoul Olympics. De Pencier served on the WADA IO Teams for the 2002 Salt Lake City Paralympic Games and the 2003 FIS Nordic World Championships.

Jennifer EBERMANN

Germany

WADA Staff
Manager, Education, WADA

Jennifer Ebermann has been a manager of the Independent Observer Program since 2001 and a manager in WADA's Education department. Before joining WADA, she worked with the sports unit (DG Education and Culture) of the European Commission and with the International Federation of Basketball (FIBA).

APPENDIX III - RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IO TEAM AND THE OFFICE

If more doping controls in several venues very far apart from each other are to be carried out, the IO team would need dedicated transportation to maximize its coverage of the anti-doping program and its effectiveness.

CONCLUSIONS ON CO-OPERATION WITH IPC AND TOROC

The IO team especially wants to thank the IPC with regard to their openness and transparency concerning anti-doping matters during the Games. It was more than important to the work of the IO team. The IPC also provided warm hospitality to the IO team during the Games, of which all members are very grateful.

CONCLUSIONS ON IPC ORGANIZATION

The IO team would like to praise the IPC and TOROC for its short and easily understandable information package. Especially remarkable was the fact that the Athletes Guide functioned well as a summary of the IPC Anti-doping Code and procedures without suggesting that it replaced or superseded those rules and procedures (a problem that has been noted in previous IO Reports). There were no conflicts between the IPC Anti-doping Code and the Athletes Guide.

CONCLUSIONS ON TEST DISTRIBUTION PLANNING

The IO team would like to congratulate the IPC for the increase of controls and for the efficiency with which the control management was organized for the in-competition controls.

There were no complaints by athletes or athletes support personnel to be noticed during the Games.

With regard to the blood controls, the organization was very professional and flexible taking athlete's wishes and the overall conformity into consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTION OF ATHLETES

If in future Games the number of controls is to be radically increased, it would be recommendable to add some random selections for finishing places 1-5. In this case it would be good to have an IPC rule concerning such a selection, i.e. the gold medalist and one random between finishing places 2-5.

One representative of each team should be present when making random selections in team sports.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON NOTIFICATION AND ESCORTING

For future Paralympic Games the IO team recommends that because of the classification system and protest time allowed in some sports, the potential target athletes for doping control are escorted until the official results are final.

Notification and escorting are in the experience of the IO team, the most vulnerable parts of the doping control and therefore the attention should be focused on education in order to properly organize and complete these processes. It is also recommended by the IO team that for major sports events, only very experienced escorts are to be chosen.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DOPING CONTROL STATIONS

If more athletes are to be tested at the same time, the IO team recommends that the DCO processing and the DCO witnessing the sample should be two different persons and that all the possible rooms and toilets ought to be used in a way that maximizes the efficiency and minimizes the athletes' waiting time.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON SAMPLE COLLECTION

It is recommended to use the same procedure during all phases of the doping control to avoid confusing the athletes.

It is recommended that all exceptional circumstances are noted on the Doping Control Form.

It is not recommended to speed up the sample collection process as the quality of the process could be compromised.

It is nevertheless recommended that during major Games, DCOs report either in writing or by phone all possible difficulties, unexpected or exceptional situations to the head of the doping control who then collects the notes and who immediately informs all DCOs of the right procedure. This would guarantee the improvement of the process in due time during the Games.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS

It is recommended that serious effort will be put into the education of all the DCOs so that they can complete their duties with extreme care. The working hours should also be planned according to the capacity of the personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS (continued)

It would be recommended to develop the athlete's accreditation system as computerized as possible in order to be able to feed all information needed in the doping control process. The accreditation cards could then be directly used at the DCSs.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON SITE VISITS

While the IO team is not allowed to make any interventions during the doping control process it is recommended that the IPC should more frequently visit the DCS's and intervene in the process if appropriate.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DOCUMENTATION

It would be better to address the envelopes before placing and sealing the documents inside.

The IO team recommends that in future all doping control samples be sent to the same laboratory for analysis for the sake of economy, simplicity and to eliminate the potential for errors.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON TUES

It is recommended that great care should be taken in granting the TUEs and informing the athletes and the athlete's entourage of the TUE process to assure rightful and timely completion of the TUE forms.

APPENDIX IV – IO TEAM OBSERVATIONS

	SAT 11	SUN 12	MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19	TOTAL		
Ice Sledge Hockey							8	4		12		
Wheelchair Curling		8					2	3		13		
Alpine Skiing	2	4	2	2		2	2	2	3	19		
Biathlon	12			12						24	12 EPO	12 blood
Nordic Skiing		5			6			2	4	17	20 EPO	6 blood
TOTAL	14	17	2	14	6	2	12	11	7	85	32	18

APPENDIX V – RECAPITULATION OF RECEIVED TUES

Total of TUE's	Before the Games	During the Games	Approvals	Refused
62	41	21	56	6

Sport	Alpine Skiing	Nordic Skiing	Ice Sledge Hockey	Wheelchair Curling	Unknown	Total
# of TUE's before/ during The Games	10/ 9	14/ 2	10 / 7	7/ 2	0/ 1	61
Refused	2		1	1	1	5

Class	S1	S2	S3 Beta2 mim	S4	S5 diuretics	M1	M2	S6	S7	S8	S9 Steroids	Alcohol	BB	Total
# of substances before/ during the Games	0/ 0	5/ 0 4 insulin	28/ 5	1/ 0	3/ 0	0/ 0	0/ 2	0/ 1	1/ 2	0/ 0	27/ 17	0/ 0	1/ 0	66/ 27
Refused			3					1	1		4			9

WADA IO's comments:

- 4 TUE's not necessary: Substances (or administration) not prohibited on the 2006 WADA List
- 2 TUE forms completed not in English (but accepted)
- 2 TUE forms not legible (only 1 accepted)