



WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES

Thursday 22 October 2020 (08:00-11:00; in Montreal)
via virtual conference call

In attendance:

- Ben Sandford - BS (*Chair*)
- Danka Bartekova - DB
- Kirsty Coventry - KC
- Chelsey Gottell - CG
- Jeongho Hong - JH
- Kady Kanoute - KK
- Adam Pengilly - AP
- Yuhan Tan - YT
- Emma Terho - ET

WADA Representatives:

- Olivier Niggli - ON (partial attendance)
- Frederic Donze - FD (partial attendance)
- Tim Ricketts - TR (partial attendance)
- Dr. Alan Vernec - AV (partial attendance)
- Stuart Kemp - SK
- Stacy Spletzer-Jegen - SSJ

Apologies:

- Petr Koukal - PK
 - Li Na - LN
 - Seungmin Ryu - SR
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The following points are highlights from the agenda and meeting held virtually on 22 October 2020:

1. **Welcome**

Ben Sandford opened the meeting and welcomed members to their second official Athlete Committee meeting of 2020.

2. **WADA ExCo and Foundation Board meetings preview**

Olivier Niggli, WADA Director General provided the Committee a general update on the recent governance review, as well as an overview of the upcoming Executive Committee and Foundation Board meetings being held virtually on 11 and 12 November respectively. He was available for questions with the Committee.

3. COVID Update - Strategic Testing Working Group

Tim Ricketts, WADA's Director of Standards and Harmonization provided an update on the COVID -19 testing situation, thanking the Committee for their help on the Athlete Q&A that was produced in order to answer many of the questions athletes have about how anti-doping has been affected, and how athlete health can be balanced with the protection of clean sport. Ninety percent of athletes found the document useful from a recent survey. Testing numbers are now starting to increase, but the situation is still changing due to the pandemic. WADA continues to provide ADOs Guidance on how best to continue activities during these challenging times. The Strategic Testing Group has in part been tasked with looking for ways and means of adjusting to the pandemic, and embracing innovation in order to sustain activities in the new environment. Athlete opinion will be vital to these efforts and BS is also on this Working Group. It is likely that the athlete Q&A document will need to be updated once the advice to ADO's is updated.

4. WADA Science and Medical Update

Dr. Alan Vernec, WADA Medical Director provided the group a general update on COVID-19 from the medical perspective in terms of where things may evolve in the coming months for the sport community. Dr. Vernec thanked the committee for their work on the Prohibited List noting for the first time we will now have an alphabetical index and links to TUE documents. Dr. Vernec encouraged the committee to continue to share their ideas and concerns in order to make matters related to anti-doping science and medicine more accessible.

5. WADA Education Update

Kady Kanoute, WADA Education Committee Chair provided an overview on the activities of the WADA Education Department and the work of the Education Committee. In particular, she addressed the priority activities for WADA Education in 2021 and covered the development of the Athlete Guide to the 2021 Code. Athlete Committee members thanked her for her efforts and expressed an interest in being kept abreast of such initiatives so that they could act as advocates for new athlete resources amongst their athlete networks.

6. Players Association / Human Rights Impact Assessment

Matthew Graham and Gigi Alford of World Players UNI Global provided the group a presentation on the importance of human rights and their interest in having WADA consider a Human Rights Impact Assessment to evaluate the impact of policies on athletes. There were various questions in relation to this and BS will email the committee about next steps.

7. Athlete Representation Working Group Update

Adam Pengilly is chairing the Athlete Committee's work around the future of athlete representation on the Athlete Committee. He provided an overview of the current models being developed and took questions from the group. The next Athlete Committee webinar is currently being planned for December on the topic of athlete representation.

8. Ombudsperson Working Group Update

BS provided an update around the development of a possible anti-doping Ombudsperson office, reiterating that it is intended to fill the gaps around the world for athletes requiring independent advice and recourse when encountering difficulty navigating the anti-doping system, and results management in particular. Such an office would not replace any existing domestic office but rather be a backup service to those athletes that did not have access to such service, it would also help co-ordinate existing services where possible.

9. Athlete Committee Activity Update

BS provided an update on different committee activities including the athlete webinar series, the ACT, athlete engagement with the WADA President and Committee/Working group nominations. Discussions around the governance working group was further explained with the composition discussed in detail. Ben encouraged the group to reach out with ideas of how members would like to be involved with the Committee going forward.

10. Other Anti-Doping Issues

BS brought to the Committee's attention information related to the use of doping control samples for non-doping control related purposes permitted by the 2021 Code and discussion to understand the rationale ensued. Kirsty highlighted that the IOC is doing a lot of work in this area around trans-gender athletes and as it relates to testing the committee's will co-ordinate. A discussion was also had regarding ADO Code of Conducts that may be developing outside the scope of the code, in some cases these may oblige athletes to cooperate with investigations for example in a way that goes beyond what exists in the Code and anti-doping rules. The AC Chair will pursue these matters further with WADA's legal department for clarity.

11. Next Meeting

BS thanked Adam Pengilly and Jeongho Hong for their work on the Committee recognizing their terms are coming to an end. The next meeting will most likely be virtual and in the first quarter of 2021.