

**WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
10-11 March 2016  
Canmore, Alberta, Canada**

**The WADA Athlete Committee is the unified voice of clean athletes worldwide, encouraging integrity and fairness for sport and athletes.**

The WADA Athlete Committee met on 10-11 March 2016 in Canmore, Alberta. The Committee had one full day of meetings and then in conjunction with the International Ski Federation (FIS) Cross-Country World Cup Ski Tour, the group created an outreach opportunity to showcase the FIS Snowkidz program and spread the message of clean sport.

**In attendance**

- Beckie Scott (Chair), Claudia Bokel, Francis Doodoo, Matthew Dunn, Andr anne Morin, Koji Murofushi, Ben Sandford, Lauryn Williams, Mariana Quintanilla, Victoria Aggar, Kaveh Mehrabi
- WADA Representatives: David Howman, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen
- Presenters: Sarah Lewis, Kikkan Randall, Stuart Kemp (via Skype), Rob Koehler (via Skype)

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**MEETING OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES**

DAY ONE - 10 March 2016

The Committee received a detailed update from WADA Director General David Howman on recent activities and current affairs. Presentations were provided by FIS Secretary General Sarah Lewis and FIS Athlete Committee member Kikkan Randall regarding FIS anti-doping activities. WADA Senior Director Rob Koehler provided an update regarding NADO/RADO relations and the work of the Rio Task Force. WADA's Deputy Director of Standards and Harmonization, Stuart Kemp spoke to the Committee about the new ADAMS including its features and capacity.

**Athlete Engagement and Membership Feedback**

Committee members strive to be the link of the athlete voice and accordingly, each member is asked to continually reach out to their IF, NADO, NOC and/or other athlete groups in an effort to gain greater insight and feedback to WADA's programs and policies prior to every meeting. This is a two-way communication channel.

Committee members are asked to provide an update and/or insight regarding their activities within anti-doping which they provided below:

*Vicki Aggar*

*IPC - happy with new Whereabouts structure.*

*Paralympic doping is increasing because of larger financial rewards.*

*Met with the FISA Athlete Committee to discuss Legacy Outreach initiative.*

*Claudia Bokel*

*IOC – Positive cases at Rio will be handled by CAS, no longer the IOC Disciplinary Committee.  
German Athlete Commission would like WADA to be stronger, taking away results management from IFs and to have independent doping controls.  
Would like IOC to work with IFs to finance anti-doping.  
General feeling of not enough transparency, and flaws in the collection process.*

*Lauryn Williams*

*Feels the athlete voice is being dismissed.  
Wants further investigations.  
Questions arbitration costs and its speed.  
Need to progress the IOC proposal for independent testing.  
Also mentioned Pechstein case.  
Distrust of IF processes by athletes.  
Issues with NADOs and with NFs.*

*Ben Sandford*

*IBSF Legacy Outreach program in Lake Placid, NY titles "Slide Clean" ran over two days at the World Cup. Program subsequently taken to their Jr. World Championships. Goal to raise awareness around anti-doping. First time for IBSF and greatly received and appreciated. Lauryn Williams served as athlete ambassador.  
Compliance should be encouraged through appropriate penalties and sanctions.  
Ben will attend the ADO Symposium in Lausanne, in March.*

*Mariana Quintanilla*

*Update provided on Peru NADO and Pan American Games in Lima in 2019.  
The NADO has received some budget to develop the national anti-doping program and will do testing at some national events. More support and money is needed.  
Mariana to attend the ADO Symposium in Lausanne, in March.*

*Koji Murofushi*

*Member of IAAF Athlete Commission (IAAF AC).  
Talked about protecting Yuliya Stepanova, the whistleblower.  
IAAF AC backed increased sanctions to those that lie or provide false information.  
Prize money should be returned after a positive drug test.*

*Kaveh Mehrabi*

*Financial rewards creating temptation to cheat.  
Badminton Federation (BWF) – issue of transparency and athletes lacking trust of IFs.  
What does WADA require of continental organizations?  
Education needed for the emerging athlete.*

*Andreanne Morin*

*Feedback on testing experience – should be anonymous.  
Rowing Federation (FISA) Legacy Program discussed.  
Joined an arbitration conference which provided a good experience.  
Will attend WADA Education Committee meeting in April.*

*Francis Dodoo*

*Need strong penalties for non-compliance and no "bending" for political reasons.  
Ironic that a doped whistleblower has done more for clean athletes than we have.*

*Beckie Scott*

*Continues to serve on Compliance Review Expert Group.*

*Recently featured in a "WADA Talks" interview series.*

*Need to ensure that athletes are part of the ADAMS development/update process.*

## **OUTCOMES**

Committee members had an 'in camera' session to discuss the topic of investigations and how they would like to move forward. Together they wrote a letter addressed to WADA President, Sir Craig Reddie.

*Dear President, dear Sir Craig:*

*The WADA Athletes' Committee met today in Canmore, Alberta. The most important discussion item for us, as the voice and representatives of clean athletes world-wide, was the request we put forth in November to the WADA Foundation Board: a request to extend the mandate of the Independent Commission. We are of the firm opinion that there needs to be further investigation into other sports in Russia, and other countries identified in the report.*

*Since November, we have received many calls and requests from athletes and athlete committees, from many sports, across many nations, for the same. Today we considered those, and have again reviewed the detailed content of the report issued in November, during an in-camera session.*

*Many comments and statements within the report indicate that other sports and countries are implicated, and as such, require further investigation.*

*Our view as a committee is that the response to date - to such an evidence-based, incriminating report - has been unsatisfactory, and we wish to express our strong position, once again, in renewing our call for WADA to extend the mandate of the Independent Commission to sports in Russia other than athletics, as well as other countries named in the report.*

*WADA states clearly that it supports clean athletes and at the moment, clean athletes are disappointed with the lack of action that has been taken.*

*The principles of fair sport are very close to our hearts. We believe that extending the mandate will be a sign of our commitment to clean sport, and a sign that the voice of the clean athlete is being heard.*

*In addition, we as a committee wish to publicly announce our strong support and gratitude to the whistleblowers, Vitaly and Yuliya. They have made a courageous contribution to the anti-doping movement and to clean athletes in particular. Their bravery and risk-taking has brought about personal changes to their way of life which are substantial. We recognize them for their contribution, and we trust that the world of sport will likewise support and appreciate them.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Beckie Scott  
Chair*

DAY TWO – 11 March 2016

**Outreach**

On 11 March, in conjunction with the FIS Cross-Country World Cup Ski Tour in Canmore, WADA's Athlete Committee created an outreach activity to showcase the FIS Snowkidz program and spread the message of clean sport. Committee members were taught to cross-country ski from a group of 50 young and emerging skiers from the area. FIS Athlete Committee member Kikkan Randall also joined the program. Everyone was provided a Snowkidz bib and a Play True toque to wear for the occasion. Two different race courses were built in order to have races/competition. Upon learning the basic techniques of skiing, the Committee members and young athletes took to the race course for some enjoyable and humorous competition.

Prior to the start of this skiing session, Beckie Scott introduced each member of WADA's Athlete Committee, naming their sport and long list of accomplishments. She then led a question and answer session with the young athletes giving them information about anti-doping and taking a number of their questions. The experience had a big impact and after the event the coaches of the young athletes followed-up with Beckie saying that the kids greatly enjoyed the experience and wanted to learn/know more.

The coaches have since been accessing WADA's resources online and will have Beckie come and do an in-depth session in the near future. Capturing these kids right at the beginning of their careers appears to have been very worthwhile - and a real testament to the importance of outreach and engaging youth. It also showcases the importance of having strong role models and the part that elite athletes can play in promoting clean sport.

**Next Meeting/Follow-up**

Tentatively scheduled for December 2016 in Sapporo, Japan.