

**WADA Athlete Committee Meeting
August 20-21, 2009
Meeting Notes**

WADA's Athlete Committee met August 20-21, 2009 in Berlin (Germany) during the IAAF World Championships.

Participants:

Members: Claudia Bokel, Jacqui Cooper, Marcus De Freire, Rania Elwani, Meike Evers, Sara Fisher, Frank Fredericks, Anil Kumble, David Millar, Rosa Mota, Katarzyna Rogowicz, Yoko Tanabe

WADA representatives: David Howman, Kelly Fairweather, Julie Masse

Regrets: Vyacheslav Fetisov, Lindsay Davenport, Stéphane Diagana, Beckie Scott, Yang Yang

The Committee discussed key topics and as a result, several comments and suggestions were offered:

ADAMS\Whereabouts:

- The Committee reiterated its position that all anti-doping organizations should be using ADAMS as the unique tool for their anti-doping programs as it would be simpler for athletes to use around the world. This would also help improve testing strategies and maximize the resources of all organizations involved.
- In practice, some athletes are required to fill in the same information into two or more databases. This situation is far from being reassuring for the athlete as this increases the risk of inputting different information hence of missing a test and being sanctioned for it. Further this duplicates efforts when harmonization is supposed to be the key.
- The Committee encourages WADA to explore the possibility to make it mandatory that all WADA stakeholders use this unique tool.
- The latest improvements to be brought on to ADAMS are due in the Fall and then after the Olympic Games in 2010. The Committee suggests that some members be part of a sub-committee to comment and test those changes in order to help improve usability of ADAMS.
- The Committee encourages WADA to communicate stricter or mandatory criteria for being on a Registered testing Pool (RTP). The fact that it is a discretionary decision for the IF and the NADO means that it is perceived quite differently from one sport to another, from a country to another, and uneven to athletes.
- The Committee was concerned that some athletes are on RTP but have never been tested. It is stressed that if you are on the RTP you should regularly be tested. These concerns are based on the fact that testing serves not only for detection of doping, but also as a deterrent, and if athletes do not believe that they will be tested, then they are at greater risk for doping.
- Finally, on whereabouts and ADAMS it was concluded that to be in a position to become a voice and support the program Committee members should seek the possibility to complete whereabouts on ADAMS.

Testing:

- Members discussed the necessity for National sports federations and National anti-doping organizations and Major games organizers to better coordinate tests to be performed in order to avoid multiple testing on same athletes during the same period.
- IFs should be more proactive and take responsibility for communicating and sharing information with their own athletes on anti-doping programs as information does not consistently trickle down to athletes.
- Members deplore the fact that some organizations cannot or do not perform enough tests because of lack of funds.

Results managements:

- WADA should look into the possibility to introduce technological advances to avoid the use of paper to identify samples as this would help to ensure the chain of custody. Bar coding was mentioned as an alternative.

Outreach Program:

- The Committee encourages all stakeholders to use the WADA Outreach program to ensure that the correct information about the dangers and consequences of doping is being disseminated to all athletes in all sports and in all countries.
- The Committee recommended that Outreach could be extended to:
 - ask athletes questions about their experience with testing;
 - start building a Play True social community - ask quiz-taker to register online;
 - survey athletes on all related subjects.

Play True Generation:

- Committee members offered several suggestions on delivery of messages and tools for Youth and stressed the importance of specifically developing targeted messages;
 - deliver the anti-doping message by using dynamic means to illustrate both positive (inspiring stories) and negative (dangers of doping) themes;
 - develop a "peers concept" or "community network" to reach out to Youths – Play True must be cool to adhere to;
 - at events create an environment where Youths want to visit or hang out as it is perceived as being THE place to go to, the thing to do. The objective is to bring Play True to a level where adherence is highly sought after.
- Education Committee: As invited, two members of the Committee will partake in the next Education Committee meeting where the Play True Generation Program will be presented and discussed – Jacqui Cooper and Sara Fischer will represent the Athlete Committee.

Next meeting(s):

- The Committee would like to meet twice a year. As additional ideas, members recommend that:
 - they meet "virtually" periodically to discuss matters of interest;
 - teleconferences be organized in the week preceding Board meetings and
 - other modes of communications outside in person meetings to be considered by WADA management.