

WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING

SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

27 August 2007

Montreal, Canada

The WADA Athletes' Committee met at WADA headquarters in Montreal, Quebec (Canada), on Monday, August 27, 2007.

The discussion focused on the Committee's feedback on the draft revisions to the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) and the International Standard for Testing (IST) that have been proposed by stakeholders over the course of the third and final review and consultation of the Code.

The Code Review Project Team led the Committee through an article-by-article review of proposed changes to the Code. Committee members expressed their support of the proposed changes, including the recommendation that permits sanctions of up to four years in cases of aggravating circumstances, and the possibility for anti-doping organizations to impose financial consequences for violations.

Committee members discussed proposed additions to the Code and the IST in relation to whereabouts information and missed tests. This is an area in which stakeholders, previously having requested some flexibility in the initial drafting of the Code and International Standard, now call for greater harmonization. Specifically, the current Code does not set requirements as to the number of missed tests that should lead to a potential anti-doping rule violation, leaving it to anti-doping organizations to determine this number based upon varying circumstances encountered in different sports and countries.

As a general response to the IST revision, Athlete Committee members agreed that it is important to harmonize this part of the anti-doping system, and that an important responsibility of all athletes is to provide accurate whereabouts information and to be available for out-of-competition testing anytime and anywhere. Athletes also suggested that providing information once a month (instead of every three months) would help to ensure greater accuracy of the information provided. As to the proposed requirement of one-hour-per-day availability for testing, with non-compliance resulting in a missed test, committee members diverged. While one committee member said that this was too much of a burden on athletes, others said that this is what top athletes must do as part of their responsibility and contribution to the fight against doping in sport.

At the upcoming World Conference on Doping in Sport, to be hosted in Madrid (Spain) on November 15-17, 2007, Committee Chairman Slava Fetisov will represent the athletes' perspective. Chairman Fetisov invited Committee members who will be attending the Conference to participate in this presentation.

Other items covered during the August 27 meeting included: a welcome and overview of WADA priorities by WADA President Richard W. Pound, an update on WADA activities and current affairs by WADA Director General David Howman, a report on science and testing topics by WADA Science Director Dr. Olivier Rabin, and an update from Committee



Chairman Slava Fetisov on the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport and proposals for funds in support of anti-doping activities worldwide. Committee members also proposed topics for future discussion and activity, such as speaking out against proposals for the liberalization of anti-doping policies and focusing attention on outreach and education.