



WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2010

The WADA Athlete Committee met September 8 – 9, 2010 at the WADA headquarters where they received comprehensive information about specific anti-doping matters. Over the course of these two days the athletes were able to advise and provide comments about a variety of topics.

Participants:

Members: Vyacheslav Fetisov (Chair), Claudia Bokel, Jacqui Cooper, Rania Elwani, Meike Evers, Frank Fredericks, Alberto Lopez-Moreno, Sara Fisher, Beckie Scott, Daichi Suzuki, Yang Yang

WADA representatives: David Howman, Julie Masse, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen

Regrets: Lindsay Davenport, Barbara Kendall, Anil Kumble, Roger Milla, David Millar, Katarzyna Rogowicz

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

ADAMS:

An overview and training session was facilitated in order for committee members to have a full understanding of the ADAMS platform. Usability improvements to ADAMS were discussed and while it was acknowledged and accepted that changing technology is a long, costly and timely process, the athletes asked WADA to re-prioritize the whereabouts module in order to accelerate its release to athletes. WADA will be providing a release schedule regarding the ongoing work to the system. The athletes were provided a training exercise and encouraged to continue providing their feedback. Selected Committee members will be actively engaged in the test user group of ADAMS.

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.

Whereabouts:

A detailed presentation allowed members a greater understanding of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and the need for whereabouts information as well as WADA's work to help Anti-Doping Organizations establishing appropriate RTPs. It has been reported again from Sweden, that some athletes would prefer some sort of GPS system instead of filing out whereabouts requirements and avoid the risk of getting caught by default. Committee members have observed that privacy rights are not regarded in the same manner by youth. Social media has most probably contributed to the down play of privacy laws that were made by previous generations. Perhaps the insistence on privacy is now outmoded and not reflective of actuality, particularly with younger people?

Information:

Athlete feedback helped to guide the creation of the WADA At a Glance series which is a series of basic information on Anti-Doping, Whereabouts, Testing and TUEs targeted to athletes. The committee provided relevant changes to the messaging for these documents.

Prohibited List:

Starting in 2011, the Prohibited List will be printed in its regular book form as well as in a wallet card. The suggestion was also made to make this an application for an Iphone, which is currently being researched. Other ideas to look into include a worldwide hotline to respond to substance queries.

Education:

The committee was very complimentary of Coach True, the new on-line interactive educational program for coaches. The Committee encourages WADA to make this tool mandatory and to promote it to different coaching associations.

Independent Observer/Outreach Programs/Committee meetings:

Committee members will continue to be invited and included in WADA programs and meetings to ensure continuity of information and greater athlete insight. In the past year, Meike Evers participated in the IO Program at the Olympic Games in Vancouver, Sara Fisher in the Youth Olympic Games and upcoming Commonwealth and Asian Games will see the participation of Katarzyna Rogowiec, Anil Kumble, David Millar, Claudia Bokel and Yang Yang. Members recommend finding ways to follow up with athletes after they visit the Outreach Center.

WADA's presence and program at the Youth Olympic Games were discussed. Committee members felt that participants at the Games should receive advance information packages on anti-doping in order to better prepare them for the in-competition doping control program. Further, if the athletes were briefed prior to their arrival, their experience at WADA's Center would be more enriching as they would be in better disposition to embrace the Play True Generation values. Additionally it was suggested for young athletes to have greater exposure to athlete ambassadors.

Science:

Members were asked to provide their initial reaction/opinion about two issues that will also be presented to the anti-doping community for consultation. These topics will be placed again on the next meeting agenda for further discussion to give time to members to gain knowledge on the matter.

- Mental enhancement or performance - the taking of medication to increase the athlete's efficiency in- and out-of-competition.
- The need to continue taking two samples A&B. Science experts have expressed their views that both A&B samples would not be necessary.

Regional Anti-Doping Program:

Committee members have reiterated their support to the RADO Program and would like to assist in national/local Outreach events where they can meet athletes and deliver the Play True message in a meaningful way.

Athlete Committee Vacancies for 2011:

Committee members encourage organizations to recommend members that are already part of a sport network such as an IF or NOC Athlete Committee in order to ensure a wider information/knowledge transfer and to help vertical reach.

Charity Fund:

Committee Chair Fetisov is setting up an international charity fund that will be launched in 2011. The mission of the Fund is to provide for financial assistance to organizations in developing nations that will create opportunities for young children to take up sport and move them away from drug circles. Studies show that when young children are occupied by sport they are less tempted to go astray. V.Fetisov will be reaching out to WADA's Athlete Committee members as he would welcome their support. Further information will be communicated in the coming months.



Next meetings:

The Committee will continue to meet “virtually” the week preceding WADA’s Foundation Board meetings and will meet twice in 2011. The first meeting will be held in Lausanne March 24, 2011 following the Anti-Doping Seminar March 22-23 where Committee members are invited to participate. The second meeting should take place in Russia in September - specific dates will be confirmed shortly