

**WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES  
Tokyo, Japan  
February 20-21, 2012**

The WADA Athlete Committee met February 21 in Tokyo. The meeting was hosted by the Japan Anti-Doping Agency on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary Ceremony, February 20.

**Participants**

Members: Sara Fischer (Acting Chair), Claudia Bokel, Tania Calles, Felipe Contepomi, Matt Dunn, Nina Kemppel, Alberto Lopez-Moreno, Daichi Suzuki, Annelies Vandenberghe

WADA representatives: David Howman, Julie Masse, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen, Olivier Niggli, Kazuhiro Hayashi (observer), Miki Chiho (observer)

Regrets: Vyacheslav Fetisov (Chair), Ken Egan, Rania Elwani, Frank Fredericks, Barbara Kendall, David Millar, Andréanne Morin, Cydonie Mothersill, Katarzyna Rogowicz, Yang Yang.

During the meeting members received comprehensive information and updates about specific anti-doping matters and in turn athletes were able to advise and provide comments about a variety of topics:

**Supplements**

Members call on governments of the world to regulate the supplement industry and for sport organizations to educate athletes on the risks and the dangers of taking supplements.

The use of dietary supplements by athletes is a concern because in many countries the manufacturing and labelling of supplements may not follow strict rules, which may lead to a supplement containing an undeclared substance that is prohibited under anti-doping regulations. A significant number of positive tests have been attributed to the misuse of supplements and taking a poorly labelled dietary supplement is not an adequate defence in a doping hearing.

Concern regarding the use of supplements was noted by the committee where members voiced their support to accentuate this risk to competing athletes. Also, greater knowledge on who is pushing athletes to use supplements needs to be better understood. Perhaps there is a way to pool resources for a global supplement study to take place.

**Financial penalties**

Members discussed the possibility for ADOs to apply fines or financial penalties to compensate the athletes who have been financially penalized by those who have cheated.

Currently, under the World Anti-Doping Code, ADOs may, in their own rules, provide for financial sanctions on account of anti-doping rule violations.

Members strongly suggest ADO's issue fines to pay damages to the athlete who missed out due to a doping athlete. At the moment, the athlete is receiving a medal without proper recognition.



### **Entourage**

Committee members expressed concern about the entourage in relation to trafficking. Members want to see bans enforced on the athlete's entourage

What are governments and the anti-doping community concretely working on to advance the issue?

In order for police and customs departments to legally get involved, there needs to be laws in place for these inquiries to happen. The Committee was in agreement that the entourage should be held responsible.

### **UNESCO**

Members enquired about how UNESCO is taking steps to uphold its treaty. As a major player in the fight against doping in sport, UNESCO is active in the recognition of countries that are signatories to the treaty, but it should as well be for the ones that are lagging behind. What is actually happening to those countries that are not implementing proper anti-doping programs?

### **Team RTP and whereabouts**

Whereabouts are an essential element to effective testing programs and ultimately protect the clean athlete.

Coordination between the international federation, national federation and national anti-doping organization is currently inadequate.

Members strongly suggest that organizations requesting whereabouts from athletes need to ensure Registered Testing Pool (RTP) athletes have the education and information to fully understand their responsibilities. At the moment, the information is not sufficient and misconceptions and confusion still linger for some athletes required to provide whereabouts information.

### **Code Review**

During the meeting, WADA Legal Counsel Olivier Niggli gave a detailed presentation on the Code, how it had evolved since it was created in 2004, and the second multi-phased Code Review Process that started in November. This information was given in preparation for a greater contribution from the Committee in the upcoming phase of the Code Review.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of sportsmen and women to play a bigger role in the Review, and encouraged athletes current and past to contribute to its development.

### **Athlete Outreach**

Members were presented with the current WADA Outreach Program and were asked to provide insight at the next meeting in September on how it can make the program more meaningful to athletes.

Immediate comments received were about the WADA program at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, whereas the location was not ideal and that many people were not able to visit our booth through the security blocks and other aspects which made it a difficult program to access.

### **Members reiterate from previous meeting recommendation for the call for more blood and EPO testing and an increase in the level of quality testing**

Members have called on Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) across the world to increase the amount of blood samples taken and to also conduct more tests for erythropoietin (EPO). They were shocked to find out about the low number of EPO testing and also agreed there was an urgent need to increase blood testing in order to catch the “sophisticated dopers” while also focusing on drugs such as hGH.

The Committee encourages the Major Leagues to test for Hgh. If they test this will set a good example for their athletes and other organizations.

Further, harmonization of detection levels and quality of analysis must be enhanced at the WADA accredited laboratories.

### **Ad-hoc matters**

- Another recommendation was to add a link within ADAMS to information and education resources on WADA's Web site such as the Play True Quiz and the Play True Challenge, etc..
- Members were very keen on finding out the results of WADA's current research study on the prevalence of doping. Findings will be published later this year.
- Members enquired about the status of Masters Athletes. The International Masters Games Association (IMGGA) has adopted an anti-doping policy which is in line with the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and is Code compliant. They have achieved to put in place a practical program and solutions that take into account their specific issues.

### **Presentation**

The Japan Anti-Doping Agency presented to the Committee their Education and Outreach programs as well as the composition and the role of their Athlete Committee.

### **Next meetings**

The Committee will meet “virtually” the week preceding WADA's Foundation Board meetings. Hence, telephone conferences are scheduled May 16 and November 14 at 10:00 am (EST).

The second Athlete Committee meeting of the year will be held September 18 – 19 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Details will be provided in due course.

WADA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to both the Japanese and Russian governments for their generosity and support.