

WADA Athlete Committee Offers Recommendations to Strengthen Fight against Doping

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Following its meeting on 24-25 April 2006, the Athlete Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) offered recommendations for ways to strengthen the fight against doping in sport.

Chaired by Vyacheslav Fetisov, Head of the Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport (Russian Federation), the Committee consists of 13 elite international athletes especially concerned about the prevalence of doping in sport. In working with WADA and providing input on anti-doping programs and initiatives, WADA Athlete Committee members represent the voice of clean athletes and work to help level the playing field for athletes worldwide.

Following its meeting in Moscow on 24-25 April 2006, WADA Athlete Committee members:

- Encourage players in the American professional leagues to advocate their unions to adopt the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). Noting that Clean Athletes have nothing to hide, Committee members believe that there is no reason not to adopt and comply with the Code.
- Suggest there be consideration of financial penalties for those who offend against anti-doping rules, including penalties on those responsible for teams, federations, or organizations in which doping cheats participate.
- Ask the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to increase its powers to allow clean athletes to claim damages or lost prize money from doped competitors who cheat them to be a further deterrent to doping in sport.
- Welcome the 24 April CAS advisory opinion in respect of FIFA (football) rules, and look forward to the full acceptance of the Code by football players including their participation in Clean Athlete activities such as the WADA Athlete Committee.
- Look forward to advancing education programs for young athletes including innovative methods such as music and comics.

The Athlete Committee will work with WADA to advance these suggestions.