



WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 19-20 October 2015 Montreal, Canada

**The WADA Athlete Committee is the unified voice of clean athletes worldwide,
encouraging integrity and fairness for sport and athletes.**

The WADA Athlete Committee met on 19-20 October 2015 at WADA's Headquarters in Montreal, Canada.

In attendance

- Beckie Scott (Chair), Claudia Bokel, Francis Doodoo, Matthew Dunn, Andréanne Morin, Koji Murofushi, Adam Pengilly, Ben Sandford, Lauryn Williams, Mariana Quintanilla, Victoria Aggar, Kirsty Coventry (via teleconference), Kaveh Mehrabi (via teleconference)
- WADA Representatives: David Howman, Catherine McLean, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen
- Presenters: Prof/Dr. Ronald Maughan, Rob Koehler, Tim Ricketts, Dr. Alan Verneq, Stuart Kemp

Director General's Report

The Director General covered a number of topics with members of the Committee on recent activities and current affairs, including:

- UNESCO Conference of Parties will celebrate its tenth anniversary of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport (29-30 October) in Paris, France. Governments have a big role to play in creating laws and legislation to tackle doping in sport, as well as removing threats to the integrity of sport. Key areas include the regulation of the supplement industry, trafficking of drugs and the overall monitoring of countries' compliance of the convention. Discussions will also include leveraging the voluntary fund which supports countries around the world run anti-doping initiatives.
- The use of ADAMS and the importance of sharing information ultimately helps the athlete. There are still too many examples of athletes being tested multiple times and by different organizations showcasing a lack of coordination and poor use of resources. If all organizations use ADAMS, there will ultimately be better coordination of information and support for the clean athlete.
- Discussions included how to involve the athlete voice in a future Think Tank. WADA is addressing many issues that need to be looked at with athlete involvement, as well as with other experts and lateral thinkers in the field.
- *Other Current issues:*

Partnerships - Unless WADA has the commitment of other people and organizations, we can't deliver. The importance of partnerships in global anti-doping work cannot be underestimated and needs to be leveraged in all of WADA's practices and programs.

The Committee discussed a number of problem areas in the world with the Director General and how best their voice could support clean athletes such as with Kenya and Brazil.



Activity Summary from Members:

- Maria Fuster Martinez (Spain) joined WADA's Outreach Team at the first European Games in Baku Azerbaijan.
- Andreeanne Morin and Mariana Quintanilla both joined WADA's Outreach efforts at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.
- Andreeanne Morin attended the September Athletes CAN (organization of Canadian national team athletes) and Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) advisory committee meetings.
- Kirsty Coventry and Tony Estanguet gave their time and energy to promote WADA's Outreach activities at the All Africa Games in Brazzaville, Congo.
- Kirsty Coventry represented WADA at the African Athlete Forum.
- Beckie Scott continues to serve on WADA's Compliance Review Expert Group.
- Koji Murofushi, Claudia Bokel and Ben Sandford were invited to attend the Japan Anti-Doping Agency's athlete symposium.
- Beckie Scott gave the key note address at WADA's Values Based Education Symposium in Ottawa, Canada.
- Beckie Scott attended and presented at the 'Asia/Oceania Intergovernmental meeting on Anti-Doping in Sport' in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- "WADA Talks" – the new series of interviews highlighting persons of interest in the anti-doping community focused on three Athlete Committee members, notably; Kirsty Coventry, Francis DoDoo and Lauryn Williams.
- Ben Sandford in his role as International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) Vice-President is partnering and planning with WADA to launch a Legacy Outreach Program at their World Cup in Lake Placid, NY (January 2016).

Athlete Engagement

The Committee strives to be the link of the athlete voice and accordingly, each member is asked to reach out to their IF, NADO, NOC and/or other athlete groups in an effort to gain greater insight and feedback to WADA's programs and policies prior to every meeting. This is intended to be a two-way communication channel.

Committee members have also been assigned a point of contact from established Athlete Committees to begin communicating meeting outcomes and asking for insight and feedback on anti-doping issues. For this particular meeting Committee members received 27 questions from 14 athlete leaders from around the world. These questions will be addressed in detail in the coming weeks.

Rio 2016 Task Force – Rob Koehler

The Committee was briefed on the activities of the Rio Task Force whose objectives are to:

- evaluate progress of the Rio2016 and the Brazilian NADO (ABCD) anti-doping programs;
- recommend corrective actions and follow-up;
- outline specific roles and responsibilities of each organization; and
- facilitate and monitor a close working relationship between both organizations.

The current focus is in ensuring that ABCD's anti-doping rules are in compliance with the Code and that Doping Control Officer (DCO) recruitment, training and certification is not falling behind schedule.



Athlete Biological Passport – Dr. Alan Verneec

Dr. Verneec provided a general overview on the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) stating the significance of the tool which is reflective of the increase in sanctions and that there are indications of a deterrent effect. He also noted that to improve the efficacy of the ABP, all the ADOs need to use ADAMS and there must be more consistent entry of data. There are a series of upcoming meetings involving WADA and its partners to continue to refine and develop the ABP.

Athletes and Supplements: the industry, the risks, the challenges and the ones that benefit

Professor Ron Maughan from Loughborough University presented to the Committee.

Supplements and their impact on the athlete community has been an on-going discussion with WADA's Athlete Committee. For this reason, Professor Maughan was brought in to provide an overview on how this multi-billion dollar industry creates big challenges in the world of sport and for athletes. Dr. Maughan suggested that there are no easy solutions, but that athletes should be helped to minimize the risk.

How can athletes make an informed decision? How do we manage the risk?

1. Evaluate if there is a true need.
2. Evaluate if a benefit is likely.
3. Try and evaluate the risk that a supplement is both safe for health and not contaminated with a Prohibited Substance.
4. Use low risk products realizing there can never be a guarantee.

Athlete Committee members suggested:

- that all athletes declare every supplement they are taking on their doping control form;
- education on the supplement issue is very important; and
- don't just listen to the first person who says they are an expert on the subject. There are people who say they are experts, but they aren't.

Feedback on Doping Control Officers - Tim Ricketts

The Committee discussed the issue of Doping Control Officers (DCOs) and how best athletes can provide feedback to the body responsible for the DCO's performance and conduct in both a comfortable and confidential manner.

As part of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI), athletes can record comments or feedback on the doping control form (DCF). This form goes back to the sample collection or testing authority.

WADA recommends that ADOs put in place a DCO Agreement that covers code of conduct provisions which is included as a template within the WADA DCO Training Kit. This covers areas of confidentiality, conflict of interest and professional behavior etc.

The Committee suggested a number of further ideas regarding DCO feedback including:

- All ADOs should give athletes the ability to provide feedback after a test either via email, mail etc. WADA should also simultaneously receive such feedback where there is a potential breach of the ISTI.
- The Committee also encourages signatories to create certification numbers for every DCO or implement an accreditation process. The suggestion of using the new ADAMS to support this process was discussed realizing that only registered testing pool (RTP) athletes are included in ADAMS.



- With the inclusion of paperless DCFs in the new ADAMS, an athlete will receive a copy of their DCF by email after a test is conducted and on receipt there could be the option for the athlete to provide confidential feedback on the DCO's performance via a link within that email.

New ADAMS - Stuart Kemp

Committee members received an overview of the new ADAMS system currently under development. The system will be easier to use and more intuitive while addressing specific needs of different user groups. New features include updated technology, improved performance, updated look and feel, new platform for intelligence and investigation and a universal interface. These updates will improve the overall efficiency of ADAMS.

Those members currently using or familiar with ADAMS will be requested to take part in the areas being developed specifically for athletes.

The Committee once again discussed the need for all organizations to use ADAMS to ensure shared information and a better global anti-doping program for clean athletes.

Compliance – Tim Ricketts

WADA created in 2014 an independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) of six people made up representatives from sport, governments and experts in compliance within the aeronautical and pharmaceutical industries. The Athlete Committee Chair is also a part of the group, representing the Athlete voice. The CRC's role is to assist in developing an enhanced compliance and monitoring program that is robust and credible and will also be responsible for reviewing cases of non-compliance which may then be referred to Foundation Board for action.

There are two parts of compliance:

1. Implementation of Rules; and
2. Implementation of Programs

The athletes were engaged and voiced their interest for a strong program to ensure that progress is made quickly to protect the clean athletes.

OUTCOMES:

1. Endorse the planning of and involvement of a future Think Tank of athletes and lateral thinkers to look at current issues in 2016.
2. Given that we are now October 2015, WADA's Athlete Committee supports WADA's need to declare ADOs non-compliant and we insist that *all relevant* stakeholders with jurisdiction create and enforce robust consequences of such non-compliance. For example hosting and/or bidding rights should not be allowed, officials should not be accredited for international events, as well as not being allowed to join international commissions within the sporting community..
3. The Committee once again raises their apprehensions around Kenya and the lack of progress made around the issues related to anti-doping in that country. The Committee wishes to voice its extreme concern at this position. Many promises have been made, but no action.
4. All ADOs should provide athletes the opportunity to provide feedback on DCO activity. This feedback mechanism should be added to the testing process offering an athlete an email address or an avenue via ADAMS to do so. WADA should also simultaneously receive such feedback. A DCO Id system or accreditation program is also encouraged.



5. The Committee looks forward to advancements of the new ADAMS roll-out, and will work together with WADA to ensure feedback on the new ADAMS system is sought from the athlete community and thru the committee's network of athlete commission leadership.
6. The Committee sends a message of urgency regarding the anti-doping rules and procedures to be put in place prior to the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brazil. Athletes are very concerned.
7. The presentation from Professor Ron Maughan was well received by the Committee and from that came the suggested outcome that the full WADA Foundation Board receives this presentation and/or information at a future meeting.
8. The Committee strongly encourages all ADOs to adapt the ADAMS system as soon as possible to ensure compliance. In the case of those that currently do not have compatible systems, the Committee encourages them to achieve interconnectivity as a top priority.

Next Meeting/Follow-up

The next Athlete Committee meeting will be held via teleconference on 9 November 2015 prior to WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board meetings. The Committee will have its first in person meeting during the first quarter of 2016. Members will continue to regularly receive news clips from WADA on anti-doping issues.