

**WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
*21 November 2006*

The Athlete Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) met on November 21 in Montreal (Canada).

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. Former professional cyclist Greg LeMond, three-time Tour de France champion and a proponent of clean sport, joined the committee's discussion as a guest.

The Committee spent several hours in consultation with the Code Review team. WADA and its Code Review team are leading an extensive review of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the core document harmonizing the rules and regulations governing anti-doping within sports organizations and among public authorities. The Code has been in force for three years, and presently WADA and its stakeholders are working to fine-tune the Code's provisions to result in more robust anti-doping programs worldwide. The review and consultation with stakeholders is being held in three phases, which began in April 2006 and will culminate at the Third World Conference on Doping in Sport in November 2007. The Athlete Committee met with the Code Review team as part of the first consultation phase and provided valuable and constructive feedback on provisions of the Code that can be improved to combat doping, especially in the area of sanctions for doping violations.

Following a report from WADA Director General David Howman on the current state of the fight against doping, the Committee strongly supported the Agency's focus on the new frontier in anti-doping which involves investigations. Committee members recognized that while testing, scientific research, sanctioning of doping athletes and education play vital roles in combating doping, great advances are made through investigatory work that often involves the cooperation among multiple government agencies and sport. When the upstream of doping (manufacture, traffic, etc.) and the entourage that encourages athletes to dope (coaches, trainers, doctors, etc.) are brought to justice and held accountable for their actions, then there will be significant progress in the fight for clean sport.



In the area promoting clean sport, committee members encouraged athletes of all ages, sports and nationalities to make a Clean Athlete pledge. Committee members agreed that there is a great need for sports and anti-doping authorities to promote clean athlete campaigns and pledges. They felt that there is not enough public attention focused on clean athletes, and that clean, elite athletes should be more vocal about the importance of keeping sport clean especially because of the influence they can have on youth. Committee members agreed to work within their own countries and sports to ensure that more athletes have the opportunity to make a pledge to Clean Sport and receive important information supporting their pledge, and WADA agreed to facilitate in promoting best practices in Clean Athlete pledges and campaigns via its Web site.

Committee members also suggested that 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.