



WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE
ATTACHMENT 2
7 November 2005

WADA Athlete Committee Position on Sanctions

We, as members of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Athlete Committee, acknowledge that the best part about being an athlete is rising to the challenge, doing your best under the circumstances, and enjoying the process.

A primary objective of the WADA Athlete Committee is working to ensure that athletes are involved in all aspects of promoting the "Spirit of Sport," characterized by health, fair play, honesty, respect for self and others, courage, and dedication. We are therefore committed to serving as the voice of clean athletes, who should feel empowered to speak out against doping in sport. We also emphasize the importance of athlete leadership in the development of anti-doping policy which impacts athletes' ability to compete on a level playing field worldwide.

We recognize that the quest to create global harmonization in anti-doping policy has been a long, thorough, and at times, difficult process. With the approval of World Anti-Doping Code (Code) in 2003, a greater level playing field was achieved. Adoption and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code and all that it symbolizes have begun to establish greater harmonization within sport.

Athletes who cheat, as well as members of the athlete entourage that encourage and facilitate cheating, should be adequately punished in order to protect clean athletes and the integrity of sport. The current two-year sanction for a first doping offence is only a minimum standard. We call for the global implementation of this minimum standard by all stakeholders in the fight against doping in sport as an important first step in the harmonization of anti-doping.

Notwithstanding, it is our view that sanctions need to be tougher in order to deter cheating and take cheaters out of competition. We call for increasing the penalties for cheaters, such as lengthening the sanction period for a first doping offence.

The harmonized fight against doping in sport has just begun, and we are united in our support so that, throughout the world, cheating athletes are caught and clean athletes may be confident that they are competing on a level playing field. Clean athletes have nothing to hide and nothing to fear.