

**WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
MARCH 22-23, 2011**

The WADA Athlete Committee met 22-23 March 2011 in Lausanne. The first day of the meeting included the participation of the Committee in WADA's ADO Symposium where comprehensive information about specific anti-doping matters were presented and discussed. The second day of the meeting, member athletes debriefed from the previous day at the symposium, were presented with particular topics to discuss and consequently, advised and provided comments to WADA.

Participants:

- Chairman Fetisov, Claudia Bokel, Rania Elwani, Meike Evers, Sara Fischer, Frank Fredericks, David Millar, Alberto Lopez Moreno, Cydonie Mothersill, Yang Yang
- WADA representatives: David Howman, Julie Masse, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen
- Regrets: Lindsay Davenport, Barbara Kendall, Anil Kumble, Katarzyna Rogowiec, Daichi Suzuki

The Committee discussed key topics and as a result, several comments and suggestions were offered:

Welcome to new member Cydonie Mothersill.

Feedback on ADO Symposium:

The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

Members strongly suggest that the WADA ABP Guidelines specify the sharing of the analysis of the blood profile with the athlete. The ABP profile is regarded as belonging to the athlete. Keeping the blood analysis information from the athlete for three months, as it was suggested by an ADO, would be wrong and questionable ethically. Any analysis could also offer insights on health issues or possible disease.

On the argument that profiles give valuable information to cheaters, it is felt that the ABP is a highly sophisticated tool that few can read. Only a handful of experts in the world can draw conclusions from the ABP. In addition, it was suggested that athlete/team managers should be considered for sanctioning if an athlete is found cheating. Further, the system should go as far as not hiring managers that manage sanctioned athletes.

We should see the ABP as a clean athlete's tool. A universal ABP would breed trust in the anti-doping system.

ADAMS:

An overview of the improvements on the Whereabouts module was presented to the members. Four members have been involved in the focus group's work this past quarter. On the whole, the comments were very positive. The navigation, ease of use, flexibility and modern look and feel were highly appreciated. Further comments were given to improve a few areas as well as the implementation plan and training. It was suggested that the module be presented at the next IOC Athlete Forum in October.

Laboratories:

Concern was raised about the perception that WADA accredited laboratories are not harmonized with analysis. The athletes felt that information about the laboratories is insufficient and in order to help raise trust in the system, an awareness campaign should be considered.

Ethical Code for Doping Control Officers:

Following a discussion about reported unethical behaviours from DCOs, the Committee recommends that WADA standardize training programs for DCOs and include an ethical code of conduct. Applying a harmonized approach could help instil trust in the anti-doping system.

WADA will follow up on the reported cases.

Say NO! to Doping

Say NO! to Doping is an awareness campaign that seeks to engage sport and anti-doping communities in demonstrating their commitment to clean sport.

Sport and anti-doping communities can draw attention to the commitment of athletes to compete free from doping by incorporating green elements into sporting equipment, competition venues and by providing an opportunity to highlight the importance of respect and fair play.

The Committee recognizes the importance of the campaign and fully supports it. It is recommended to keep it general, and that it should not be individualized to one athlete or specific athlete ambassador.

A & B Sample

Members were asked to provide their reaction/opinion about an issue that will also be presented to the anti-doping community for consultation. The need to continue taking two samples A&B. Science experts have expressed their views that both A&B samples are not necessary.

The Committee's points of discussion were the following on the subject:

- Removal of the B sample is a matter of trust. If athletes trust the anti-doping system there shouldn't be any difficulties in doing so;
- Testing has greatly improved in the past two years. The paperwork is universal and the chaperoning much better. We should trust one sample;
- It represents a cultural shift;
- Police force handles one sample for incriminating suspects;
- At the time being there is peace of mind with having the B sample. It is about trust and making sure everything happens correctly;
- The right to a fair hearing would be quicker and less complicated without the B sample;
- Faith in laboratories is crucial. Laboratories must be held responsible for the quality of their work.

WADA needs to enhance accountability of laboratories.

“No needle policy”

D. Millar presented the “No needle policy” that his team has initiated over one year ago. Needle injection has never been proven to have a needed benefit outside of justifiable medical needs. No child who has ever dreamt of being an Olympian should have to deal with needles, unless they have a medical problem. Oral is better than injectable and sets the right stage for clean athletes to achieve.

D. Millar and his team believe that banning any kind of needle use in cycling could help in the fight against doping, as well as close collaboration with criminal investigators and police.

The Athlete Committee members support the “No needle policy”.

Entourage:

What can be done to make the Entourage responsible?

“Clean athletes are forgotten”. The entourage must be held accountable and the system needs to catch up with the entourage.

The ABP can be used as a proactive tool to help give responsibility to the entourage. Every member of an athlete’s support team should know what is going on and not have an excuse.

The IOC has set up an Entourage Commission, and WADA has offered to provide assistance to this Commission. C. Bokel is a member of the Commission and reported that the next meeting is in May and would reiterate WADA’s interest in their work.

Players Union:

There have been several occasions this year where WADA has partaken in governmental meetings where heads of the European Elite Athletes Groups were present. WADA has also been asked to respond to queries from their President. In the past year, they have become more vocal and organized with other Athletes’ groups as well. The anti-doping topic seems to be one of the latest levers, they are using to showcase their arguments.

Some of the athlete members believe WADA shouldn’t be engaging with the Players Unions.

Code Review:

The Committee was presented with the next Code Review timeline and asked to prepare for areas of interest for enhancements. Discussions included on the manner in which we can engage members in consultation phases. We will concentrate on this topic at our next meeting.

CAS Fees:

Members raised concerns about the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) applying prohibitive additional fees to the standard 500 CHF filing fee where the appeal is from a national decision. Some fees lately were as high as 7000 CHF. The Committee wants to be updated on this matter.

Awareness:

WADA's social media presence is growing and to maximize on opportunities, Athlete members agree to be involved with specific topics and issues. WADA's web site section that presents the Athlete Committee members will be revisited to better integrate social media aspects, as well as the e-Play True.

Meeting attendance:

Members have raised concerns in regard to attendance at Athlete Committee meetings; some members have not been able to participate at all.

The Committee was reminded of the policy for membership to working Groups:

Regarding member attendance to standing committee meetings, the following principles shall apply:

- a) Two consecutive unaccepted absences from standing committee meetings can result in an expulsion from such committee (the Chair is responsible for considering reasons for non-attendance);
- b) Absences can be explained in advance by the member in writing with a reasonable excuse to the Chair of the committee. If such excuse is accepted, then the absence will not be regarded as unaccepted and not count as one of the two absences which would lead to expulsion.

Charity Fund:

Committee Chair Fetisov is setting up an international charity fund that will be launched in 2012. The mission of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to organizations in developing nations that will create opportunities for young children to take up sport and move them away from drug circles. Studies show that when young children are occupied by sport, they are less tempted to go astray. V.Fetisov will be reaching out to WADA's Athlete Committee members as he would welcome their support. Further information will be communicated in the coming months.

Next meetings:

The Committee will continue to meet "virtually" the week preceding WADA's Foundation Board meetings and will meet twice in 2011. The second meeting will take place in September or October - specific dates and place will be confirmed shortly.