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Abstract

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“New trends in Anti-Doping”

The international fight against doping in sport slowly got started in the 1960s following the drug induced death of a Danish cyclist at the Olympic Games in Rome in 1960, and the decision one year later to create a Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee. The Commission was requested to design a strategy to combat doping in sport. To that end rules were proposed, as were certain actions such as doping controls at the Olympic Games. Limited controls for stimulants were conducted at the Games in 1964 and 1968, but not until the Games in Munich in 1972 was a full doping control program in place. At that time the controls were limited to the analysis of stimulants such as amphetamines and ephedrines. In 1974 anabolic steroids were banned and analysed for the first time at the European Championships of Athletics in Rome the same year. Since then the anti-doping fight has evolved although the anabolic agents have remained the most frequently detected doping substances.

In recent years new types of anti-doping rule violations have been identified and taken actions against such as evasion of doping controls, refusals to submit to controls, manipulation of the doping control procedure, the use of substances that have been on the market for only a short time and the production, distribution and use of substances which are not on the official market at all but produced for the sole purpose of doping (“designer drugs”). To meet those trends new strategies have been developed including amendments of the rules, introduction of anti-doping law in many countries, international coordination of the fight against doping, intelligence and research including the development of new analytical methods and improvements of old ones. In brief, the fight between dopers and their entourage on one hand and those who combat doping on the other has grown increasingly tougher.

The creation of WADA in 1999 greatly facilitated the fight against doping. Thus, WADA produced a new set of rules to be universally applied as from the 1st of January 2004. The IOC made those rules compulsory for all Olympic sports. The General Assembly of UNESCO unanimously adopted the Code in mid October 2005, following which the Governments around the world are expected to ratify the Code before the Olympic Games in Torino in February 2006. The Swedish Governments did so in late October 2005. WADA, which is jointly funded by the Olympic movement and the Governments, is allocating between 25 and 30 % of its budget to research and has made the development of safest possible analytical methods for the detection of doping substances a priority area. The sport is, therefore, much better prepared then ever to take on new challenges in the field of doping such as the possible arrival of gene doping.