



Report – IRF Anti Doping Committee

2nd of November 2014

By Michael Lindberg, Head of Anti Doping Committee

Members of Anti Doping Committee:

- Michael Lindberg (Denmark)
- Danilo Barmaz (Italy)
- Peter Micheler (Germany)

Background

Michael Lindberg drew up the initial IRF Anti Doping plan and the proposals on this back in 2009. Doping tests were later discussed at the IRF Congress in Costa Rica in 2011, but due to insufficient funds it was decided to delay the process of signing the WADA code and implementing doping test at A and B level competitions.

The initial IRF AD Plan stated that doping tests were supposed to be carried out on a try-out basis during the first 2 years of testing. After the trial the BOD would have to decide if the IRF should proceed with the anti doping work and sign the code of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA).

Anti Doping Work during 2011-2013

Doping tests were shortly discussed at the IRF congress in Costa Rica 2011, however, the topic was postponed to future discussion, as other topics were more urgent at that time.

In 2012, the IRF BOD did not set aside any budget to do doping tests and the anti doping work was put on hold. Though in November 2012 Michael Lindberg started writing keynotes on some few articles concerning food supplements and drugs in athletes relevant to the IRF. The material is not yet ready to be published, however, the articles will be part of a new IRF anti doping site planning to be launched in 2014.

In February 2013 the AD Com. started communicating with the NZ Anti Doping Organization: Drug Free Sport NZ (DFS) concerning the possibility of doping tests at the WRC 2013. We managed to get information and acceptance of the financial part and in May 2013 the BOD had set aside a budget to do 4 doping tests (urine) at the WRC 2013. The AD Com. discussed the issue of doing doping tests and agreed that the following had to be done:

- Education of athletes (make information available on IRF website)
- Drawing an outline for testing procedures (selection of athletes)
- Drawing an outline for sanctions to be made

Later in May 2013 all anti doping relevant information to athletes were published online on the IRF Official website. That includes the list of prohibited substances, therapeutic use exemptions, doping control procedures and general information about doping tests. Also a decision on the selection of athletes and sanctions were taken.



Unfortunately our communication with the DFS had not been clear enough and the DFS informed us in late August 2013 that they could not perform any doping tests, as the IRF were not members of WADA. The issue was not made clear from the DFS in the beginning, however, these rules are made to make sure that the WADA code is followed during every doping test and that sanctions harmonized with those by WADA.

The reason why we did not investigate this issue more intensely was that Michael Lindberg had got confirmed that completing tests in federations outside WADA were not a problem. It turns out that it is different from each country. For example it will not be a problem in Brazil at the WRC 2014.

NOTE:

The original Anti Doping Plan described that the IRF were supposed to carry out doping tests in 2 years before signing the WADA code to gain experience with doping test. This because signing the WADA code is a huge cost (\$5,000) and therefore not assessed important from the beginning.

When the DFS cancelled doping tests at the WRC 2013 they offered an Outreach as a practical in-between solution. We agreed on this part and therefore the WRC 2013 will be used to ensure athletes (and coaches) are educated and aware of their responsibilities ahead of the IRF becoming a WADA Code signee and ahead of testing being put in place at the WRC 2014 in Brazil.

Future work

The 1st of August 2013, Michael Lindberg was employed full-time in the Danish National Anti Doping Organization (ADD). This qualifies the access to certain important information and expertise, which can be used in future matters of the anti doping work in the IRF. Michael will use his colleagues to crosscheck paperwork that are made in the IRF AD Com. to ensure that documents are in compliance with WADA rules and regulations.

Future work to be done of the IRF Anti Doping Committee is:

1. Establish and agree on a hearing process
2. Establish a doping tribunal
3. Describe the process of dealing with sanctions
4. Create an IRF Anti Doping website (www.irfantidoping.com)
 - a. Make all relevant information available on the website.
 - b. Investigate possibilities of e-learning modules for athletes.
5. Set up education section for athletes.
6. Provide articles and the newest research on topics in relation to doping
7. Set up internal work procedures
8. Prepare application for signing the WADA code.

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