



BULL'S EYE THE ISSF IPOD ON DOPING

FOCUS ON RADOS: REGIONAL ANTI-DOPING ORGANIZATIONS

WHAT IS A RADO?

RADOs (Regional Anti-Doping Organizations) were created to combine the efforts, resources and capacity of many countries from specific geographical regions into one organizational anti-doping body. Just like National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), RADOS have an imperative role to play in ensuring that all the grouped countries are able to comply with and implement the many anti-doping rules and regulations bestowed upon us all by the World Anti-Doping Code and WADA.

They are strategically governed and directed by individuals from each member country. The individuals assist with over-all anti-doping strategies and may carry out functions such as testing, results management and the management of therapeutic use exemptions and athlete whereabouts information programs. In carrying out these many functions, RADOs have allowed for an increase of worldwide testing and promote long-term sustainability of testing and anti-doping education. Throughout all these activities, RADOs facilitate their member countries' compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Thanks to RADOs, all athletes in all countries and in all sports are now subject to the same anti-doping protocols and processes.

WHY WERE RADOS CREATED?

The concept of the RADO was introduced in 2004 in the course of the World Anti-Doping Agency's education and program development activities. With the ever growing obligations and responsibilities placed on Signatories and Stakeholders, it quickly became obvious that third-world countries,

smaller countries, and/or geographically challenged countries which had limited resources, funding, administrative capacities and, political and governmental support would have many challenges to overcome if they were to try to implement individual Code-compliant anti-doping programs within their respective countries.

Therefore, RADOs were created to effectively bring together several countries and stakeholders within a geographic area to mobilize and pool resources for anti-doping under the umbrella of an independent organization. RADOs now provide a fiscally responsible mechanism through which the establishment, implementation and maintenance of viable anti-doping programs in different regions of the world is possible.

IS WADA STILL INVOLVED AND HOW?

Because the RADO concept presents a way for WADA to help Signatories fulfil their many obligations in regards to the Code, WADA continues to be proactive in promoting the concept and in supporting these Organizations in all their endeavours. As previously stated, the RADO structure successfully implemented world-wide contributes to the right for athlete to compete in a doping-free sport environment by ensuring that all athletes, from all sports and countries are subject to the same processes and protocols. As this is one of WADA's main objectives, it is understandable that WADA maintains its active role of overseeing RADO programs. Some of the support that WADA continues to provide includes:

- Helping RADOs establish and develop anti-doping programs with their regions and member countries

- Promoting the RADOs and their programs (for example their testing capacities) among other organizations
- Providing RADO with relevant and up to date information, and documentation
- Providing DCO training, sample collection equipment and all necessary form and paper work templates
- Providing educational material and templates
- Providing testing opportunities, and finally,
- Assisting RADOS with the evolution, sustainability and funding of their programs.

HOW ARE RADOS FUNDED?

Obviously, one of the major obstacles for the RADOs member countries is funding. These countries for the most part have far more pressing priorities to address within their countries, which in turn reduces the amount of money they can invest in anti-doping initiatives, including the maintenance of an administrative office, the training of staff and the development of educational initiatives, only to name the most obvious.

- Therefore, in order for such an initiative to be successful, the support from the government of each country and the National Olympic Committee of each country is imperative.
- Also, the financial and technical support from other governments, Sports Organizations and other well-established National Anti-Doping Organizations and WADA is crucial.

As such, the assistance comes from various sources and in various forms. Either by direct funding, training, sharing of information and documentation, promotion and utilization of services, or general assistance, cooperation, and lasting partnerships based on an exchange of experience and expertise.



HOW DO RADOS OPERATE?

Overview of the Program:

- ✓ There are currently 15 established RADOS bringing together 122 countries.
- ✓ Every member country is represented on the RADO Board by an individual appointed by the country's government and National Olympic Committee (NOC);
- ✓ One of the member Countries hosts the administrative office.
- ✓ Several key partners, including established National Anti-Doping Organizations, International Federations, continental associations of NOCs, and intergovernmental organizations assist RADOS in developing sustainable anti-doping programs.
- ✓ Doping controls officers from each member country are trained to carry out testing
- ✓ All RADOS also have trained local experts in the following areas:
 - Results management
 - Appeals
 - Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)
 - Anti-doping education

Here are some specific areas where RADOS play an important role:

✓ Code Compliance

Code Compliance is a major priority for RADOS as it is for all other Signatories. Accordingly, the RADO structure has promoted and facilitated the establishment of Code- Compliant anti-doping programs with member countries. This has been accomplished by assisting countries with the drafting, adoption and implementation of Code Complaint Rules and Regulations. It is important to have all countries in the world engaged in anti-doping activities and to help countries and organizations develop anti-doping programs that are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code in regions of the world where no quality anti-doping activities have been established.

✓ Education

RADOS also have a crucial role to play in the development and dissemination of education materials. RADOS help educate athletes of all ages and sporting levels. They effectively disseminate various types of information on anti-doping within their respective regions through various programs. For the most part these programs are based on WADA models. Yet, they are customized to best suit the specific needs of the region and are delivered in the RADOS' members' respective languages with the help of local volunteers and trained staff.

✓ Testing

RADOS are a global network of anti-doping experts from which member countries and other organizations, including International Federations like the ISSF and major Games Organizations like the Commonwealth Games,

for example, can benefit. This is because RADOS have the ability, knowledge and growing expertise to coordinate testing, whether in or out-of-competition in multiple countries and often in remote areas through one contact.

WHERE ARE THESE RADOS SITUATED?

The following map identifies where the current 15 RADOS are situated, listing their member countries and a mock-up of the services they offer to their members, their athletes, athlete support personnel and, everyone involved in sport at all levels within their region.

Training and capacity building for all 15 RADOS

122 member countries



TESTIMONIALS:

The following testimonials published in a recent RADO newsletter provide a true, practical outlook on RADOS, their merit, and the quality and usefulness of all the work they are doing.

ONOC. Oceania Olympic Committees

"The Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) is pleased to support the Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organization (ORADO). ONOC is committed to preserving Olympic values, including fair play and clean sport for all. Since its establishment in 2004, the ORADO has contributed enormously to the fight against doping in the sport in the Oceania region. One of the programs we are particularly proud of is the Code of the Athletes Outreach Program where ORADO partnered with the ONOC Athletes Commission and the STOP HIV program to deliver the message of *Be a Leader. Play True. Play Safe* at events throughout the Oceania Region. This program has reached numerous athletes, coaches and sport officials over the past couple of years. We will continue to support ORADO and spread the message of *Play True Pasifik*."

Dr. Robin Mitchell President ONOC

UKAD. UK Anti-Doping

"The work of the RADOS is critical to a well established NADO such as UK Anti-Doping. It demonstrates to UK athletes that their international counterparts are also subject to testing and that for any athlete, there are few places for them to hide abroad. We are

100% committed to and supportive of the training programs that are initiated by the RADOS and it is rewarding to see the outcomes of these initiatives; such as the certification of numerous doping control officers that we have facilitated for the five Asian RADOS and the Olympic Council of Asia. Although the workshops we help to run with the RADOS are intensive and hard work, the partnerships we have created and the commitment we have seen by those participating is more than worth it. We look forward to continuing to work together with the RADOS to ensure clean sports for all athletes."

Nicole Sapstead. Director of Operations UKAD

CONFÉJES. La conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports des états et gouvernements ayant le français en partage.

"CONFÉJES has always supported the fight against doping in sports. The CONFÉJES Secretary General, in partnership with organizations sharing the same goal, particularly the World Anti-Doping Agency, is committed to undertake concrete actions, including the implementation of an advisory commission on doping in sport, the development of education material and the promotion of the UNESCO Convention among its member countries. To underline its commitment, CONFÉJES signed an agreement with WADA in 2007 with the objective to support the development of NADOS and RADOS in the French-speaking African countries. We hope that with this support, the RADOS will continue helping our member countries implement efficient anti-doping programs."

Youssouf Fall. Secretary General CONFÉJES.

FINAL WORDS:

As ISSF is proud to encourage all RADOS in their many anti-doping initiatives and hopes that all ISSF member federations who are members of RADOS will utilize and promote the many anti-doping services that RADOS can provide to all athletes from around the globe.

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