ISSF NEWS 1/2014

BULL’S EYE ON DOPING

A NEW CALENDAR YEAR IS WELL UNDER WAY

THE ISSF’S ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES. THEN, WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2014 TO SEE WHAT IS IN STORE FOR ALL OF US WHERE ANTI-DOPING IS CONCERNED...

A LOOK BACK TO 2013
As we have done in the past, the first edition of the IPOD allows us to take a look back on the last year and provide all readers with a summary of ISSF anti-doping activities.

ANNUAL REPORT
The ISSF is pleased to provide the following report on the ISSF’s 2013 Anti-Doping Program in the form of a Q & A.

How many IN-competition doping controls did ISSF undertake in 2013?
At the ISSF World Championships, ISSF World Cups, ISSF World Cup Finals, European Championships 396 In-Competition doping controls were conducted. As a reference point - last year the ISSF conducted 308 In-Competition doping controls. The increase is significant. At all other Continental Events (including Junior Events, the Euro Cup Final, Asian Championships etc.) an additional 130 doping controls were conducted. Therefore, the total number of In-Competition doping controls undertaken under the umbrella of the ISSF in 2013 is a grand total of 526.

How many OUT-of-competition doping controls did ISSF undertake in 2013?
23 Out-of-Competition Doping Controls were undertaken by ISSF in 2013.

How many anti-doping rule violations occurred and were decided at the national level in 2013?
11 anti-doping rule violations occurred at the national level in 2013. As of Mid-January 2013, five (5) anti-doping rule violations were asserted and his sanction was reduced to 3 months.

How many anti-doping rule violations occurred and were decided at the national level from doping controls collected in 2013?
The five cases that were decided are as follows:

- Matter from France involving the prohibited substance 19-NA (Norandrosterone) an anabolic steroid. The athlete was suspended for two years.
- Matter from Qatar arising from an Out-of-Competition test yielding a finding of Propanolol. The athlete was suspended for 4 months.
- Three matters from Czech, Russia and France all involving Hydrochlorothiazide. All three athletes received Warnings.

Out of the six pending cases, three involve an adverse analytical findings of a beta blocker, one involves a narcotic, the other a diuretic and the last a stimulant. These cases will certainly be resolved and decided in the coming months.

How many missed tests or failure to submit whereabouts information cases were reported in 2013?
1 missed test was reported via ADAMS by the Czech Anti-Doping agency.

In addition 2 Portuguese athletes were banned for one year from the Portuguese NADO for having committed 3 filing failures within 18 months.

How many athletes in the ISSF RTP at the end of the year?
As you are surely aware, the International Level Registered Testing Pool (RTP) consists of the top ranked Athletes of the official ISSF World Ranking List which is published on the ISSF Internet website and updated monthly for each International Event.

On January 1st of each year, the International Level RTP shall consist of the top 5 Athletes of the official ISSF World Ranking List on that date. Once an Athlete moves into the top 5 ranked Athletes of the official ISSF World Ranking List during the current calendar year, he or she shall automatically be included in the International Level RTP for that whole calendar year.

Based on this definition, there were 130 athletes in the RTP at the end of the year; 53 Women and 77 Men – to be exact.

SUMMARY
The ISSF remains steadfast in its dedication to its anti-doping program.

After carefully following its 2013 Test Distribution Plan and implementing its education ideals, the ISSF is encouraged by the numbers yielded in this year-end report, but there is still much work to be done both at the international-level and the national-level.

Certainly the goal is for no anti-doping rule violations to be asserted at either level. This was not the case in 2013. Still, we believe this goal is achievable.
Many of the anti-doping rule violations reported, asserted and sanctioned this year could have been avoided had the athletes in question been more aware of the applicable rules and regulations, and more precisely of their obligations as athletes under the ISSF Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code).

Certainly, most of the athletes sanctioned this year would have benefited from being better informed as to which substances and medications are on the Prohibited List, and by applying for a Therapeutic Use Exemption in accordance with the Rules to obtain a permission to use their medication while competing. This is very important and it must be stressed and underlined:

MOST OF THE ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS ASSERTED THIS YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD THE ATHLETES IN QUESTION APPLIED FOR A THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION.

Please take the time to consider the above fact. Then please, take the time to get acquainted with all the applicable Rules, the Prohibited List and the TUE process.

If you are not sure about something—seek answers: Better safe than sorry!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014…

What can we all expect in 2014?

Testing

The ISSF Anti-Doping Committee has devised its 2014 Test Distribution Plan (TDP) with the objectives of planning and implementing the distribution of doping controls both in competition and out-of-competition and of succeeding in effectively detecting, deterring and preventing doping practices in shooting sport throughout the 2014 competition calendar.

Prior to elaborating its 2014 TDP, a mandatory physiological risk assessment of doping in shooting was expertly and knowledgeably undertaken by the ISSF Anti-Doping and Medical Committees. Consequently, the TDP was elaborated based on the ISSF’s unique understanding, knowledge and appreciation of shooting sport and its athletes.

The ISSF’s 2014 TDP complies with the Code and the International Standard for Testing (IST) and respects the ISSF Rules, and shall be implemented by all ISSF Event Organizers throughout the 2014 calendar year.

As usual, we will report back to you on the outcome of our 2014 testing program at the beginning of 2015.

Education

As we do every year, we urge all our athletes, all our member federations and everyone involved in shooting sport, be it shooter support personnel, trainers, doctors, parents, etc. to get educated or better educated on anti-doping. The Rules are consistently changing therefore it is important for everyone to stay abreast of the most recent developments and updated regulations.

The ISSF has many vehicles from which anti-doping information can be obtained:

- The Information Portal On Doping (IPOD) section of the ISSF’s Bi-Monthly publication, ISSF NEWS, serves both as an information medium and as a reminder to all individuals involved in our sport to respect various responsibilities and obligations with regards to anti-doping.
- The ISSF web-site continues to provide a wealth of information on doping, rules and regulations, answers to common questions and various links to all relevant WADA documents and anti-doping materials.
- The Anti-Doping Outreach booth continues to be a success and positive educational tool for all our athletes who compete at ISSF World Cup in Munich.
- The WADA website has valuable materials for athletes, coaches, trainers etc. All of these can be downloaded for free from the WADA website www.wada-ama.org

Certainly, it will be worth the little time and effort you can each dedicate to getting better acquainted with all the applicable rules and most recent offerings of educational materials on anti-doping if an anti-doping rule violation and competition-ban can be avoided in return.

MAKE IT A 2014 RESOLUTION!

MAKE THE TIME.

TAKE THE TIME.

GET EDUCATED.

THE 2014 ISSF ANTI-DOPING RULES

A new version of the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules effective January 1, 2013 was drafted by ISSF legal advisors and approved for implementation in November of 2012. As we anticipated, the revised ISSF Rules were well-received. We have been told that the Rules have greater clarity, coherence and similarity to the World Anti-Doping Code and this in turn has rendered them more user-friendly. We are satisfied that the legal exercise was successful.

Of course, as is the case with most rules and regulations, they are often subject to modification. This is especially true with anti-doping rules. Anti-doping regulatory documents must consistently adapt to the unceasing legal, scientific, technical, social and practical evolution of the war against doping in sport.

Although there are some changes that have been brought to the ISSF Rules in 2014, the modifications are not as extensive as they were last year. Keeping in line with those changes, most modifications made to the Rules this year simplify the wording of the text to render it more intelligible. The most noteworthy modifications made to the ISSF Rules were made to Article 4 and have to do with Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) and more particularly the importance to apply for TUEs and/or to inform the ISSF of any national-level TUE prior to participating in any International Event.

For example:

Article 4.4.4

This provision now seeks to ensure that any athlete who has a national-level TUE and plans to compete at the international-level will apply for a new TUE with ISSF or at least inform ISSF of the TUEs and request for the TUE to be recognized.

Article 4.4.5

This provision now clarifies the procedure for applying for an international-level TUE or for formally requesting that a national-level TUE be recognized by ISSF prior to participation in an International Event.

Article 4.4.6

This new provision makes it abundantly clear that where an athlete holds a national-level TUE and does not inform the ISSF of it, the TUE will not be deemed valid and will not be a valid defence to an anti-doping rule violation if the athlete tests positive at an International Event.

The rationale for all the modifications related to TUEs is that ISSF should be better informed of national-level TUEs in order to minimize the potential problems that can arise when national TUEs have been granted and should not have been because they do not meet the criteria of the International Standards for TUEs, or where national TUEs are properly granted but not communicated to the ISSF. Too often TUEs are granted at the national-level and ISSF is not informed of them. Such an occurrence can result in serious consequences to the athlete. These could easily be avoided if the granting of national-level TUEs is properly communicated to the ISSF. The 2014 ISSF Anti-Doping Rules can be downloaded at p. 128 of http://www.isafsports.org/getfile.aspx?mod=doc&panel=1&isint=26&isint=13&file=ISSF-Rule-Book-Edition-2014-1st-Print.pdf.

As always, we encourage you the read through the Rules to get better acquainted with them. Should you have any questions on the Rules or the modifications that have been brought to them please do not hesitate to direct them to Doris@issf-sports.org and we will endeavour to answer them at our earliest opportunity.
THE 2015 ISSF ANTI-DOPING RULES

Of course, the ISSF also reminds you all that the current version of the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) is in its last year of implementation.


As a result of this imminent regulatory overhaul, there are many significant changes that must be brought to anti-doping rules world-wide in order to ensure that all regulatory documents comply with the new Code by January 2015. Therefore, further significant changes to the ISSF Rules are to be expected and will need to be implemented by 2015. As mentioned in our previous IPOD some of the changes that will be made to the Code by 2015 – and correspondingly – to the ISSF Rules by 2015 include but are not limited to:

- The creation of two new anti-doping rule violations (“Complicity” and “Prohibited Association”),
- Modifications to the TUE and TUE review process,
- Stricter rules for RTP athletes in relation to submitting whereabouts information and filing failures (12 months rather than 18 months rolling period),
- The creation of a new investigative process for determining whether anti-doping rule violations called “non-analytical findings” have occurred
- Clearer and stricter rules for testing retired athletes who come out of retirement,
- The possibility for recreational athletes (as opposed to national or international athletes) to apply for a retroactive TUE in the event of an inadvertent anti-doping rule violation,
- Greater emphasis of intelligence-gathering for the purpose of testing plans, etc.

Each edition of the IPOD this year shall focus on one area of the Code that will be modified in 2015 so that all the IPOD readers will be fully informed and well-versed on all the changes that shall be brought to the Code, to all International Standards, and as a result, to the ISSF Rules next year. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions you might have on the new Code to doris@issf-sports.org and we will be sure to answer them at our earliest opportunity.

FINAL WORDS:

Although ISSF continues to invest and to actively engage itself in the fight against doping, we strongly believe that everyone involved in shooting sport has a part to play in eradicating the use of drugs in sport.

Together, we can make sure that all our athletes, their support staff and their medical personnel are aware of their obligations and responsibilities with regards to doping, and stay clean and healthy. Doing so is for the athletes’ best interest – and for the best interest and longevity of the sport.

Therefore, as we like to do every year, the ISSF thanks you all for taking your responsibilities seriously and for protecting the integrity of our shooting sport, for promoting the health and well-being of our athletes and for respecting and honouring the intrinsic values of sport in general.

Janie Soublière, BSS, LLM, LLB,
Legal Consultant, Anti-Doping in Sport