A LOOK BACK TO 2016: THE ANNUAL ISSF DOPING PROGRAM REPORT

As we have done in the past, the first edition of the IPOD takes a look back on the previous year and provides all readers with a summary of ISSF’s anti-doping activities. The IPOD offers the following report on the ISSF’s 2016 Anti-Doping Program in the form of a Q & A.

How many IN-competition doping controls did the ISSF undertake in 2016?

At Olympic qualifiers: 50
At the ISSF World Championships, ISSF World Cups & ISSF World Cup Finals: 195
At Europeans and Asian Championships: 95
At Junior Events (World Cups and European Championship): 95

Therefore, the total number of in-competition doping controls undertaken under the umbrella of the ISSF in 2016 is: 435

How many OUT-of-competition doping controls did the ISSF undertake in 2016?

The total number of out-of-competition doping controls undertaken by the ISSF in 2016 is: 30

How many doping controls were undertaken by the ISSF in total in 2016?

The total amount of urine samples collected both in and out of competition in 2016 is: 465

How many anti-doping rule violations occurred and were decided at the international level in 2016?

As of December 31, 2016, the ISSF can proudly confirm that there were no asserted anti-doping rule violation cases that occurred in the course of international level testing.

How many anti-doping rule violations occurred and were decided at the national level from doping controls collected in 2016?

As of December 31, 2016, there was one anti-doping rule violations asserted at the national level. Other possible anti-doping rule violations were resolved because of Therapeutic Use Exemptions. The prohibited substance involved in the one national-level case was Meldonium. The Athlete was sanctioned with a warning and his results from the event where the sample was taken were disqualified.

In accordance with its obligations under the Code, the ISSF will continue to monitor the disciplinary measures imposed on shooting sport Athletes by any national level disciplinary panels to ensure that all decisions rendered in these national-level cases comply with the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules. This is pointedly so with regards to all the doping violations involving beta blockers.

How many missed tests or failure to submit whereabouts information cases were reported in 2016?

There were no whereabouts failures or missed tests asserted against ISSF Registered Testing Pool Athletes in 2016.

The ISSF commends its RTP Athletes for their timely and accurate whereabouts filings.

How many Athletes in the ISSF Registered Testing Pool (RTP) at the end of the year?

The 2016 ISSF RTP has been generally redefined and is now described as follows in the 2017 ISSF Anti-Doping Rules: “The ISSF shall identify and maintain a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) of those Athletes who are required to comply with the whereabouts requirements of Annex I to the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, and shall make available through ADAMS, on its website and via email communication a list which identifies those Athletes included in its Registered Testing Pool by name.”

Some of the reasons for ISSF’s modified RTP are as follows:
• to make sure the ISSF can adequately receive and oversee whereabouts information from a better defined and selective number of its elite Athletes.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

The ISSF is steadfast in implementing its anti-doping program and promoting drug-free sport. Accordingly, the ISSF shall continue to tackle all anti-doping issues with renewed determination and conviction in 2017.

THE ISSF REGISTERED TESTING PLAN (RTP)

In 2017 the ISSF RTP has been generally redefined and is now described as follows in the 2017 ISSF Anti-Doping Rules: “The ISSF shall identify and maintain a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) of those Athletes who are required to comply with the whereabouts requirements of Annex I to the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, and shall make available through ADAMS, on its
• to ensure that the ISSF RTP does not get too big to administer or to fulfil its functions of deterrence, transparency and accountability.
• to allow the ISSF to better fulfill its compliance obligations with regards to testing and intelligence gathering under the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI).

The ISSF is confident its refined RTP now better satisfies the objectives of the ISSF and the World Anti-Doping Program whilst meeting the requirements of ISSF’s anti-doping program and yearly test distribution plan.

Accordingly, as of January 1, 2017 the number of Athletes in the ISSF RTP is significantly reduced. There will only be 20 Athletes in the RTP. The most Athletes there will be in RTP at any time in the year is 25.
• Athletes will be formally notified by email when they are added into the RTP and must ensure that they begin submitting their whereabouts for the next quarter as soon as possible.
• If an Athlete is removed from the RTP in the following quarter he or she will also be formally notified by email before the start of the next quarter.

All RTP Athletes are urged to ensure they file their whereabouts in a timely and accurate manner. Be advised that they will be checked regularly.

THE ISSF TEST DISTRIBUTION PLAN (TDP)
The ISSF Anti-Doping Committee has successfully devised its 2017 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 2017 competition calendar.

Prior to elaborating its 2017 TDP, a mandatory physiological risk assessment of doping in shooting was once again expertly and knowledgeably undertaken by the ISSF Anti-Doping and Medical Committees. Consequently, the TDP was elaborated based on the ISSF’s Anti-Doping Committee unique understanding, knowledge and appreciation of shooting sport and its Athletes.

ISSF’s 2017 TDP complies with the Code and the ISTI and respects the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules. The TDP shall be implemented by all ISSF Event Organisers and ISTI and respects the ISSF Anti-Doping Organisations teams and Doping Control Service Providers, the ISSF shall carefully over-see the carrying out all doping controls throughout 2017 in order to determine if both the amount of doping controls being conducted in-competition and out-of-competition and the doping control selection methods applied adequately fulfill the objectives of the TDP.

The intention is to conduct roughly the same amount of both in-competition and out-of-competition doping controls in 2017 as in 2016. Because we can anticipate some Youth Olympic Games Quota places to be awarded in 2017 in anticipation of the next 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, the testing numbers are expected to increase slightly.

As usual, you can expect the ISSF to report on the outcome of its 2017 testing program at the beginning of 2018.

EDUCATION
Ongoing initiatives
Every year, throughout the year, the ISSF urges all its Athletes, all its member federations and everyone involved in shooting sport, be it Athlete support personnel, trainers, doctors, parents, etc. to get educated or better informed on anti-doping.

To this end, the ISSF has established many educational vehicles through which it disseminates anti-doping information. The following are ongoing initiatives:
• 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 shooting sport to respect various responsibilities and obligations with regards to anti-doping.
• The ISSF website provides 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. Last year, other than just having the Booth at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, with the assistance of the Estonian NADO, the ISSF also had an Outreach Booth at the Junior World Cup in Tallinn, Estonia. The ISSF shall continue to promote educational initiatives through this informative and entertaining medium in 2017.
• 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).
• The facilitating of ongoing cooperation between NADO and RADO’s and national federations also remains a priority. The ISSF encourages NADOs to be proactive in reaching out to their national shooting federations in order to disseminate anti-doping education to national and regional level Athletes, specially the juniors, via the national federation’s elected Education Information Officer.

If your member federation has not identified its Education Information Officer, we ask that you do so at your earliest convenience and inform Doris Fischl (doris@issf-sports.org).

If your national federation has identified its Education Information Officer and that individual has not yet been contacted by your NADO or RADO, please also inform Doris at doris@issf-sports.org and she will ensure that you and your NADO are properly introduced.

Remember: The goal is to foster to and open the communication lines between member federations and their NADO – in their country’s primary language - so that they may work together in the common goal of educating national level shooting Athletes.

Upcoming initiatives
At the year-end the ISSF Committee meetings in Munich in November 2016, the ISSF Medical and Anti-Doping Committees met with the ISSF Athletes Committee in order to brainstorm on new ideas that could help ISSF’s educational initiatives reach a wider range of shooting Athletes.

It was agreed that juniors and national-level Athletes do not benefit from the same amount of anti-doping education as elite Athletes, and that they are the groups that must be increasingly targeted.

Together, the Athletes Committee, Medical Committee and Anti-Doping Committees came up with various new ideas, projects and recommendations on how to improve the ISSF’s education program by further engaging Athletes, by using our elite Athletes as role models and anti-doping ambassadors, by better utilizing social media platforms, and by making the anti-doping education more acces-
sible and fun to Athletes of all levels and ages.

• You can expect an “Anti-Doping week” on Facebook in the month of January 2017. Every day of the week a positive message on anti-doping will be posted on the ISSF Facebook page for all our ISSF Facebook friends to see, like and comment on.

• You can also expect a “Say not to Doping” video to be produced in the first months of 2017. This video will star many of our shooting Athletes from all over the world. It is to be filmed by our outstanding ISSF media team, then edited and presented by the spring. If you have any good ideas that can help disseminate the anti-doping message to our Athletes and coaches via social media, please do not hesitate to contact us at doris@issf-sports.org and share your ideas.

ANTI-DOPING RULES

Anti-doping rules are consistently changing to keep up with the ever changing landscape of anti-doping in sport. It is important for everyone to stay abreast of the most recent developments and updated regulations. More importantly, it is imperative for Athletes of all levels and from all corners of the world to become better informed on the dangers of doping and on the importance of respecting their obligations under national and international anti-doping rules.

Education, and thereby a better knowledge of the applicable rules and obligations, is the cornerstone to successfully deterring all our Athletes at all levels of competition from using performance enhancing substance.

This responsibility does not lie solely with the ISSF. As we are all bound by the same rules, it continues to be up to each of us to implement all the elements of the ISSF Anti-Doping Program, both in theory and in practice, as well as to comply with our respective obligations under the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code.

We must all be hands-on. Every one involved in shooting should and must get acquainted with the applicable Anti-Doping Rules and more importantly understand their respective responsibilities and obligations under these same Rules.

As the ISSF has repeated time and time again … Ignorance of the rules is never a defence.

This year, there are some notable modifications that have been brought to the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules. These include:

• A modified definition of the RTP
• More emphasis placed on the protection of personal information and data privacy
• Modification of our disciplinary procedures whereby a three person panel will now be responsible for deciding on anti-doping cases.

Therefore, the ISSF invites you to carefully read the 2017 ISSF Anti-Doping Rules and to acknowledge all your respective obligations under these Rules. They can be downloaded off the ISSF website at http://www.issf-sports.org/theissf/rules/english_rulebook.ashx. The ISSF always welcomes any questions any IPOD reader may have about the meaning or impact of any provision of its Anti-Doping Rules. Please remember that it is always better to ask questions and be well informed, than to risk the potentially devastating consequences of being ill-informed.

FINAL WORDS:
If the ISSF is proud of the work it continues to accomplish in carrying out its World Anti-Doping Code compliant anti-doping program, it is equally proud to acknowledge the work that each of you has accomplished in 2016. The ISSF’s Anti-Doping Report would not be complete if it did not acknowledge the hard work of:

• All ISSF national federations who have respected their testing, reporting and results management obligations and who have already nominated their Education Information Officer;
• All medical staff who must be mindful of the Prohibited List, offering Code-compliant consultations and properly filing out complete and timely TUE applications in English;
• All Athlete support personnel who continue to deter Athletes to resort to the use of performance enhance substances by emphasizing the importance of proper training and nutrition and the adoption of ethical sporting values;
• All ISSF Event Organisers and Technical Delegates who are committed and work hard to successfully carry out the ISSF anti-doping program;
• All ISSF RTP Athletes who continue to submit timely and accurate whereabouts information; and,
• All Athletes, at any level, who has made a personal decision to not use prohibited substances or methods to enhance his or her performance and discouraged others to do so as well:

THANK YOU for taking your responsibilities with regard to anti-doping seriously and for protecting the integrity of shooting; for promoting the health and well-being of all our Athletes and for respecting and honouring the intrinsic values of sport in general.

Janie Soulière  BSc, LL.M, LL.B.
ISSF Counsel and Consultant Anti-Doping in Sport