



ANTI-DOPING TESTING AT THE CHANGWON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CONTINUING ON THE THEME OF THIS EDITION OF THE ISSF NEWS, THIS TIME, THE IPOD FOCUSES ON THE TESTING WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE WCH

The World Shooting Sport Championship in Changwon was an immense event and a huge success. Just as the Organizing Committee and ISSF devoted much time and energy towards the organization of the WCH, and Athletes spent hours training in preparation for the WCH, so too was careful planning for the anti-doping testing to be conducted throughout the event undertaken well in advance.

The anti-doping testing plan for the Changwon World Championships was carefully devised by the ISSF Anti-Doping Committee in compliance with the ISSF Test Distribution Plan (TDP), whose purpose and scope are to plan and implement the distribution of doping controls and to succeed in effectively detecting, deterring and preventing doping practices.

The ISSF TDP, and by extension its testing plan for the 2018 World Championships in Changwon, complies with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), the International Standards for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) and for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information and abides by the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules.

The WCH Testing Plan consisted of a variety of random and target tests amongst the general list of competitors and of course, medal winners. Also, testing all athletes who earned Quota places and broke World Records was imperative. As a result, in theory, the Testing Plan anticipated that a significant amount of testing would need to be conducted in Changwon – and in practice, this was indeed the case.

There were 1700 athletes participating in 102 Events in all four Shooting disciplines (Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, and Running Target). This included 50 individual events: 18 men events, 11 Women events, 14 Junior Men events and 7 Junior Women Events; 46 Team events and 6 mixed Team events: 3 Senior and Junior.

There were 102 Medal Events. But, considering many of these were team events, a

whopping 600 medals were handed out. In addition, 42 World Records were broken, and 48 Individual Olympic Quota Places and 12 Mixed Team Quotas places were earned. Ensuring that all athletes competing at the WCH were clean was a top priority for ISSF. This means that a tremendous amount of testing was necessary and carried out accordingly: 184 tests in total!

ISSF AS TESTING AUTHORITY

The ISSF's jurisdiction and authority to conduct testing in the course of the WCH derived from various regulatory sources.

Article 5.2.2 of the WADC reads that *"each International Federation shall have In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing authority over all Athletes who are subject to its rules, including those who participate in International Events..."*.

The ISSF Anti-Doping Rules reiterate this and notably article 5 of these rules reads:

5.2.1 (...) the ISSF shall have In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing authority over all of the Athletes specified in the Introduction to these Anti-Doping Rules (under the heading "Scope").

5.2.2 The ISSF may require any Athlete over whom it has Testing authority to provide a Sample at any time and at any place.

5.3.1 (...) only a single organization should be responsible for initiating and directing Testing at Event Venues during an Event Period. At International Events, the collection of Samples shall be initiated and directed by the ISSF.

Also, prior to obtaining an ISSF ID, athletes sign a form declaring that they agree to submit to testing when requested to do so and to respect all possible consequences arising from the doping control process ...

And, under the ISSF TDP, *all Athletes competing in ISSF Championships may be selected by the ISSF's independent Testing Intelligence Officer, a Technical Delegate or an authorized*

Sample Collection Agency for random and/or target testing both in and out-of-competition. Finally, pursuant to article 21.1.2 of the WADC and the ISTI, one of the *"roles and responsibilities"* of each ISSF athlete is to be available for sample collection at all times.

Pursuant to all applicable rules, regulations and policies, the ISSF was thus the Testing Authority for all samples collected at the WCH and all athletes competing at the WCH were subject to testing by ISSF.

TESTING CONDUCTED

As already stated, article 5.2 of the WADC and ISSF Anti-Doping Rules provide that any athlete may be required to provide a urine sample at any time and at any place by any anti-doping organization with testing authority over him or her.

Many months prior to the WCH, pursuant to article 5.4.2 of the WADC and in application and respect of its TDP, the ISSF developed and implemented an effective, intelligent and proportionate testing plan for the WCH that prioritized appropriately between disciplines, categories of athletes and time of testing all in compliance with the requirements of the ISTI. Of course, as per the ISSF TDP, various random, targeted and pre-determined tests occurred. These included random medalist and finalist tests, target testing as decided by the ISSF testing intelligence officer, medal placement and random tests on all athletes participating in a given discipline and mandatory tests on all athletes who broke World Records or gained Quota places for the Olympic Games.

KADA: THE SAMPLE COLLECTION AGENCY

Although Dr James Lally, the Chairman of the ISSF Medical Committee, was in Changwon to oversee that all ISSF and ISTI testing requirements were met, it is not the ISSF who conducted the actual testing. That task was

delegated to KADA, the Korean Anti-Doping Agency who was the Sample Collection Agency for the WCH.

As per the definition in the ISTI, KADA was the organization which was responsible for the collection of samples at the WCH in compliance with the requirements of the ISTI, on behalf of the Testing Authority: ISSF.

As the Testing Authority, ISSF always remains ultimately responsible under the Code for compliance with the requirements of the ISTI relating to collection of samples. Accordingly, the ISSF ensured many months prior to the WCH, among others, that all various ISTI requirements could be met by KADA, that the doping control facilities were of the highest standard and that all KADA Doping Control Officers were qualified.

Because the ISSF had organized a World Cup Testing event in April, where KADA was also the Sample Collection Agency, ISSF and KADA had great confidence in KADA being able to deliver a sample collection process that would both respect the ISTI and the ISSF TDP. Dr. Lally, Chairman of the ISSF Medical Committee had the following to say about the KADA Doping Control Officer's (DCOs) in Changwon.

"It was a great pleasure and privilege to work with the professionals from KADA. The DCO's and volunteer chaperones were exceptional. I have been overseeing doping controls with the mid-1990's and by far, this group excelled above all the others. One of the main factors was a very strong lead DCO, Mrs. Insook Kim. Always present and on time, she was on top of the ever-changing situations that occur during a large competition like the WCH. The Chaperones were disciplined and committed to being there; several in fact had taken leaves of absence from their work to help out. Having a local physician who is a member of the Korean Shooting Federation was instrumental in keeping things on track. Lastly, my presence early in the morning and leaving with the last athlete as night contributed to the success of this mission. My familiarity with the athletes, the coaches and the leaders of each country helped to find elusive athletes for notification, calm disgruntled ones and keep things moving smoothly."

The ISSF is grateful to Dr. Lally, to KADA and all its doping control officers and chaperones for their outstanding work throughout the WCH. They were professional, organized and well prepared. They understood shooting, the layout of the range and the specificities of the sport, such as elimination rounds and finals, which can result in delays in the doping control process, and they gave particular attention to ensuring that the necessary amount of female and male chaperones were available to carry out the testing every day.

The ISSF Anti-Doping Committee also commends the WCH Organizing Committee for having excellent doping control facilities. Further to the World Cup event in April, a few issues were raised with regards to ventilation and increased space and these were quickly addressed. Therefore, the facilities were airy, spacious and demonstrative of a world class event.



As stated above, considering there were 1700 athletes competing in Changwon, it is noteworthy that KADA and Dr. Lally reported that for the most part, all ISSF athletes cooperated fully with the process. They were well behaved, respectful of the doping control officers and understanding of the process, notwithstanding the fact that it can often be cumbersome or a nuisance in their schedule. Of course, there were some disgruntled athletes, which, while unfortunate considering anti-doping measures are there to protect athletes, is not unusual. And of course, some athletes, notably juniors for whom it was the first doping control experience, required a bit more time in order for the process to be properly explained to them. This was not a problem for the KADA team. Finally, while some athletes thought that they could leave the doping control station after notification, they were informed that this was not possible, which for the most part was well received.

ISSF therefore commends all athletes tested for their collaboration in this important process. Clearly, KADA and Dr Lally had their work cut out for them. They rose to the challenge and carried out a world-class testing program at the ISSF WCH in Changwon.

ISSF: RESULTS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

To ensure the chain of custody was intact and that the transport did not affect the integrity of the samples, at the end of each day of testing, a testing report was submitted to the ISSF Anti-Doping Committee and all samples collected that day were promptly refrigerated and shipped to the KIST WADA Accredited Laboratory for analysis.

The Laboratory has now analyzed every sample it has received. To date, there have been no adverse analytical findings, or positive tests, reported further to the testing conducted in Changwon.

It must be specified that the ISSF is not only the organization who was responsible for both organizing and implementing the testing in Changwon but it is also the organization which is responsible for management of the results of any positive tests, or other evidence of a potential anti-doping rule violation, as

well as hearings should any anti-doping rule violation have occurred in the course of the WCH. The ISSF is hopeful that all tests will return negative. Yet, there can be delays in the final reporting process. This is notably so since the ISSF has been implementing the steroidal module of the WADA Athlete Biological Passport Program. Under this program, it is possible for a sample to be initially reported as negative, but when the urine sample parameters are later compared to that same athlete's prior testing parameters, a variance may result in scientific confirmation procedures being required. These, in turn, could result in a positive finding being reported.

For now, the ISSF remains confident that all test results will be negative and that the Changwon testing plan and its outcomes will have been as successful as the event itself.

Should any test results report adverse analytical findings, then the ISSF will proceed with results management for these positive test results in accordance with article 7 of the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules. This consists of notifications to the relevant athlete and his or her federation and providing an opportunity to such athletes to offer exculpatory explanations. These cases could then eventually go through a disciplinary process pursuant to article 8 of the ISSF Anti-Doping Rules which would culminate in the imposition of sanctions or periods of ineligibility.

As the saying goes, *"The ISSF shall cross that bridge if and when we get to it!"*

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The apparent and undeniable take-away of this brief overview of the anti-doping testing plan carried out in Changwon is that ISSF'S anti-doping program has come a long way in the last decade.

There is no doubt about it: the ISSF anti-doping program is fully compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and it is robust, wisely thought-out and expertly implemented.

The ISSF is proud of its commitment to anti-doping and proud of its athletes who both recognize the importance of clean sport as well as respect all processes related to the same.

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