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Patrick Schamasch
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Via Email

13 October 2008

Dear Patrick

Re: Anti-Doping Activities for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Firstly, please accept our congratulations on a very successful Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. It is clear that the implementation of the most thorough testing programme ever seen at an Olympic Games, the strong messages from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in advance of the Games and the global efforts by Anti-Doping Organisations (ADOs) all contributed to the low numbers of anti-doping rule violations.

In the interests of contributing to the collective fight against doping in the future, UK Sport, as the UK's National Anti-Doping Organisation, and the British Olympic Committee (BOA) have the following constructive feedback taken from our organisation's experiences both prior to and during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

1. IOC Anti-Doping Rules

For a nation with a comprehensive education programme in place and a large Olympic team, early sight of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules is essential. As with many nations we initiated our Olympic education programme in January 2008 and to receive the rules only two months prior to the opening of the Games causes significant difficulties in ensuring that athletes and athletes support personnel are fully aware of the IOC's anti-doping requirements. It is strongly recommended that ADOs and NOCs are given sight of the rules no later than eight months prior to the start of the Games.

2. TUEs & Online Application Process

If the IOC does not expect to use WADA's Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS) in the future, it is essential that the alternative online solution for the submission of TUEs is effective. On a number of occasions prior to the Games BOA team physicians had difficulty with the IOC's system with instances of where the system was inaccessible and applications seemingly



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deleted following submission. Of course, technology is sometimes temperamental but the impact on athletes and team physicians on such occasions does not instil confidence and causes undue concern at a time when they are focussing on preparing for the Games.

3. Athlete Whereabouts Requirements

We were extremely grateful for your communication prior to the Games related to the IOC's athlete whereabouts requirements and this assisted us in putting in place suitable procedures for the British team. However, given that our athletes have been used to a whereabouts programme for a number of years, the lateness of issuing the requirements and the lack of information related to how updates could be provided caused significant work and concern for athletes, team managers, the BOA and UK Sport.

As you know the British team is committed to anti-doping and has embraced the provision of athlete whereabouts information. However, the lack of clarity in this area before the Games damaged the goodwill that has been built up over the past years in the UK. We would hope that in the future and following the implementation of the revised International Standard for Testing that any requirements will be comprehensive and detailed and where necessary come with additional operational instructions that assist athletes, ADOs and NOCs with complying.

4. Doping Control Staff in Beijing

Prior to the Games, UK Sport was asked by BOCOG to recommend a Doping Control Officer to assist during the Games, to which we responded positively. This DCO provided good service to BOCOG and thoroughly enjoyed and learnt from the experience and we are grateful to BOCOG for the opportunity.

However, three days before she was due to leave Beijing at the end of the Games she was presented with a contract, including articles related to acceptance of professional liability, and requested to sign. There was no indication that this was required when we communicated with BOCOG prior to the Games and it put our DCO in a difficult position given that the insurance cover UK Sport has is restricted to work conducted solely on our behalf and at our request. We would suggest that such contracts be presented in advance of any travel so that if insurance is required it can be sought before work commences.

As mentioned earlier, please accept this letter as constructive feedback and we hope the matters raised are received in the collaborative manner in which they are provided. We again congratulate you on an outstanding Olympic Games and if either the BOA or UK Sport can be of any assistance in the future do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely



Andy Parkinson
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Drug-Free Sport, UK Sport



Sara Friend
Director of Legal Services
British Olympic Association

Cc: Rune Andersen, WADA