



International Federation of Sleddog Sports

DOPING CONTROL IN SLEDDOG SPORTS:

FOR THE WELFARE OF ALL ATHLETES, DOGS AND HUMAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Our sports, on snow and dryland, are developing and are fully integrating the world of sport activities.

For some years the IOC has emphasized the need for more ethical sports practice by the competitors. In the beginning, the focus was on major events such as the Olympic Games or internationally known races such as the Tour de France. But, with the development of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), the IOC's and public organizations' arm in doping control, the tests for forbidden substances have now reached a more local level.

WADA has national members, the National Anti Doping Organizations (NADO), in most of the countries and, if there is no NADO in a country, there is a Regional Anti Doping Organization (RADO) representing WADA in the area.

WADA has developed a World Anti-Doping Code, known as the "Code", and various programs and tools for the Sports federations to use in their education and controls of their athletes. WADA has required that all International Sport Federations comply with the "Code" and commit themselves to a doping control program, developing the necessary internal regulations and procedures.

WADA's motto "play true" emphasizes the objective of the fight for doping-free sports. But more than that, the prevention of doping in sports is a matter of the health and welfare of the athletes – and in our sports this means our dogs as well. Truly fair sports practices and the image of our sport itself in the eyes of the public and sponsors are both at stake here.

II. IFSS DOPING CONTROLS

IFSS has done its homework (thanks to Carin Ahlstedt and Michelle Menger for their dedication) and the IFSS compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code was recognized by WADA in November 2008. This means that doping controls are going

to be more and more frequent in sled dog races on snow and dryland. But IFSS has also initiated out of competition tests (OOCT), as requested in the Code.

Doping controls are now performed both on dogs and on human athletes. WADA has delegated to the sports federations in which animals are involved the responsibility of preparing and publishing the list of forbidden substances and forbidden methods for their respective animals. IFSS has published its list on the IFSS web site (www.sledodgSPORT.com). The list of forbidden substances and forbidden methods for human athletes is available on the WADA web site (www.wada-ama.org). The IFSS Human and Dogs Anti-Doping Rules are very similar and are both available on the IFSS web site along with other practical information.

Several organizations can require in- or out of competition doping controls: WADA, the IFSS, the NADO where the event is taking place or where the athlete and/or his/her dog is located, and his/her national federation.

In most cases, the request for doping control of athletes and/or dogs will be sent to the concerned NADO which will implement the necessary action.

III. REPORTING

IFSS has the obligation to report to WADA the doping controls carried out by the NADO's or other instances in the member countries. So, **it is requested that each member federation reports to the IFSS Anti-Doping Committee (carin.ahlstedt@telia.com), all doping controls performed in their respective countries** in competition and out of competition on their athletes or their dogs.

IV. ORGANIZERS' OBLIGATIONS

The race organizers have some obligations regarding the facilities required for the sample collections (Doping Control Station).

The *Doping Control Station* should meet the following criteria:

- Be solely reserved for doping control purposes
- Maintain *athlete* privacy and confidentiality
- Be accessible only to authorized personnel
- Be secure enough to store sample collection equipment
- Be comprised of a waiting area with chairs and a separate administration area with a table and chairs for completion of paperwork. There should be adjoining toilet facilities for sample provision, which should ideally consist of cubicles large enough for the Witness and the *Athlete*. Toilet facilities are not required for dog doping control.
- Include facilities to allow the *Athlete* to wash his/her hands.
- Be large enough to accommodate the number of *Athletes*, *Athlete Representatives* and *Sample Collection Personnel* who will occupy the area
- Be suitably located in relation to the race site, training site or other location where *Athletes* will be notified.

Doping control operations are carried out with “no advance notice” and may be done at any event, at any time. We therefore recommend that the federations give these instructions at minimum to their main race organizers for their important races such as National championships and international events where doping controls may be organized, as well as to the organizers of training camps. In this manner, the organization can include these requirements in their preparations, and if a control is done at the event, the proper facilities will be readily available.

V. NATIONAL FEDERATIONS’ OBLIGATIONS

The National Federations have the obligations to require the whereabouts information (i.e. location) from their competitors in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and to forward that information to their respective NADO and to the IFSS Anti-doping Committee (carin.ahlstedt@telia.com).

The National Federations also have some obligations concerning information about Anti-Doping regulations when sending competitors to international events.

The athletes have to be informed about:

- the list of forbidden substances and methods for both themselves and their dogs
- the possibility to apply for a TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemption) for those athletes who need otherwise forbidden medication on a permanent basis
- and their obligation to get such a TUE approved first by their own NADO (or RADO) and then by IFSS, before participating in competition
- their obligation to have the original documents ready to show if they should be selected for doping control
- Doping Control routines with rights and obligations, both concerning athletes and dogs
- that they, when representing their National Federation, must always have an English-speaking team leader or other witness to accompany them if they or their dog(s) are selected for a doping control, or have a minimum working level of English themselves.

Also, National federations are strongly encouraged to publish translations of Anti-Doping Rules and procedures in their national languages, for the education of all their athletes, whatever their level of sport.

Bernard Pépin, IFSS Vice President of Sports