Doper’s Purgatory

What is a race director’s responsibility when convicted drug cheats return to run?

By Myles Schrag

Play the Game, Aarhus, Denmark, Oct. 27, 2015
When tainted runners return ...

- My Runner’s World Online, March 2015

- Objective of my Play the Game paper:
  - Updates in doping and distance running when athletes return, especially at second-tier races.
  - Explore what race directors (RDs) do and should do to deter dopers.
What I found: It’s been a busy year!

- **The Good**
  - Stakeholders’ more coherent, urgent message
  - (e.g., RRM database, WADA “prohibited association” list, Sunday Times/ARD IAAF reporting)
- **The Bad**
  - Many questions and obstacles remain
  - (e.g., Shobukhova, Jeptoo, Salazar, Kenya Athletics anti-doping)
- **The Ugly**
  - High-profile cases get media coverage, but sport’s integrity problems are much deeper.
Liza Hunter-Galvan, a case study

- 2008 New Zealand Olympian
- Tested positive in 2009 and admitted using EPO at least three times; suspended 2009-2011.
- Her past 12 months in the news:
  - Dallas ‘14 (3rd place, $2,000)
  - Boston ‘15 (1st in masters, $10,000)
  - Chicago ‘15 (did not place)
  - Lack of clarity and consistency from the races.
Second-Tier Races

- Prize money lower
- Media scrutiny less
- Drug testing minimal
- What should RDs do?
- Hunter-Galvan, as a master’s runner, seems to have inadvertently brought the confusion of the second-tier races into World Marathon Majors.
Move toward zero tolerance even when dopers have served their sentence.
- Dallas (No past dopers allowed)
- Indianapolis (added coach provision, as WADA has done)
- Grandma’s (Sign that they are drug-free)

Is a move toward de facto lifetime ban OK?
Who should an RD protect?
WADA, PRRO, IAAF know there are limits.
Possible Solutions

- Phil Stewart, Road Race Management
  - [www.rrm.com](http://www.rrm.com)
- ‘Harmonization’, WADA’s mantra
- Clean athletes’ shaming
- Coaches, agents, managers responsibility (i.e., cut off the support lines)
- How to keep out “bent doctors”?
- How to regain prize money?
- Keep NGBs from protecting their own
- More transparency, esp. Europe
Thank you!

- Questions?

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