

# 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*

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# When tainted runners return ...

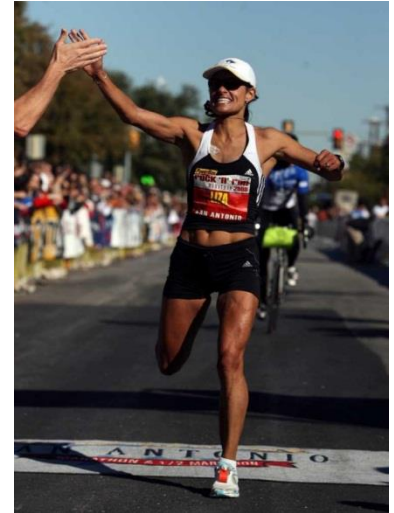
- My Runner's World Online, March 2015
  - <http://www.runnersworld.com/newswire/should-runners-who-have-served-drug-bans-be-welcomed-at-races?nopaging=1>
- Objective of my Play the Game paper:
  - Updates in doping and distance running when athletes return, especially at second-tier races.
  - Explore 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$2,000)
  - Boston '15 (1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# Ethics of Dealing with Dopers

- 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?
- Myles Schrag
  - Human Kinetics Publishers
  - [myless@hkusa.com](mailto:myless@hkusa.com)