Professional Athletes view on anti doping policy

Play the game conference

Coventry, June 11th

Yves Kummer
President EU Athletes
We love WADA !
The big questions of today: No 1

Who represents the athlete?
Are the athletes represented in WADA?
WADA Statutes

Article 4- Object

The object of the Foundation is:

1. to promote and coordinate at international level the fight against doping in sport in all its forms including through in and out-of-competition; to this end, the Foundation will cooperate with intergovernmental organizations, governments, public authorities and other public and private bodies fighting against doping in sport, *inter alia* the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federations (IF), National Olympic Committees (NOC) and the athletes; it will seek and obtain from all of the above the *moral and political commitment* to follow its recommendations; --
• “Clean athletes are willing to be tested and if you speak with them, you will realize that they are actually happy when the testers knock at their door.”

WADA’s Vice President Prof Arne Ljungqvist
EU Conference on Anti-Doping, Athens – May 13, 2009
EU Athletes

- 25 members
- 25,000 professional Athletes
- 15 countries
The big questions of today: No 2

Practical question

Who here has ever experienced the current anti doping procedures?
The big questions of today: No 3

Legal Questions

How do we balance the rights of athletes against the ‘fight of doping’?
European commission

1. Citizens
   - The human right to privacy
   - W29 has clearly stated that the WADA regulation is against European legislation

2. Employees
   - EU athletes has put anti doping on the social dialogue agenda
   - WADA regulations should be according the working time directory

3. Sportsmen and women
   - Anti-doping regulations
“Nobody is above the law”
The big questions of today: No 4

Philosophical Questions

How far should we go to win the ‘war on drugs’?
How far should we go?

• Is a drug free sport possible?
• When is the ‘fight against doping’ successful?
• Is it acceptable if 2 innocent athletes are punished on procedural grounds if 10 drug cheats are caught with the same rule?
• If the these regulations do not catch drug cheats how far are we willing to go?
• one size fits all. Is it still right to treat all sports the same? Should football and chess be subject to the same rules or is it time to get smarter?
The big questions of today: No 4a

Philosophical Questions

What makes athletes so special that a witch-hunt is accepted?
Kasun de Silva
EU Athletes statement

• Like everyone else, athletes are protected by European employment legislation and human rights laws.

• Parts of the WADA Code interfere with players rights either the ‘family of sport’ or the courts needs to decide whether this is lawful and proportionate.

• We are committed to drug free sport and want to negotiate with WADA to create a fair, effective and lawful anti-doping policy.
The end