

IPC POSITION STATEMENT

Use of Catheters at Doping Control

Background

Following a recent decision taken with regard to an anti-doping rule violation in Canada (Canadian Sports Disputes Panel of Athletics Canada vs. Adams), IPC has been contacted by the National Paralympic Committee of Canada to gain information on today's practice within IPC regarding the use of catheters by athletes with a disability subject to doping controls.

Position Statement

The IPC considers the catheter used by an athlete with need for self-catheterization as 'personal equipment'. Athletes might react differently to different brands and models, potentially leading to infections and/or allergic reactions. Athletes therefore mainly use one particular type of catheter. Furthermore, due to the variety of brands, models and sizes, it cannot be expected from Organizing Committees or Doping Control Officers (DCOs) that they supply catheters that meet the individual requirements of each athlete.

Within this perspective, and giving absolute priority to the athlete's health, the catheter used is the responsibility of the athlete. Although not mandatory, it is recommended that athletes use sterile catheters for hygiene reasons.

In particular cases, eg. Paralympic Games, the Doping Control Stations may be equipped with a number of sealed, sterile catheters, never covering all brands, sizes and/or materials. This must be regarded as a complimentary service offered to the athletes in such a particular competition. Even in those cases, the experience has shown that very exceptionally an athlete will choose a catheter supplied by the DCO over the use his/her own catheter.

IPC is not in charge of the training of DCOs by itself. However, in preparation of IPC Sanctioned Events, workshops for Organizing Committee members are often held in which IPC stresses the importance for DCOs to comply with the WADA International Standard for Testing Annex B 'Modifications for Athletes with a Disability'. No further particular regulations are supplemented by the IPC.

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