



## **Minutes of the meeting of the FIE Medical Commission held at the Helia Hotel, Budapest, Hungary, January 31-February 1, 2004.**

### **Attendees:**

Jeno Kamuti, President  
Guy Azémar,  
Peter Harmer,  
Ryszard Szczpanski,  
George Van Dugteren,  
Ana Pascu (representing the Executive Committee).

In addition, FIE President René Roch attended the meeting for approximately one hour on both days.

Recording secretaries: Guy Azémar (French), Peter Harmer (English), Anna Pascu for the Executive Committee.

**1 - President of the medical commission, Dr. Jeno Kamuti, opened the meeting** and reported that the IOC medical commission had recently changed the designation for its committee on doping to a “working group”. A brief discussion ensued as to whether the FIE medical commission should have a working group on doping rather the current “sub-commission”. No decision was reached but it was decided that no matter how the group was identified, Dr. George van Dugteren would be the chair.

Following this discussion the meeting observed a moment of silence to acknowledge the memory of Marius Valsalmis, MD, long-time member of the Medical Commission who passed away in January.

The agenda was offered and accepted:

- a) discussion of the WADA regulations that came into force on January 1, 2004, and how they affect the FIE,
- b) information on recent cases of doping,

- c) preparations for the medical commission meeting and symposium in Leipzig, 2005
- d) propositions regarding medical commission delegates for Plovdiv and Athens, 2004
- e) other matters

**2 - The meeting was turned over to Dr. van Dugteren as the bulk of the work was related to meeting the requirements of the WADA code.**

Dr. van Dugteren began by pointing out that the WADA program consists of 3 components: the code, the standards, and the best practices. The code and the standards are obligatory and indicate what must be done by international federations. The best practices are recommendations on how the code can be implemented. Each international federation can modify the best practices to meet its unique circumstances but its rules must conform with the WADA code and standards.

The commission began work on the document "International Fencing Federation Anti-doping Rules – based on the World Anti-Doping Code". This version is dated 16-01-2004. Dr. van Dugteren pointed out that the document had two components: sections that came from the code/standards that could not be changed (these were indicated in the text by special marking), and sections that were modifiable according to the best interests of the FIE and its athletes. These sections are to be the focus of the commission's work.

Action: the opening sentence related to when the WADA Code was/will be accepted by the FIE Congress needs to be corrected.

Article 4.4.2 & related sections on the Therapeutic Exemption Use (TUE) protocol lead to considerable discussion to determine what would be most appropriate. It was decided that the FIE should use a method of TUE being processed by the National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADO) (or National Olympic Committees (NOC), if a NADO does not exist).

Action: Article 4.4.2 was re-written to reflect this and article 4.4.3 and sub-sections were deleted.

Article 5.4: Doping control forms must be sent from the NADO to the FIE. It is the FIE responsibility to send testing information to WADA.

Article 5.5: Athlete Whereabouts Requirement. Changes in all sections of 5.5 to indicate that the Registered Testing Pool is for out-of-competition testing only. Several other modifications were made.

Article 5.5.2: Changed 18 months to 6 months.

Article 5.5.3: deleted

Action: The Registered Testing Pool that the FIE is required to maintain should consist of the top 30 fencers in the senior ranking list only for each weapon for men and women. The list will be up-dated on January 1 and June 30 each year. National federations need to send information on their out-of-competition testing to the FIE in the most efficient and

secure method possible. To assist in this process, the FIE should establish a secure link on its website for this purpose.

Action: Recommend that the FIE draft a letter to WADA outlining reasons why fencing should be exempt from out-of-competition testing. Reasons include the multitude of in-competition throughout the year, the fact that most of the substances that are the focus of out-of-competition testing are not advantageous to fencers, and the historically low number of positive test in fencing. Additional arguments can be developed.

Article 5.7.1.6 (d): is deleted

Article 5.10.2: is deleted

Article 7.1.2.1: Change text from “The FIE Executive” to “The medical commission”. Other text changes are included in the revised version of the regulations.

Article 7.1.4: Text changed from “three weeks” to “as soon as possible depending on the laboratory schedule and in consultation with the athlete”.

Article 8.1.1: Change text to indicate that the President of the medical commission will appoint a “FIE Doping Hearing Panel”.

Article 8.1.2: delete “which may be the Panel’s chairman”.

Article 8.1.3: Change text from “Chair of the FIE Doping Hearing Panel” to “President of the medical commission”.

Article 10.4.3: Add text “according to Article 5.5.2”. Change penalty for first violation to six (6) month’s Ineligibility.

Article 12.3.1: Change “Four or more violations” to “Multiple violations”.

Article 13.5: defer to the Legal commission for appropriate guidelines.

Article 14.1: Paragraph 2 - Delete first sentence and first phrase of the second sentence. Delete Appendix 2.

Article 14.2: Delete. Renumber remaining sections of Article 14.

Article 17: Add “beginning December 31, 2004”.

In reference to the Legal Commission proposal (Process for doping cases) of September 9, 2003, the text should be changed to reflect the composition of the Medical commission anti-doping panel as detailed above.

Action: The medical commission recommends that the Executive Commission remove rule t.128 (gender testing). It is no longer supported by the IOC and it has never been instituted for fencing.

**3 - Discussion of doping cases:** Dr. van Dugteren reported on a number of cases from 2003: of the six cases reported, four were found to have no merit. However, the outcome of two cases referred to the Executive Committee is unknown.

**4 - Preparations for the medical commission meeting and symposium in Leipzig in 2005:** General discussion of aspects of the meeting. In general, it was agreed that the symposium should be held on the day before the competition begins and that invitations should be sent to local physicians, universities and other professional groups. Drs. Azémar and Szczpanski and Professor Harmer are charged with developing proposals for the symposium.

**5 - Propositions for medical commission delegates to Plovdiv and Athens:** The commission had an extended discussion on the difficulties and inconsistency related to the appointment of commission delegates to various competitions. The commission developed a list of delegates for all of the competitions for which it was responsible at its first meeting of the quadrennium. However, several times the Executive Committee has not followed the commission's recommendations. This has resulted in appointments being made very late resulting in considerable hardship for the commission member(s) involved in making suitable arrangements for their regular professional obligations and increased cost because of the short time to buy plane tickets.

Action: The medical commission requests that the Executive Committee respects the recommendations of the medical commission in regards its delegates to various competitions.

Action: The medical commission strongly recommends that the delegates to Athens be Drs. Guy Azémar and Ezequiel Rodríguez Rey, and Dr. Wolfgarten to Plovdiv. Dr. Kamuti will contact Dr. Miguel Magalhaes to be the second member in Plovdiv and Dr. Dal Zotto to attend the World Veteran's Championships in Krems, Austria.

**6 - Other matters:** Dr. Kamuti gave a report on FIMS meeting in Oman and discussed communication problems between international federations, the IOC, coaches and athletes.

The commission discussed the continued absence of Dr. Hosam El Sherbiny from its meetings.

Action: The commission recommends that Dr. El Sherbiny be removed from the medical commission for failing to meet his responsibilities as outlined in the regulations.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20pm on Sunday, February 1, 2004.