

# **INTERVENTION**

## **International Handball Federation**

Prof Hans Holdhaus, Medical Commission  
Head of IHF-Anti-Doping-Unit

Mister Chairman, let me first thank the Code-committee for their tremendous work. We all know that it is not easy to coordinate the various comments and requirements from so many different stakeholders.

We also understand the desire to harmonise regulations, but we should be aware that there are also borders for harmonisation.

IHF fully supports WADA in the fight against doping as all other team sports federations too. We discussed the various code-versions in several meetings very carefully – together with representatives of WADA – and we were very satisfied to see that our comments had been included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the code, in particular that WADA recognised “teams” as a solid body for whereabouts. But, surprisingly for us, these important changes disappeared in the current version. We would be very interested to hear why the version has been changed again.

We are absolutely willing to fulfil the requirements of the Code, but we should be aware that the current version is not practicable at all for team sports. § 5.1.1 of the latest version of the Code says: “ each IF shall establish a registered testing pool for international-level athletes in its sport”.

What does this article mean for handball?

Normally each federation has a men and female national team, a men and female junior team, a men and female youth team and a men and female beach-handball team. All together 8 teams per federation. Each team consists of 20 – 25 players, which means 160 – 200 players per national federation. At the moment IHF has 159 member federations, which brings us to a total number of 25.000 – 31.000 players, having an international status.

I hope you can imagine, that it is impossible to handle such a big number of players and their personal whereabouts, neither with or without ADAMS.

Be also aware that a team is a very flexible body. Players are not permanently on the team. There is a change of ca. 25% in average through the year. This fact does not only increase the total number, but leads to confusions and last but not least errors.

The responsible body for the player would change permanently. If a player is selected for the team, he or she would have immediately an international status, if he or she will not be selected for the next game, he or she will be back on a national level. And this can change very often during a year.

What does it mean in practise for the player? It leads to confusion, because the relevant body for example for the granting of ATUE's or TUE's , but also for collecting the Whereabouts would change permanently. And that leads directly to errors and faults.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we would very much ask you and your experts to think about the specific situation in team sports and to change the last code version in adding teams as a relevant body in addition to the individual whereabouts.

We fully support WADA in the fight against doping in sports, but we hope that you understand our problems too.

Thank you for your attention.