

The Islamic Republic of Iran National anti-doping activities

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1. Background

- Doping control activities in Islamic Republic of Iran have been basically conducted by Iran National Anti Doping Organization (Iran NADO) since 2004. All sports federations in Iran rely on Iran NADO to provide advice and assistance on doping matters which includes doping control prior and during national and international games.
- In 2002 Iran joined the WADA foundation board during the international summit of drugs in sport in Moscow and in 2003 accepted and signed the Copenhagen declaration.
- In 2004 the First Asian anti doping symposium and DCO course was held in Iran and the first phase of doping control laboratory in Iran was started.
- In 2007 the headquarter of regional anti doping organization of central Asia (RADOCA) was established in Iran and the 3rd Board Meeting of RADOCA was held in Tehran.

Summary of anti doping activities

Below is and update on the activities of Iran NADO in Fight against doping in accordance to the world anti doping code:

Testing

- Iran conducted 864 tests during 2006 which shows a four fold increase in comparison to the number of tests in 2005. Currently Iran NADO sends the samples to Cologne doping control laboratory in Germany. The total cost for conducting the tests in 2006 has been \$ 330,000 USD.
- Iran has invested around \$ 2,000,000 USD in lab equipment and facilities in order to establish doping control laboratory in Iran since 2004.

Education

Training and certifying Doping Control officers (DCDs) is essential to ensure that anti-doping activities are conducted by qualified personnel.

- Iran NADO has organized 120 anti-doping training sessions to increase public awareness on negative impact of doping.
- Iran currently has a total of over 250 trained DCOs which are responsible for collecting the samples across Iran. In Doha Asian games, Iran assigned and expedited five DCOs to Doha for collecting and handling the samples from the participated athletes.
- Iran NADO has organized 45 training sessions on food supplements for athletes
- 30 TUE training sessions have been held in 2006.

- 10,000 copies of training brochures on 10 different topics regarding the side effects of doping have been distributed by NADOI in 2006 nationwide. In addition, NADO has prepared and distributed brochures on TUE and Food supplements (10,000 each) among all the athletes.
- Anti-doping courses have been held for schools physical education teachers.
- Anti-doping courses have been included in high schools curricula.
- Participating in anti-doping briefing sessions has been made mandatory for coaches and recommended for referees.
- The following actions have been taken by NADO in order to prevent doping all over the country:
 - Frequent inspection of sports venues and clubs. Under the new NADO regulations, any club that does not comply with the NADO policy will be suspended.
 - Public awareness programs such as anti-doping sessions on TV and radio programs.
 - Funding doping control events.
 - Inclusion of doping control committees in national sport associations organization charts.
 - Disqualification of coaches violating doping control rules.
 - Collaborating with Ministry of Health authorities in order to control food supplements distributed in Iran for contamination with prohibited substances. Based on the agreement between NADO and Ministry of Health, distribution license will only be granted for those supplements which have been tested and qualified by the doping control lab.

Policy

- Iran NADO is committed to take all necessary actions in the fight against doping and it continues to work with all sports Federations and doping control bodies to ensure that compliance is achieved with world anti doping code.
- Iran NADO and Sports Medicine Federation of Iran (SMFI) accepted the UNESCO international convention against doping in sport and the vice president of Iran (Mr. Aliabadi) himself is following the process of ratification in the congress.

Research

- Sports Medicine Federation of Iran (SMFI) held the 5th National Sports Medicine Conference in 2007, in which 60 researchers presented their works, 14 of them addressing the doping issues.
- An on going research is being conducted in doping control laboratory for the screening of domestic and imported food supplements in Iran.
- Doping control laboratory in Iran is not accredited by WADA yet and all the samples which are collected from professional athletes are sent to one of the WADA accredited labs mainly Cologne lab in Germany. However a screening research is being conducted by Iran doping control laboratory on the collected samples from amateur athletes who don't participate in official competitions. The results could be helpful and alarming for both sports and public health authorities.