

Doping Control

IRB Anti Doping Manager

The IRB's Anti Doping Manager took up his appointment in August 2002 to manage and coordinate the IRB's Anti Doping Programme. Tim Ricketts, an Australian joins the IRB with ten years experience in Doping Control. His prior employment included the Australian Sports Drug Agency, the Organising Committees for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games and the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games. The appointment of an Anti Doping Manager highlights the IRB's strong stance on anti doping in rugby.

IRB Anti Doping Programme 2002

In 2002 the IRB conducted a total of 422 drug tests, which included 292 In Competition Tests and 130 Out of Competition Tests.

2002	In Competition	Out of Competition
Mens 15's	28	32
Mens 7's	138	-
Under 21	32	-
Under 19	64	64
Women	30	34

- One (1) positive test result was returned for the banned substance Pseudoephedrine. The Player received a ten week sanction.

Those Member Unions of the IRB with active anti doping programmes conducted a joint total of over 1300 domestic drug tests during 2002, which highlights the commitment of the individual Unions in ensuring their own Players are drug free.

In 2003 the IRB will increase its doping control programme and conduct over 1000 drug tests. This will include tests allocated to all IRB Tournaments and include a large increase in the number of Out of Competition tests on 15's and 7's players.

IRB Anti Doping Advisory Committee

The IRB's Anti Doping Advisory Committee (ADAC) met twice in 2002. The committee is made up off Anti Doping experts and includes a mix of medical, legal and rugby administrators. The ADAC plays a crucial role in providing advice to the Board on Anti Doping matters.

Anti Doping Video

The IRB has developed an Anti Doping video on the IRB's Drug Testing procedures.

Anti Doping Seminar

The presentation of an Anti Doping Seminar to over 800 players and officials who were part of the U/19 World Championships in Treviso, Italy was a great success in passing on the anti doping message in rugby. Phillipe Sella, the French International and Dr Ismail Jakoet, an IRB ADAC member were the guest speakers who outlined how to achieve success naturally and the harm associated with taking banned substances. The importance of this seminar will now see it become an annual part of the U/19 World Championship programme in promoting the drug free message to our future stars of the game.

French Protocol Agreement

The signing of a Protocol Agreement with the French Ministry for Sport in 2002 will ensure that all drug testing on matches or Tournaments under the IRB's, European Rugby Cup and Six Nations Committee's jurisdiction in France is conducted under the IRB's Anti Doping Procedures. Through this agreement, harmonisation of doping control procedures is achieved for all Players that travel to play rugby in France. The IRB looks forward to continuing its Anti Doping relationship with the Ministry in the future

Out of Competition Testing

The IRB began its No Notice Out of Competition Testing programme successfully in 2002. The programme will become the main focus of the IRB's drug testing campaign into the future. Member Unions will be requested to provide Player Whereabouts information to the IRB on each individual Player who is part of their National 15's and 7's squads.

Under the IRB Anti Doping Regulations a Player may be tested Out of Competition anywhere at anytime. No Notice testing means that an Authorised Doping Control Official may show up unannounced at anytime to a Players training venue or residential address and request that a sample be provided for doping control. This type of drug testing carries the strongest deterrence effect against the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Regulation 21 – Anti Doping

An extensive review of the IRB's Regulation 21 occurred in 2002 with the ADAC proposing recommendations to Council at the November 2002 meeting. All Unions had the opportunity to comment on the amendments before the Council meeting and the IRB received several responses. The second set of proposed amendments will again be sent to Unions for comment before the Regulations are put forward for approval at the IRB Council meeting in April 2003.

The extensive review of the IRB's Anti Doping Regulations will ensure that the IRB has a stringent Anti Doping policy going into the Rugby World Cup 2003 and beyond.

CAFDIS

The IRB is a contracting party to the development of an Anti Doping website. The project website called CAFDIS (concerted action in the fight against doping in sport) is funded by the European Commission and the International Olympic Committee. Several other International Sporting Bodies are also involved in the website project including the Irish Olympic Committee, French Olympic Committee, Italian Olympic Committee, the Athens IOC Accredited Laboratory and the UCI. The website contains educational and scientific anti doping information aimed at all people involved in sport and anti doping from juniors to laboratory scientists. The website address is www.cafdis-antidoping.net