

Annual Report 2003 – Draft

IRB Anti Doping Programme

In 2003 the IRB recorded its largest testing programme in the history of the game conducting a total of 829 doping controls, which included 458 In Competition Tests and 371 Out of Competition Tests. This is an increase from 422 tests conducted in 2002.

The breakdown of the IRB's Doping Control Programme for 2003 was as follows;

Level of Player	In Comp	OOC	Total Tests	Results/ Offences	Substance	Outcome
RWC 2003	204	307	511	Negative	-	-
IRB Sevens Series	140	-	140	1 Positive	Stanozolol	2 year ban
U/19's WC	62	64	126	Negative	-	-
U21's WC	40	-	40	Negative	-	-
Super Powers, CAR	12	-	12	Negative	-	-
Total	458	371	829	1	-	-

In Competition means a drug test, which takes place after a Player's participation, or scheduled participation, in a Match.

Out of Competition means any doping control which is not In Competition.

The role that Member Unions play is crucial in the combined effort and fight against doping in rugby and this continues to increase year by year. The history to date of combined Member Unions total doping controls conducted are as follows;

2000 = 1888 tests 2001 = 2169 tests 2002 = 2234 tests

Test Statistics of Member Unions for 2003 are currently being compiled.

The Total Number of Doping Offences received from Member Unions / Tournament Organisers in 2003 as a result of their own Anti Doping Programmes is as follows;

Member Union	Level of Player	Doping Offence / Substance	Sanction / Outcome
Argentina	Division 2	Ephedrine	6 months
Denmark	Division 1	MDMA	2 years
England	Division 2	Refusal to provide a sample	2 years
	Division 1	Ephedrine	2 weeks
	Division 3	Ephedrine	4 weeks
	Premiership	Ephedrine	6 weeks
	Division 1	Pseudoephedrine	4 weeks
Germany	Division 1	Ephedrine	6 months
* Romania	Division 1	Norandrosterone x 14 Players	2 years
		Refusal to provide a sample x 6 Players	2 years each
		Cover Up (Coach)	2 years
		Administration of a prohibited substance (Vice President)	Life

Member Union	Level of Player	Doping Offence / Substance	Sanction / Outcome
South Africa	Super 12	19 Norandrosterone	2 years
	U21	Stanozolol	2 years
* Wales	Division 3	Refusal to provide a sample x 19 Players	15 months each
		Wilfully Obstructed	2 years

Tournament Organiser	Club / Country	Doping Offence / Substance	Sanction / Outcome
European Rugby Cup Ltd	Wasps	Salbutamol –failure to submit prior declaration	3 months
	Munster	Salbutamol – as above	3 months & €5000 fine

* Whilst these two domestic club cases combined a total of 42 offences out of the overall 54 domestic cases reported it highlights the strong support of Member Unions in their quest to stamp out doping at all levels of the game. Both the FRR and the WRU along with the other IRB Member Unions who conduct their own anti doping testing programmes are congratulated on their continued efforts and commitment to drug free rugby.

Adoption of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) Code

The IRB was actively involved in providing comments to WADA during the development of the WADA Code and associated International Standards. The IRB attended the WADA Anti Doping Conference in Copenhagen in March 2003 where WADA presented the final version of the Code. Following this in April 2003 the IRB Council adopted the WADA Code in principle.

The incorporation of the mandatory WADA provisions into Regulation 21 went through an extensive consultation process with all Member Unions and has been tabled for approval at the April 2004 IRB Council Meetings. The extensive review of the IRB's Anti Doping Regulations will ensure that the IRB has a stringent Anti Doping policy consistent with the WADA Code and applicable for all Member Unions to follow.

IRB Anti Doping Advisory Committee

The IRB's Anti Doping Advisory Committee (ADAC) met once in 2003 during the RWC in Sydney, Australia. 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 and members are appointed to Judicial and Appeal Committees on behalf of the Board where a doping offence has been committed. ADAC members are also involved in the review the decisions of Member Unions who have dealt with a doping offence under their jurisdiction on behalf of the Board.

IRB Anti Doping Seminar

The presentation of the second IRB Anti Doping Seminar to over 800 players and officials prior to the IRB U/19 World Championships in Paris, France was a great success in delivering the anti doping message to the future stars of the game. Phillipe Sella, ex French International and world recorder of 111 Test Caps was the guest speaker who outlined how to achieve success naturally along with the IRB's Anti Doping Manager, Tim Ricketts who outlined to Players the harm associated with taking banned substances and the rights and responsibilities of Players if they were selected for doping control. The testing programme for the U19 World Championships consisted of 126 tests which all returned negative results.

French Protocol Testing Agreement

The coordination of the Protocol Testing Agreement between the French Ministry for Sport the IRB, European Rugby Cup Ltd and Six Nations Committee in 2003 built upon its achievements in 2002. The agreement ensures that all drug testing conducted on matches or Tournaments under the three rugby constituents 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 international rugby in France. Training days were conducted in Toulouse, Marseilles and Paris to inform French Ministry Doctors responsible for anti doping in France of the requirements of the IRB Anti Doping

Procedures. Chaperones were also part of these training days and a further training day is planned in May 2004 for the Bordeaux region in line with the IRB Bordeaux 7's. The IRB and the Ministry coordinated the anti doping programme for the IRB/FIRA U19 World Rugby Championships in April 2003. The Ministry also conducted a number of tests in conjunction with the Heineken Cup and Six Nations fixtures during 2003.

Out of Competition Testing

The IRB continued its No Notice Out of Competition (OOC) Testing programme in 2003 and signed a Testing Agreement with the World Anti Doping Agency for the management of the IRB's OOC testing programme. The programme became the main focus of the IRB's drug testing campaign targeting the twenty Member Unions participating in the RWC2003. Participating Unions provided Player Whereabouts information to the IRB on each individual Player who was part of the participating Unions RWC squad along with national and club training information. This information was passed onto WADA for the coordination with anti doping agencies around the world to conduct the tests. Member Unions gave their full support to this programme, which flowed on to the success of it.

In 2004 the IRB will continue its Out of Competition Programme on the top 20 Unions and will now include 7's Unions that participate in the IRB Sevens Series of which there is over 25 Unions.

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.

RWC2003

The largest anti doping programme in the history of the RWC was conducted in 2003. Players of participating Member Unions RWC squads were subject to Out of Competition testing during a twelve month period prior to the Tournament. This was further complemented by a small number of tests that were conducted on each teams arrival to the country of the Host Union. Following this every match was tested during the Tournament with two players from each team being randomly selected. By the end of the Tournament each Player had been subject to a one in two chance of being tested.

The results from the samples collected were provided within a 48 hour period from their arrival to the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sydney. There were no doping offences committed from the RWC2003 doping control programme.

EPO, the prohibited endurance drug was tested for the first time in rugby during the RWC2003. A random number of samples were screened for this substance of which all samples returned negative results.

The new synthetic steroid Tetrahydrogestinone (THG) was discovered by a WADA Accredited Laboratory during the RWC2003 Tournament. A new analysis test was designed by the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Los Angeles to test for this new prohibited substance and the methods immediately passed onto all WADA Accredited Laboratories world wide. The WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sydney was consulted and instructed to use the new analysis method to test all RWC2003 samples for THG from this point in time forward. The IRB also retested a number of random samples for THG that were already collected as part of the RWC2003 programme. All tests proved negative.