

REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE MASTERS ANTI-DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

Thank you - Cherry Bellaire, M.D., Marilyn Mitchell, Mary Trotto, Ph.D. and Robert Weiner for their efforts in participating, working on the ground and making numerous suggestions in our effort to keep our sport clean and the playing field level.

In 2017, testing was limited to only two National Championship events compared to four in 2016, although the number of athletes tested was comparable. Unfortunately, we have been notified by USADA of at least two new suspensions for the use of illegal substances during the past twenty-four (24) months.

As Chair of this Sub-Committee and, hopefully, with financial assistance from the USATF National organization, I believe consideration should be given to the following topics:

- A. Test at more National Track and Field, Multi-event, and Region Championships and during each day of these events;
- B. Consider more EPO testing, if cost can be controlled;
- C. Perform out of competition testing of athletes for all National or World record breaking performances at Sanctioned Meets, where testing has not been conducted and within 48 hours after the record breaking performance;
- D. Require testing at National Senior Games, if being conducted according to USATF rules and regulations;
- E. Require that USADA representatives and USATF volunteers to the USADA representatives be completely visible at all Meets where testing is being conducted and permit our Committee members full visibility at sanctioned competitions;
- F. Include in bid instructions drug testing requirements for local organizing committees; and
- G. Require the USATF to permit our Committee Chair to review all contracts for Masters Competitions entered into by the USATF, including the requirement that only our Committee designated person discuss directly with the USADA representative assigned to our competitions:
 - 1) Different age groups to be tested;
 - 2) The number of Men and Women to be tested;

- 3) Our testing is, in part, to satisfy WMA requirements, so we must require that WMA be advised of our testing and any sanctioned athletes;
- 4) Since aging is a Masters issue, aging should be a consideration in USADA testing criteria.

H. We welcome written suggestions from our Masters Track and Field Membership with respect to any aspect of Drug Testing and Substance Abuse affecting our athlete population.

While no specifics are included in this report, I hope our Masters members can appreciate the hard work and the time required to make this drug testing as fair, reasonable and as effortless as possible. While education of USADA requirements is always necessary, this must be done at a local and Association level since very few MASTERS athletes attend our Annual Meeting. Although there has been substantial discussion about testing and the use of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE), there are still USATF registered athletes who still profess ignorance with respect to required drug testing.

It is the responsibility of our Masters Association Chairs and Officers, our Masters Track and Field Officers, and the National office of the USATF to continue to provide online educational opportunities, mailing notices, and competition entry information concerning Drug Testing and the availability of a TUE, if medications being taken may result in a negative test result.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of the efforts of our Anti-Doping and Substance Abuse Sub-Committee.



Stephen B. Cohen, Chair