

# International Athletes' Forum

19 & 20 October 2002 in Lausanne, Switzerland

## Final Recommendations

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We, representatives of athletes from International Federations, Continental Associations of National Olympic Committees and the IOC Athletes' Commission, attended the first International Athletes' Forum, which was held on 19 & 20 October 2002 at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne (Switzerland).

We discussed various subjects concerning the future for athletes and agreed on the following recommendations:

- Firstly, we congratulate the IOC for its initiative to bring all Athletes' Commissions together, and request the IOC to organise this forum on a regular basis.
- We also encourage all NOCs and IFs to create Athletes' Commissions and to involve athletes in sports administration.

### **1) The fight against doping**

- We encourage the Olympic Movement and all its partners to give full support to the acceptance and implementation of the WADA Anti-Doping Code.

Special emphasis should be placed on education and distribution of the new Code to athletes.

- The athletes should assume total responsibility for the intake of any substance, including food supplements, that may result in a positive doping sample.

Additionally, we accept the principle of influences such as coaches, agents, doctors, and governments being held responsible for their actions.

We strongly request all members of the Olympic Family to work with their respective governments to implement stricter regulations for the labelling of food supplements, and call on the Olympic Movement to implement an education programme.

- In order to show their full support for the fight against doping, all athletes should sign up for the WADA Anti-Doping Passport.

We encourage WADA to work through the NOCs and IFs to facilitate the further implementation and communication of the athlete passport scheme.

- We encourage the IOC to increase communication with the NOCs and IFs about providing proper documentation for asthmatic conditions, in order to prevent the unnecessary testing of athletes prior to their competitions.

- We endorse the position of not allowing the use of oxygen tents within or outside the Olympic Village.

## **2) Self-marketing for athletes during and after their sporting career**

- Athletes, especially young ones, should view “transition from sport” as a natural process in their life development and sporting experience, so that their role in society as sportsmen/women can move smoothly beyond the playing field.
- Athletes should not be forced to choose between sport and education.
- Active athletes should also be responsible for the education of young athletes.
- NOCs and National Federations should recognise that they share the responsibility of assisting athletes in managing life after sport through guidance, education and other means of communication.
- IFs must be conscious of scheduling requirements, not only for the health of athletes, but also to create opportunities for them to integrate into a post-sporting career life, using coaches, agents and teachers as part of that process.
- Resources provided to the athletes should include sharing information from government sources, compiling examples of the “best practices” of other Olympic partners, such as WOA, and using elite athletes to assist with and develop athlete transition and education programmes.

## **3) Integration of professional athletes in the Olympic Movement**

The Olympic Movement needs the athletes.

- A professional athlete is both one who dedicates his/her life to sport and one who earns money from his/her sport.
- Top athletes should stay in the Olympic Village during the Games.
- Athletes should be required to give back something to their sport by committing themselves with their National Federation to do at least 2-4 days of solidarity work per year within their sport for free.

The National Federations should not take advantage of these days for commercial use.

Once they have finished their sports career, the athletes should participate in the administration and management of their sport.

- Elected (or appointed) athletes on Athletes’ Commissions must be aware of their responsibilities as representatives of the athletes.

They should take time to attend all meetings.

They should really contribute to the Olympic Movement and to their sport.

- It may be important to include athletes from “big” professional sports (such as tennis, football and cycling) in the IOC Athletes’ Commission.
- All Athletes’ Commissions and athletes should try to evaluate what structures the International Federations have in place to prevent agents taking over.

Athletes need to be educated regarding agents, by both International and National Federations’ Athletes’ Commissions. The Internet could be one of the communication tools used.

IFs should set up licensing programmes for agents in order to respect ethical principles.

- We support the IOC policy to have “the best of the best” taking part in the Olympic Games, but every country should have the right to send athletes to the Games.

The National Olympic Committees should have the right to select their best athletes (through a qualification system) to represent their NOCs in the Olympic Games.