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Dear Colleague

Re: WADA Code 2015

The GBWR aim, working in partnership with UK Antidoping (UKAD) is to ensure that sport is protected from the threat of doping and that athletes have the right to compete against other clean athletes. Athletes, Staff and Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) play a vital role in the protection of clean sport.

Following the release of a revised World Anti-Doping Cod (WADA Code 2015), effective from 1st January 2015, I write to inform you of the notable changes in the code from the 2014 edition. It is important to be aware the WADA Code 2015 places greater responsibilities on GBWR employees and ASPs, recognising the role that ASPs play in supporting athletes and the influence APs can have on athletes.

It is vital that you understand the WADA Code 2015 and its implications to you as an ASP and where relevant, your athlete.

The WADA Code 2015 defines an ASP as:-

Athlete Support Personnel: *Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff official, nutritionist, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other Person working with treating or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.*

From 1 January 2015 those who chose to deliberately cheat and return a positive test will face a four-year ban from all sports as the minimum sanction for the first offence. However, the 2015 Code also has a less sympathy for carelessness. The penalty for inadvertent doping is likely to be a two year ban or more.

Remember that it's not just a positive test by an athlete that is Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV). In addition to the current eight ADRVs, four of which apply to ASPs, there will be two new ADRVs that apply to all: Complicity and Prohibited Association.

New ADRV: Complicity: *If you help to cover up, are involved in, or support someone else to avoid being detected for an ADRV, you will face a ban.*

New ADRV: Prohibited Association: *If you are a coach, doctor or physio who has either been found guilty of an ADRV, or a criminal, or disciplinary offence equivalent to an ADRV (such as providing banned substances), you will be required to stop any association. An athlete may face of ban of up to two years if they continue to work with you.*



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In addition:

- *You are not allowed to use or possess any banned substances unless for a valid medical reason*
- *You will be investigated by anti-doping organisations if an athlete you support who is a minor is found to have committed an ADRV, or if more than two athletes you work with have committed an ADRV.*

Education is now a mandatory component of the WADA Code 2015, to help protect athletes and ASPs. We encourage you take the opportunities available to learn more about how the WADA 2015 affects you. We would like all support personnel to update UKAD anti-doping advisor course available via this link: <https://www.ukad.org.uk/account/signin/redirect=learning-zone>

Make sure you have the knowledge to you need to protect yourself, athletes, where applicable and to help us keep sport clean.

Not knowing is not an excuse

Significant Changes:

- Longer bans: deliberate doping is now punished with a four year ban
- Stringent approach: unintentional doping, such as that resulting from the negligent use of a food or medicine product, will be punished in mores cases with a two-year ban
- The WADA Code 2015 acknowledges that doping resulting from the use of a contaminated product deserves special attention. If a “contaminated product” which is defined carefully in the code results in a positive test, then an athlete, *may*, if they have acted responsibly, be treated more leniently as far as a ban is concerned. Nevertheless athletes must understand using products such as food supplements is a doping risk, and that they must take all appropriate steps to manage that risk.
- UKAD’s supplement message remains: there are no guarantees that any supplement product is free from banned substances.

UIKAD have also setup a microsite that is full of all the attached information and more in relation to the WADA Code 2015: <http://www.ukad.org.uk/2015-code>.

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