

iNADO Appeals to the IOC to Redeem Itself at the Olympic Summit

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“This battle is completely lost. However there is time to win another.” So said General Desaix to Bonaparte at Marengo.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) lost the anti-doping battle at Rio. It did so before the 2016 Olympic Games began. It ignored its own calls for harmony and independence in anti-doping, and the recommendations from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and anti-doping organizations around the world for a fair and standardised approach to determine Russian eligibility. In doing so, the IOC failed the clean athletes of the world. Sadly for sport, just as the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games are remembered by Ben Johnson’s infamy, this year’s Games will be remembered by participation of athletes served by a Russian system that corrupted clean sport. Equally disappointing, in the eyes of many the IOC chose to associate itself with such a system by failing to reject it categorically. The International Paralympic Committee, faced with the same facts, did not make that mistake.

But we must now move on. Said Joseph de Pencier, CEO of iNADO: “It is less than eighteen months until the next Olympics. Let’s hope the IOC uses that time wisely to ensure that the reception of Russian athletes in PyeongChang is very different than the one in Rio. Drawing on the deep reservoir of global passion for true sport – clean competition – the IOC can redeem itself and again contribute positively to the global effort for clean sport.”

Heading into its Summit meeting on October 8, 2016, iNADO believes the IOC must:

- Confront its current position objectively and with a long-term view. As the IOC’s reaction to the McLaren Report has damaged sport – as many believe – then it must commit to becoming part of the solution and, not through denial and equivocation continue to exacerbate the problem. One starting point would be to acknowledge, as has the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the courts of Switzerland and Germany, that the McLaren Report sets out well-documented and reliable findings and not mere allegations. A second would be to show discipline and example by ending the attacks of individual IOC members on WADA.
- Lead the enormous task of convincing Russia, Russian athletes and Russian sport leaders of the cultural change needed there. Anti-doping is not “political” – it is at the heart of true sport. Let the IOC help us hear Russian voices acknowledge that and see Russian decision-makers act on it.
- Strengthen WADA’s independence and capacities as the regulator of clean sport, with the investigative capacity needed to do so in this day and age.
- Support truly independent doping control for international sport federations under WADA’s regulatory oversight.
- Encourage whistle blowers – do not punish or patronise them.

- To restore confidence in international sport decision-making (including its own), insist on best-practice governance in sport organisations. This would include independent (and not stakeholder) governing boards, term limits for board members, public reporting as required of publically-listed companies, and public oversight of operations and spending such as government agencies have in countries with the rule of law.
- Require the Olympic sponsors and broadcasters, who spend significantly around the Olympic brand and earn significantly more as a result, to contribute meaningfully to anti-doping – if only to properly protect their own investments in sport and in the athletes who are and should be role models.

iNADO is the international member association of National Anti-Doping Organisations. NADOs have the sole and unequivocal mandate to protect clean athletes, without conflicting responsibilities such as promoting sport. iNADO's 59 Members represent all Olympic Regions and conduct the majority of anti-doping work world-wide each year.

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iNADO is the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations. It promotes best practices by NADOs and RADOs, and is their international voice.