



Legal aid in the Finnish anti-doping system

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International recommendations

- Recommendation T-DO/Rec(2017)01 on ensuring the independence of hearing panels (bodies) and **promoting fair trial in anti-doping cases**, adopted by the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention on 20 February 2017
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on general principles of fair procedure applicable to anti-doping proceedings in sport

International recommendations

- **THE KEY THINGS**

- To guarantee equal means for all parties
- Equality of Arms: maintaining a fair balance between the parties
 - each party must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present his case –including his evidence – under conditions that do not place her/him at a substantial disadvantage vis-à-vis the other party

ADRV - LEGAL AID MECHANISM IN FINLAND

- In force since 2019
 - FINCIS took the initiative in 2018
- Administrated by the Finnish Sports Law Association
 - List of lawyers (4-6) who are willing to act on a pro bono (low cost) basis for unrepresented athletes
 - the athlete pays a deductible of 100 euros
 - the lawyer is paid 600 euros to cover the expenses
- Financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture (and Sport)
 - the Ministry grants an annual subsidy of 7.500€
 - Expenses have been 3.500 – 6.000 €/year (incl. Administrative expences for Sport Law Association about 2.000€)

ADRV - LEGAL AID MECHANISM IN FINLAND

- Legal aid is available only in 1st instance (Anti-Doping Hearing Panel)
- We inform about this in the Notification letter to the athlete or other person:
 - *“A legal counsellor is available through the Finnish Sports Law Association to assist you in this matter. If you wish to use an assistant through this system, please immediately contact Olli Rauste, Secretary of the Finnish Sports Law Association: olli.rauste@sok.fi and +358 10 76 82241. Through this system, you can get a legal counsellor to assist with your case at the hearing before the Hearing Panel With a deductible of 100 euros.”*
- about half of the Athletes have been taken advantage of this Legal aid

The Pros and Cons

- + The position of athletes much better
- + The position of the prosecutor clearer
- + More Finnish lawyers knows AD-code and are interested in the anti-doping matters
- Longer processes
- More claims regarding the process





Thank you!

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