

August 04, 2022

## **Report to iNADO Members: Measures undertaken to improve sample analysis ahead of Major Events**

At the iNADO workshop there was discussion and questions about the case of Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva, specifically around the delay at the laboratory in processing her sample before the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and whose responsibility it was to identify that the sample hadn't been analyzed and a result considered on time.

Following that iNADO has sought further information on this issue which I would like to share in the Basecamp CEO Group. Although the case is a matter of common knowledge, these are the facts that make the case relevant:

- On 25 December 2021, the sample from the athlete was collected by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) during the National Figure Skating Championships and was sent to a WADA-accredited laboratory for analysis in Stockholm, Sweden.
- On 8 February 2022, the laboratory of Stockholm reported that the sample had returned an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF).
- The athlete was provisionally suspended by RUSADA with immediate effect but the Disciplinary Anti-Doping Committee lifted the athlete's provisional suspension on 9 February 2022. WADA, the International Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union appealed this decision to the Ad Hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) that was in place for Beijing 2022.
- On 14 February 2022, the award from CAS confirmed the decision of the Disciplinary Anti-Doping Committee to lift the provisional suspension and the athlete was allowed to continue to compete at Beijing 2022.

August 04, 2022

Following the case, WADA has confirmed that it is the responsibility of the Testing Authority (RUSADA, in this case) to ensure any samples collected close to a Major Event are prioritized with the respective laboratory.

However, the case also indicates that there is a gap in the ability to centrally monitor (i.e., by WADA) sample analysis to prevent outstanding results for athletes participating in Major Events.

Upon our request, the WADA NADO & RADO Relations department has shared the additional measures that are being developed to minimize the probability of cases like this in the future.

In concrete, WADA has used the World Games and the Commonwealth Games to implement following measures:

- Checklist for ADOs to use ahead of Major Events (here attached in case you haven't seen it).
- Reminder to ADOs prior to the events to ensure the analysis of samples is completed and the results reported prior to Major Events (i.e., recent communication related to the World Games and Commonwealth Games, also attached).
- Review of any pending laboratory results by the WADA Testing team prior to the two events identifying any issues that require a follow-up.
- Review of any outstanding results management processes on any athletes bound for the events by WADA Legal team.

Other initiatives being explored by WADA are:

- The Science department of WADA is reviewing if the suggested reporting time of 20 days (as indicated in the International Standard for Laboratories) is being met by laboratories.

August 04, 2022

- Enhancements to ADAMS such as a notification system to request 'quick turnaround' time for analysis and reminders if results are still pending.

At the end of the World Games and Commonwealth Games, WADA plans to review the outcomes of the above initiatives to identify lessons learned and potential additional next steps.

iNADO is committed to continuing this conversation with WADA on behalf of its members and inform about the progress of these initiatives. Should you have any questions and/or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards

Jorge Leyva

CEO, iNADO