

Masters Anti-Doping/Substance Abuse SubCommittee Report

2018 marks another year of "Clean Sport" achievement. The Sub-committee members--Marilyn Mitchell, Robert Weiner, Cheryl Bellaire and Mary Trotto--all worked well together to provide a flawless experience for our MTF athletes.

Testing took place at both the 2018 Indoor and Outdoor MTF National Championships. While, in an ideal situation, we would prefer to test every day at our National Championships and the specialized National Championships, we are limited by the amount of money allocated by the USATF to MTF for Drug Testing. Since we appear to be prohibited from charging a surcharge for Drug Testing, there appears, at this time, to be no alternative funding for this purpose. The lack of funding also prohibits, unless we allocate our existing budget to different events, testing at the Throws, Multi-event, and Region Championships.

There have been numerous mis-understandings about Drug Testing. Some individuals have complained that he or she is being targeted. Simply stated, to the best of my knowledge, we haven't specifically named any individual for testing. Others have professed a lack of knowledge about obtaining or re-activating a TUE and have requested my opinion or asked me to intervene in his or her behalf. I politely advise them that I am in no position to provide them with assistance. Others wonder if older athletes (+80) are being tested. Since they are in groups that are being tested, these older age group athletes are subject to random testing.

In response to all the questions presented to me and other members of the Sub-committee, I will suggest that the Sub-committee prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all MTF athletes asking them to submit questions they may have about drug testing and sanctions for testing positive. Upon receipt of responses from MTF athletes, these responses will be sent to USADA for answers to the questions resulting from responses to the questionnaire. I will then ask Amanda Scotti to publish the questions tendered and answers we may receive from USADA in National Masters News.

If any MTF athlete has a specific question concerning Drug Testing at our competitions, please bring your question(s) to the attention of our Sub-committee. We will do our best to respond to your inquiry.

In summary, I would like to thank all MTF athletes for their cooperation during the Drug Testing process at our competitions. It is our goal to keep our sport clean and to maintain a level playing field.

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