

ANTI-DOPING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

On March 17, 2020, I advised the Executive Committee that Drug Testing had taken place at the Indoor Multi-event Championships held at Carthage College. With the assistance of Jeff Watry and the Carthage College head Track Coach, the testing went smoothly and without any interference of the athletes' ability to compete. As Bill Murray later reported, the athletes were openly supportive of the testing.

I also advised the Executive Committee that our expenses for testing continue to grow. For instance, based upon my cost analysis, the expense of drug testing has doubled over the past 5 years, meaning that we are limited in both the number of tests and competitions where testing may be administered. Therefore, we need to double the amount of funding for drug testing and I have raised this problem with the USATF representative involved in assisting us in planning testing for competitions. The lack of having sufficient funds inhibits our ability to do out of competition testing on individuals who break world or national records at sanctioned meets where no testing is performed. Regardless, it is important for Meet Directors to inform the Subcommittee with the name, address, phone number, USATF ID number of each record breaker immediately after completion of the competition so the athlete may be tested within 48 hours of the completion of the competition.

I also have been anonymously advised of athletes who are suspected of using performance enhancing substances. It is our intent to have any such person tested, if possible. For each such potential person to be tested, it is important to consider that each out of competition test will cost MTF double or triple an in competition test and limit the number of tests to be undertaken at our National Championship events.

Additionally, I advised the Executive Committee on the availability of the Pre-check process implemented by USADA and how it works. Since it is not completely clear what happens if a Pre-checked athlete tests positive at a competition, I advised those interested to visit the USADA website or call USADA and talk to the person in charge. Notwithstanding this information, this should preclude the necessity of obtaining a TUE if one has never tested positive. One thing is very clear. If you use the Pre-check process, you must have a preexisting prescription for the drug on which the Pre-check is based.

Finally, I suggested to the Chair that pressure should be exerted on the National Senior Games Committee to institute drug testing at its National Championships for which it obtains an USATF sanction. While not mentioned at the time of the meeting, our Subcommittee could do out of competition testing on USATF athletes who compete at the National Senior Games, even if the NSGC refuses to conduct drug testing.

Thank you for your support of our Subcommittee and a special thanks to each of the Subcommittee members who continue to stay involved and participate in the drug testing process. I have also received confidential inquiries from time to time and I appreciate the individual athletes' confidence in contacting me for more information.

Respectively submitted,

Stephen B. Cohen
Chair, MTF Anti-doping and Substance Abuse Subcommittee