

Anti-Doping Newsletter from the Medical Commission Chair - **correction**

Dear Members

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy new Year! I hope the year has started well for everyone and you and your families are healthy. Unfortunately, we have to take the Covid pandemic in to the New Year with us. This time a more contagious strain that it producing high positivity rates around the world. It seems, thankfully, that this Omicron mutation doesn't cause serious illness as the Delta has done. Vaccination seems to be a major factor in this. However, we need all countries to be able to provide a good vaccination program and for some this is proving to be a challenge. Let us hope that the major economies stand up and help to reach the WHO goal of having 70% of the world's population with at least a first vaccination does by the middle of this year.

There have been various races taking place around the world over the last few months which will have been a joy to all those taking part. The IDBF has the Club Crew World Championships in Sarasota, USA planned 18-24 July his year. Preparations are in full swing and Bulletin Nr.1 has been sent out. Included in Bulletin Nr. 1 is a short section on Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Please review this section so that you can inform those athletes who require a TUE as to where they should send their TUE application and the necessary medical documents.

As mentioned in previous newsletters the IDBF, in compliance with WADA, is requiring all those PREMIER athletes who will be competing in the CCWC in Sarasota to complete the International Level Athlete module on the WADA ADEL (Anti-Doping Educational Learning) website. This website is easy to use. There are also modules for other level athletes, e.g. non-premier National Level (Seniors, U24, Juniors) who would also benefit from undertaking the National Level module. This will also in the near future become a requirement from the IDBF. In addition, there are also modules covering other subjects concerning anti-doping. The education on anti-doping of all those involved in our sport should be a high priority of every federation.

In order to promote the importance of anti-doping education and the use of ADEL the IDBF will be holding a Webinar on **Sunday 30th January** at 11:00 UTC. Details of the login for this session will be published on the IDBF Face Book page. Should there be other subjects you feel would be good to cover with a Webinar please let me know and I will do my best to try and arrange it. In addition, I have just been notified of an International Testing Agency Webinar to take place on **Wednesday, January 26th** for those interested and have time to take part in. Please see below.

The International Testing Agency (ITA) under contract with the IDBF, conducted a limited number of Out of Competition Tests towards the end of last year. There was limited information available as there was, on the whole, a poor response to the notification sent out in the middle of last year. However, I would like to thank those federations who did respond as it gave the ITA enough information to work with.

We all must remain positive for this coming year and look forward to our dragon boat sport getting fully back on the water. I look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at the CCWC in Sarasota and also to meeting those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting in person.

In the meantime, please stay safe and enjoy every moment on the water.



Bridget Walter, Chair Medical Commission