

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

The Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) held its historic inaugural meeting on 13 January at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne with the participation of representatives of the Olympic Movement and governmental and intergovernmental organizations, under the presidency of Richard W. Pound, IOC first Vice-president. The Board developed an agenda for 2000 which includes plans to:

- Develop protocols with the international sports federations (IFs) for conducting out-of-competition testing before the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney;
- Design a process for the accreditation of testing laboratories that may include the designation of a reference lab. The laboratories' compliance with ISO standards is also contemplated;
- Enhance the results management system for doping controls in major sporting events, including the Olympic Games;
- Encourage and monitor peer-reviewed research, especially regarding the detection of EPO, hGH, and other substances;
- Determine methods for extending sanctions to all individuals involved in doping, not only athletes;



(from left to right) Barry R. McCaffrey, the IOC President, Amanda Vanstone, Richard W. Pound and Denis Coderre.

- Explore the concept of athletes holding “passports” that record health and or testing information;
- Establish contact with appropriate agencies with expertise in areas relevant to the fight against doping, including existing independent anti-doping agencies, and to use the existing resources of other agencies;
- Educate athletes, coaches, and administrators on the risks involved with taking prohibited substances;
- Begin work on drafting a WADA Anti-Doping Code;
- Initiate the process of harmonizing anti-doping rules in sport and national legislation;
- Work with governments to stem the trafficking of prohibited substances and their movement across borders; and
- Achieve a wider diversity among Board members, especially to include more women.

Moreover, the Board also elected ten additional members.

- Representatives of the Olympic associations: Feliciano Mayoral, secretary general of the Association of National Olympic Committees

(ANOC); Eduardo Henrique de Rose, president of the medical commission of the Pan-American Sports Organization (ODEPA); William Hybl, president of the United States Olympic Committee; Craig Reedie, president of the British Olympic Association.

- Representatives of the International Federations: Mustapha Larfaoui, president of the International Swimming Federation (FINA); Paul Henderson, president of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF); Tamás Aján, secretary general of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

Also elected were Vasco Lynce de Faria, state secretary for sports from Portugal representing the Member States of the European Union, and representing the Council of Europe, Alain Garnier, chair of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention, and George Walker, head of the sports division.

These elections bring the number of Board members to 22. The remaining seats open to the public authorities will be filled later. The ‘Sydney Group’ was

represented by Amanda Vanstone, Minister of Justice and Customs of Australia, Denis Coderre, Secretary of State, Amateur Sport of Canada; and Barry McCaffrey, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States of America. To assist the Board in its interim phase, WADA named Harri Syvasalmi, director of the sports division of the Finnish Ministry of Education, as its interim secretary. Two working groups have also been created. The first will review the results management system with the goal of recommending an enhanced system for the 2000 Games in Sydney. The second group will begin drafting the Board’s policies and procedures for such matters as disclosure and conflict of interest. In terms of policy decisions, the Board determined it will publish its minutes and audited financial statements. It confirmed athletes will be guaranteed a quarter of the Olympic Movement representation, equal to that of the IOC, the NOCs, and the IFs. Amending an element of its constituting document, the Board agreed certain major decisions would be determined by a two-thirds vote as opposed to by unanimity.

‘The Sydney Group’ the Consultative Group on Anti-Doping formed during the International Drugs in Sport Summit in Sydney last November and composed of Australia, Canada and the United States of America, met in Lausanne with IOC officials in the context of the first meeting of the Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The discussions centred around the inaugural session of WADA and the issues of government participation in the Agency, the outcomes of the Sydney

summit, as well as how a system for managing drug testing during the Olympic Games should be strengthened. All the parties agreed that the continued cooperation of sports organizations and governments through WADA is central to creating a drug-free playing field for international athletic competition. Pooling the resources and expertise from WADA members is the next step in the ongoing campaign for eliminating prohibited substances and practices.