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Committee:UNODC

Country:Norway



Agenda Item:The Usage of Appereance and Performance Enchancing Drugs (APEDs) and Sports

Norway is a long country located in Northern Europe – with borders to Sweden, Finland and Russia on the east side, and an extensive coastline facing the North Atlantic Ocean on the west side.Norway abandoned its traditional neutrality, became a charter member of NATO in 1949, and joined the European Free Trade Association.

Drug abuse occurs in all sports and at most levels of competition . Athletic life may lead to drug abuse for a number of reasons, including for performance enhancement, to self-treat otherwise untreated mental illness, and to deal with stressors, such as pressure to perform, injuries, physical pain, and retirement from sport. This review examines the history of doping in athletes, the effects of different classes of substances used for doping, side effects of doping, the role of anti-doping organizations, and treatment of affected athletes. Doping goes back to ancient times, prior to the development of organized sports. Performance-enhancing drugs have continued to evolve, with “advances” in doping strategies driven by improved drug testing detection methods and advances in scientific research that can lead to the discovery and use of substances that may later be banned. Many sports organizations have come to ban the use of performance-enhancing drugs and have very strict consequences for people caught using them. There is variable evidence for the performance-enhancing effects and side effects of the various substances that are used for doping. Drug abuse in athletes should be addressed with preventive measures, education, motivational interviewing, and, when indicated, pharmacologic interventions. The Norwegian attitude to doping has always been clear. The use of performance-enhancing substances has not been publicly acknowledged by anyone. Norway is called “the homeland of preambles” and has adjusted to a self-defined role as a moral leader with regard to sports ethics in general and the attitude to doping particularly.

Doping was discussed as a problem in sport for the first time in a study published by the European Council in 1964. Norway responded quickly and followed up the study by suggesting measures to the other Nordic countries and UNESCO. The Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) passed the first anti-doping resolution in 1971. Five years later, the same body carried out control measures against anabolic steroids and started to perform doping controls in sports federations. In 1978 doping controls were conducted in all NIF’s member associations. In 1980 controls at any time were expanded to include substances and methods registered on the IOC doping list.However, NIF wanted to introduce more frequent doping controls and impose stricter sanctions nationally than were required by the international rules set by the IOC and international associations. For the controls to be most effective, it was also considered important to perform unannounced testing and out-of-competition testing. Efforts to establish a Norwegian doping laboratory started in 1985. The IOC accredited the section for doping analyses, at the Hormone Laboratory at Aker University Hospital, in 1988 as an official doping laboratory.The NIF Assembly was not content just with introducing strict regulations in Norway but aspired to work offensively to make the Norwegian standard applicable internationally. In addition to addressing the doping issue at international sports federations, political efforts were made at the European Council. Even though this work did not have an immediate effect, some international and national sports bodies gradually accepted “Norwegian regulations” such as unannounced testing and the use of blood tests and urine samples.In the 1990s, Norway was also pushing for an independent international “doping police,” which would be able to test the athletes at any place and at any time. This proved to be a difficult task. When WADA was established in 1999, an important step was taken. WADA introduced the World Anti-Doping Code in 2004. This code is to make sure that the rules and regulations that apply to the anti-doping programme are the same irrespective of where the athlete lives or in which sport they participate. All athletes on international level must have an obligatory certificate documenting the tests taken as well as stating where they are situated at any time.