

Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Topic: The usage of appearance performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) and sports: their interconnection.

Country: FINLAND

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Sports is the most popular leisure movement in Finland. Of the Finnish population (slightly over 5 million), 1.1 million are either members of a sports club or a corresponding local organisation for recreational sports. Finland boasts 7,800 local sports clubs. The aim of education is to promote anti-doping attitudes and awareness of top athletes, their support personnel (medical personnel, coaches, children's parents and managers), sport management, children and young people to create an ethically sustainable sports culture. The main target groups are top athletes, young athletes, children and young people, athlete support personnel, sports management and the media. FINADA is engaged in close co-operation with sport federations and educational establishments.

This year, the International Ski Federation (FIS) reduced the acceptable "safe" haemoglobin limit to 17.5 mg/dl for men, thereby raising the chance of a positive test. Some athletes, via their doctors, quickly learned that by combining EPO administration with the use of plasma volume expanders such as Dextran 70 and the newer HES, they could achieve performance enhancing combination of elevated total blood volume and high haemoglobin, all while holding haemoglobin below the legal limit. HES was officially placed on the banned substances list 1 year ago. Often, substances are banned before they can be detected, and HES was no exception. The Finns were informed, apparently by international sources. The first Finnish skier to test positive was medallist Jari Isometsaa. This unexpected positive created panic in the Finnish team, some of whom responded desperately by faking accidents and illness.

The anti-doping programmes of the sports organisations are based on the organisations' strategic choices as well as the principles of fair play. The anti-doping programme of each organisation is different depending on the number of participants, the characteristics of the sport as well as the education systems. FINCIS publishes the anti-doping programmes of different sports organisations on its website to help other federations design their own programmes. We can raise awareness of athletes with programs. In their respective anti-doping programmes, the organisations define their activities' methods, responsible persons and target groups, including club officials, young athletes, disabled athletes and coaches. The anti-doping programme is typically verified by the Board of the sports organisation. Once a programme is established, the organisation must ensure that information about the programme is distributed and that parties are committed to the programme. Themes related to anti-doping work must be included in the action plan and reported in the annual report.