

# International Olympic Charter against Doping in Sport

## Preamble and principles

- A. Considering that the use of doping agents is both unhealthy and contrary to the ethics of sport, and that it is necessary to protect the physical and spiritual health of athletes, the values of fair play and competition, the integrity and unity of sport, and the rights of those who participate in it at whatever level;
- B. Considering that doping, as defined and adopted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is the administration or use of prohibited classes of drugs and of banned methods;
- C. Considering that doping in sport is part of the problem of drug abuse and misuse in society;
- D. Stating an unequivocal opposition to the use of, or encouragement or provision for the purpose of using doping agents and methods in sport;
- E. Supporting the declaration made by athletes and coaches at Baden Baden in 1981 and by the IOC Athletes' Commission in Lausanne in 1985 calling for stronger doping controls and more severe sanctions;
- F. Encouraged by the numerous initiatives taken by the sports movement and by governments to reduce doping in sport, and recognizing that there has been considerable scientific progress in the detection and analysis of doping agents and methods;
- G. Determined to prevent the spread of doping in sport to those countries and regions hitherto unaffected by the problem;
- H. Esteeming that a commonly accepted international policy is necessary for the elimination of doping in sport;
- I. Considering that such a policy would lead to an improved and more consistent approach for the benefit of all sportsmen and sportswomen, and would contribute to equality and equity in the international sporting community;
- J. Considering that both public authorities and the independent sports organizations have separate but complementary responsibilities for the goal to eliminate doping in sport, and that a pre-requisite for success is that they should work together in cooperation and mutual respect for this purpose at all appropriate levels;
- K. Recognizing that the division of responsibilities in the implementation of this common policy will vary from country to country in accordance with its traditions, structures and laws. but sharing a common determination to ensure that it is carried through effectively and in accordance with acceptable standards of natural justice:
- L. Stressing the need for consistent application by all the partners involved of the common anti-doping policy and strategy, particularly in elite sport;
- M. Inviting the autonomous international sports federations to cooperate whole-heartedly in this policy and towards this end;
- N. Inviting the IOC to take the leading role in securing approval of the Charter as well as in overseeing its implementation:
- The countries and organizations which endorse this Charter hereby agree:
- i) that the following elements are fundamental elements of a common anti-doping policy and strategy. and that they should be applied by governments and sports organizations, acting both individually and in cooperation.
  - ii) to implement those measures which are within their competence, and to encourage their partners to implement those which fall within their powers.