

MEDICAL COMMISSION

HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE MEDICAL COMMISSION

The Medical Commission was created in 1967 in order to deal with the increasing problem of doping in the sports world. The initial goal of putting in place an anti-doping structure was rapidly widened to encompass the following three fundamental principals:

- Protection of the health of athletes.
- Respect for both medical and sport ethics.
- Equality for all competing athletes.

For more than 40 years, the IOC Medical Commission has worked in the anti-doping field, studying alternative methods to help athletes. These alternatives consist of sport medicine, biomechanics, physiology applied to sports, nutrition and all the other sciences linked to sports.

The work of the Medical Commission has included:

- Establishing the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code, which is applicable to all constituents of the Olympic Movement.
- The IOC World Congress on Sport Sciences, the main forum for all the scientists working close to the athlete, held every two years.
- The IOC Olympic Prize on Sport Sciences, which is awarded to researchers who have excelled in the field of science applied to human movement, physical activity and sports.
- The IOC/Pfizer research on sport sciences in close relation with the International Sports Federations.

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

Since 1997, the IOC Medical Commission has been concerned about positive results that could be linked to the use of nutritional supplements. The present lack of regulation concerning these in certain countries, including the USA, has led the IOC to intervene, and it has issued warnings on several occasions, particularly with a view to alerting athletes. At the same time, the IOC has approached various government bodies, seeking the introduction of quality controls for these products like those applied to medicines.

Given the lack of response to its different approaches, the IOC decided to fund a study into a large number of samples. The conclusions of this study have just been published, and confirm the scale of the problem. In view of these findings, the measures taken previously will be pursued.

Until concrete results are achieved, the IOC will continue urging athletes to avoid using these nutritional supplements. At the same time, the IOC recommends that its partners within the Olympic Movement (International Sports Federations and National Olympic Committees) exercise extreme caution with regard to the firms that produce these nutritional supplements.

CONCERTED ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT (CAFDIS)

CAFDIS is a network of national and international bodies working together to collect research results and information related to doping in sport. In bringing together this information on one web site www.CAFDIS-antidoping.net, CAFDIS aims to make the material more accessible and therefore further optimise its impact. The final goal of CAFDIS is not to create new research projects, but rather to have a stabilised source of information available for a broader audience.

The idea originated from a joint venture between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the European Union. Today, the partners of CAFDIS are: the IOC, the International cycling union (UCI), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of France (CNOSF) and Italy (CONI), Cantons Services Toulouse, the IOC-accredited laboratory in Athens (OAKA), the European Union (DG Research), 14 European NOCs, five non-European NOCs and some invited guests. CAFDIS is mainly funded by the European Union.

ANTI-DOPING CODE

The elimination of doping in sport is one of the fundamental objectives of the Olympic Movement. The Anti-Doping Code, which the entire Olympic Movement must observe, contains the following key points:

- It applies to the Olympic Games, the various championships and all competitions to which the IOC grants its patronage or support.
- It intends to ensure respect of the main ethical concepts and protect the health of the athletes.
- It shall include provisions to enable appeals to be lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport against certain decisions rendered in the application of such Code.

IOC WORLD CONGRESSES ON SPORT SCIENCES

The Seventh IOC Olympic World Congress on Sport Sciences will be held from 7 to 11 October 2003 in Athens, Greece.

THE IOC OLYMPIC PRIZE IN SPORT SCIENCES

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has created a prestigious Olympic Prize which is endowed by Pfizer. This prize is awarded to researchers who have excelled in the field of science applied to human movement, physical activity and sport.

THE COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND OLYMPIC EDUCATION

HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission for Culture and Olympic Education was created in 2000 by the merger of two commissions:

- the Cultural Commission
- the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy and Olympic Education.

The IOC Cultural Commission was created in 1968 by the 68th IOC Session in Mexico City. Its first responsibilities were the cultural programme of the Olympic Games and transforming the museum of relics at the Mon Repos Villa (Lausanne, Switzerland) created by Pierre de Coubertin.

Its task is to develop the links between sport and culture in all its forms, encourage cultural exchange and promote the diversity of cultures. To this end, it organises special events: international competitions and forums, and in cooperation with the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), develops education programmes.

HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPORT AND CULTURE

In ancient times, sport and culture were closely linked. Cultural events were held at the same time as sporting events. This is a principle that the modern Games adopted, creating the opportunity for exchanges between cultures which would otherwise never have come together.

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY (IOA)

In 1927, Pierre de Coubertin and his friend Ioannis Chrysafis, Head of the Department of Physical Education at Athens University, agreed to set up a centre to study the Olympic Movement and its evolution.

For its part, the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) wanted to create a study centre styled on the Ancient Greek Gymnasium.

Their objectives were the same, but it was not possible to implement the project until 1961, through the determination of Jean Ketséas, the HOC Secretary, and Carl Diem, a colleague of Coubertin's.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

M. Zhenliang He
Chairman of the Commission

The composition is composed of 23 members:

- 12 members from the International Olympic Committee;
- 8 individual members;
- 1 International Sports Federations representatives;
- 1 National Olympic Committees representatives;
- 1 athletes representative.

THE ENVIRONMENT: THE THIRD DIMENSION OF OLYMPISM

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), in its capacity as coordinator of the Olympic Movement, has resolutely committed itself to extending the range of its activities in the field of the environment and making the environment the third dimension of Olympism, after sport and culture.

It sees to it that the Olympic Games are held in conditions which demonstrate a responsible concern for environmental issues and works to promote a policy of consciousness-raising among the members of the Olympic Movement in order that all sports events may take environmental considerations into account in a responsible way. In this connection, it collaborates with organising committees, the competent public or private authorities and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A Sport and Environment Commission was set up in 1996 to advise the IOC on environment-related policy.