



Athletics Integrity Unit and UK Athletics unveil robust Anti-Doping Programme for IAAF World Championships London 2017

Over 600 blood samples to be collected prior to Championships for Athlete Biological Passport profiling; 600 urine tests for detection purposes to be conducted

UK Athletics' Clean Athletics Programme to drive Education and Prevention Outreach during the Championships

31 July 2017, Monaco and London: The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) and UK Athletics (UKA) today announced their plans for a robust anti-doping programme at the 16th edition of the IAAF World Championships, which takes place from 4 – 13 August 2017 in London, United Kingdom.

At the heart of the AIU's testing programme will be the collection of over 600 blood samples prior to the Championships for the purpose of continuing to build Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) profiles and to detect prohibited substances, such as human Growth Hormone (hGH). A further 600 urine tests will also be conducted onsite at the London Stadium during the competition in order to detect a wide range of substances including EPO and steroids.

"The Athletics Integrity Unit is pleased to announce a very comprehensive intelligence-based anti-doping programme for the IAAF World Championships," said Athletics Integrity Unit Chair, David Howman. "What is key to this programme is the significant work that has been done by the Unit and its partners in the ten months leading up to the Championships to ensure that athletes competing in London have been part of a robust testing programme," he added.

The announcement of the anti-doping programme follows an intelligence-led out-of-competition testing strategy enacted in the 10 months prior to the Championships, with testing targeted at athletes likely to compete in London. This 10-month out-of-competition testing period – which included over 2,000 blood tests and approximately 3,000 urine tests - is a cornerstone of the AIU anti-doping programme with no advance notice of testing given to athletes. The AIU also collaborated with federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) to ensure that its own out-of-competition testing would be maximised, and to concentrate on filling the gaps where no effective national testing programs exist.

Capitalising on the 10-year statute of limitations set out in the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the AIU will continue the strategy first initiated by the IAAF at the World Championships in Helsinki in 2005, in which all samples collected at the event will be transferred to, and stored in, a dedicated and secure facility for the purpose of re-testing at

a later date after the initial analyses. To-date, the re-testing policy established by the IAAF in 2005 has resulted in 27 positive cases.

As part of its strategy to be a forward-thinking organisation that adopts new technological trends, the AIU is also pleased to announce that during the World Championships and beyond, it will replace the traditional paper-based collection of doping control data with a more streamlined, harmonized and 'real-time' paperless process supported by established technology. The paperless process will reduce the possibility of human error and increase effectiveness of the doping control process.

Education and Prevention Programme

A joint Education and Prevention Outreach Campaign will be carried out in London for the duration of the Championships under the Clean Athletics programme of the host Federation. The education programme for athletes and support personnel will be organised at the team hotels and competition venue.

To create greater awareness amongst the athlete community of the need to speak out against doping and other forms of misconduct, the AIU in collaboration with the IAAF Athletes' Commission has created an Athletes' Pledge in multiple languages that will be signed by competitors at a handful of locations. The WADA Athlete Committee will also be lending support to the campaign by signing the pledge in London. The IAAF Athletes Commission and the AIU will also organise seminars and open sessions for athletes and support personnel, with anti-doping and integrity matters to be two of the focus topics.

"I am delighted that UK Athletics' Clean Athletics programme will be driving the education and prevention outreach activities during the IAAF World Championships London 2017," said UK Athletics Chief Executive, Niels de Vos. "Alongside the comprehensive AIU testing programme in place, we know that the anti-doping efforts have been robustly planned, and we are pleased to be playing a significant part in the delivery of this essential work."

To learn more about the AIU's Programme for the IAAF World Championships London 2017, visit the Q&A section that follows this release.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Athletics Integrity Unit

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) is the independent body that manages all doping and non-doping integrity-related matters for the sport of athletics. The remit of the AIU includes anti-doping, the pursuit of individuals engaged in age or competition results manipulation, investigating fraudulent behavior with regards to transfers of allegiance, and detecting other misconduct including bribery and breaches of betting rules. It is the AIU's role to drive

cheats out of our sport, and to do everything within its power to support honest athletes around the world who dedicate their lives to reaching their sporting goals through dedication and hard work.

About UK Athletics

In January 2017 the “Anti-Doping” department of UK Athletics was renamed Clean Athletics reflecting and reinforcing UK Athletics’ commitment to athletes competing free from performance-enhancing drugs.

Clean Athletics is for everyone who shares our passion for athletics and an aspiration to rebuild trust in all sport. Clean Athletics is where honest athletes can compete on equal terms and where spectators and fans have faith in the performances they are witnessing. Clean Athletics will lead the way in our ongoing commitment and support for clean athletes in the UK. ↑ Clean Athletics is our aim and focusing on and supporting Clean Athletics is our role.

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IAAF World Championships London 2017: Athletics Integrity Unit Programme Q&A

A comprehensive and far-reaching integrity programme will be conducted at the IAAF World Championships London 2017. The programme will comprise doping control, education and prevention, and a betting monitoring programme.

Read the following Q&A to discover more about the AIU's strategy to protect clean athletes and uphold the integrity of the sport.

What has been the Athletics Integrity Unit's anti-doping strategy in the countdown to the IAAF World Championships London 2017?

The key point here is that the AIU enacted an intelligence-led out-of-competition testing strategy in the 10 months prior to the Championships, with testing targeted at athletes likely to compete in London. This 10-month out-of-competition testing period - which included over 2,000 blood tests and approximately 3,000 urine tests - is a cornerstone of the AIU anti-doping programme, with no advance notice of testing given to athletes. The AIU also collaborated with federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) to ensure that its own out-of-competition testing would be maximised, and to concentrate on filling the gaps where no effective national testing programs exist.

The most important time to be testing many of the athletes is during the off season when the heavy training loads are taking place. That approach is no secret - but it is often easier for sports to simply pile on the tests during the event itself and claim a successful anti-doping programme. The reality is far from it. The testing in London is important - but nowhere near as important as a truly no-notice doping control program conducted during the out-of-competition season. Other times that are just as important to test include, for example, the lead up to the qualification events or when we know that athletes are chasing qualification marks/times. At the heart of the AIU's testing programme will be the collection of over 600 blood samples prior to the Championships for the purpose of continuing to build Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) profiles and to detect prohibited substances, such as human Growth Hormone (hGH).

The AIU is also heavily utilising specialist analysis such as the IRMS (isotope-ratio mass spectrometry), test for EPO, HGH etc. While it is more expensive and at times harder to co-ordinate, it is crucial that as often as possible the tests are analysed for all possible banned substances (based on the risk factors for the relevant discipline).

In what areas does the anti-doping strategy differ from the IAAF World Championships Beijing 2015?

It doesn't differ greatly.

The AIU has resumed the work previously conducted by the IAAF (prior to 5 April 2017) in continuing to build its Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) database. Prior to the World Championships, the AIU has collected over 600 blood samples for this purpose. This means we have more profiles to guide target testing which helps determine where and when the testing occurs. During this lead-up period, we also concentrate on adding existing suspicious profiles to the ABP database.

Continuing on from Beijing, the AIU will also focus on the steroidal (urine) component of the ABP. This acts in the same way as the previous ABP blood (or haematological) passport but uses parameters within the urine sample to look for changes in steroidal values. Again, with these new profiles the AIU is better able to target its testing including the use of the IRMS test to detect exogenous steroid use. Certainly, the steroidal module of the ABP continues to provide some excellent information to assist the AIU with target testing.

Will you be blood testing in the countdown and during London?

Absolutely. Blood testing forms an important part of the AIU anti-doping programme. In the lead-up to the World Championships, over 600 blood samples were collected for ABP profiling purposes. Blood will continue to be collected in London, too.

What is the purpose of blood testing?

There are essentially two different forms of blood testing used as part of the AIU programme. Blood samples taken for profiling purposes in the context of the ABP (e.g. they form part of a longitudinal study, but can't be used as a one-off test for proof of doping), and blood samples taken for the purpose of detecting prohibited substances (e.g. human growth hormone).

There are some small differences in the way the samples are collected. The biggest being that for ABP blood samples, athletes are required to have rested for at least two hours before sample collection.

Can you explain the difference between blood and urine testing?

The main difference is that the samples are used to look for different substances. Steroids and EPO for example are found through urine samples, while the test for Growth Hormone is analysed using blood samples.

There are also differences in the requirements on the AIU for the shipping of samples. There are stricter rules regarding how quickly the blood samples need to arrive at the laboratory for analysis, whereas in general the urine samples - as long as they are not subject to temperature variations - are a lot more stable.

What is the AIU's in-competition anti-doping programme?

In order to maintain the integrity of the joint AIU-UKA anti-doping programme, we don't disclose the detailed specifics of our testing programme for the event, however we can confirm that there will be approximately 600 urine tests conducted during the Championships in order to detect a wide range of substances including EPO and steroids. As encouraged through the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code, there is an emphasis on a quality-driven programme rather than a quantity-driven one.

Can you explain the anti-doping strategy for the 2017 London World Championships in greater detail?

The AIU's anti-doping strategy revolves around protecting the value of the World Championships medals. The out-of-competition program is most important in preventing cheats from having the opportunity to line up at the start line in London, and gain an illegitimate advantage in their events.

During the Championships, testing will target medal winners - but certainly they are not the only athletes who will be tested. Again, the AIU will use all the intelligence it has at its disposal to conduct target testing, where it thinks it is most warranted. Additionally, it is important to point out that, in accordance with its retesting policy, the AIU will be storing samples from this event in a secure and dedicated facility for future re-analysis. The revised World Anti-Doping Code has increased the statute of limitations from eight to 10 years, which means that in any period for up to 10 years following the collection of a sample, the AIU can re-analyse the samples using new technology to try to catch the cheats. This deterrence-based technique has already caught out athletes from previous World Championships (and Olympic Games), and should serve as a big warning to those contemplating doping.

Is anti-doping, education and the monitoring of betting all that the AIU does under its remit?

No, the AIU has a very broad remit that extends well beyond anti-doping, education and the monitoring of betting. This remit ranges from detecting misconduct including bribery, corruption and breaches of betting rules, the pursuit of individuals engaged in age or results manipulation, investigating fraudulent behaviour with regards to transfers of allegiance, and, yes, anti-doping, too.

Put simply, it is the AIU's responsibility to stamp out any and all forms of corruption and ethical misconduct within the sport.