

Mr. Richard W. Pound, Q.C.
President
World Anti-Doping Agency
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Place Victoria, Suite 1700
P.O. Box 120
Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1B7
Canada

Lausanne, 20 September 2005

Dear President,

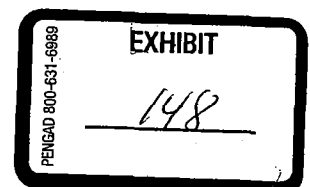
The ASOIF Council, on behalf of the Summer Olympic IFs and the IOC Athletes Commission, on behalf of the athletes of the world, wish to protest in the strongest possible terms the irregularities committed in the so-called doping revelations against the cyclist Lance Armstrong.

The IFs and the athletes would first like to reaffirm their determination to contribute by all means to the fight against doping, as well as their wish to collaborate at all levels of adjudication operating in this domain.

The consequences of a positive test for an athlete are so severe that the procedures that lead to such a result must adhere to extremely strict rules and the results must be based on irrefutable evidence.

We were therefore shocked to note in this case that those admonishing Armstrong for a violation of the anti-doping regulations have not themselves respected, in their procedures, the fundamental rules that govern them. So, if anyone wishes to give lessons on fair and clean practices, he himself must first be beyond reproach!

In this case, it appears that numerous violations of the World Anti-Doping Code have been committed and that the most basic guarantees, for which every athlete has a right, have been held up to ridicule.



Even if it was not yet in force in 1999, the International Standard for Laboratories, which must be applied by all anti-doping laboratories accredited by WADA, recommends with regards to storage of samples that "the laboratory shall maintain a policy pertaining to retention, release and disposal of samples and aliquots". Does this mean therefore that the Châtenay-Malabry Laboratory has kept all the samples in its possession during all these years? If so, then other samples taken during international competitions held in France since 1998 have also been stored (e.g. 1998 Football World Cup, Roland Garros Tennis tournaments in 1998 and 1999, etc.) If this is not the case, can you please explain how the lab took the unilateral initiative to preserve samples from the 1998 and 1999 Tour de France without the authorisation of the International Cycling Union?

WADA's International Standard for Laboratories goes on to say that laboratories must use a unique internal code for each sample, that no information that could link an athlete with an individual result may be included in its reports to WADA and, in general, that "athlete confidentiality is a key concern for all laboratories engaged in doping control cases. Confidentiality requires extra safeguards given the sensitive nature of these tests" (5.2.6.13).

However, in this case, the results of the analysis that have been done for research purposes – not even anti-doping control purposes – have been reported not with the internal laboratory code (which was not even necessary for reporting research results), but with the sample code! The results have been reported in a way so as to be able to identify the race, the day other samples were taken and, based on the doping control form containing the sample code, the identity of the athletes tested!

This is simply unacceptable, of course, since it is widely known that, within the context of scientific research, if any study is not completely anonymous (that is, there can be no way to identify the person concerned), then the subject in question must give his or her clear consent. Moreover, any scientific study worthy of this term must be the subject of an agreement in advance of a scientific ethics commission.

All analyses must be done in strict confidentiality. The laboratory does not know the names corresponding to the codes identifying the samples. Therefore, one of the parties to these names must have violated his obligation of confidentiality – and this was not UCI since they have indicated that they learned the first time themselves from the article in *l'Equipe* that these samples had been tested. This says a lot about the complicity and the professional ethics of those involved.

Obviously, the lab itself does not have the right to publicly confirm or comment upon analyses considering these were done illegally and their identification was made in violation of the guarantee of confidentiality.

These events not only cast serious doubt on the credibility of the French anti-doping system, but also on the entire world-wide anti-doping fight if such blatant transgressions are not rectified and those responsible properly disciplined.

Athletes will surely be reticent and anxious about participating in international competitions in France in the future if their due rights are so carelessly disregarded and there is the possibility that they too could find themselves facing accusations at the end of procedures to which they were not a party.

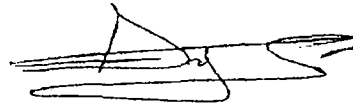
The IFs and the athletes do not intend to make any other comments about this matter, which includes other troubling elements, nor do we wish to pass judgement on the innocence or guilt of Lance Armstrong. We only ask that all those involved in the fight against doping are called upon to respect the rules.

As this was clearly not the case here, we demand that WADA conducts a thorough investigation in order to establish the violations committed and to identify and sanction those responsible. We also demand that, pending this investigation, WADA suspends the accreditation of the Châtenay-Malabry laboratory.

Sincerely,



Denis Oswald
ASOIF President



Sergey Bubka
President, IOC Athletes Commission

cc : Jacques Rogge, IOC President
International Olympic Federations
IOC Athletes Commission