Report of the

INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS

2024 Summer Paralympic Games
Paris, France

world anti-doping agency

PARIS 2024

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Part 1: Introduction

1.0 Acknowledgements

Conducting an Independent Observer Team (the IO Team) mission during the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games (hereinafter referred to as 'Games') upon the invitation of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was an exciting adventure after two editions marked by health restrictions. Fans around the world were able to enjoy sporting performances in spectacular venues in a powerful atmosphere, and the members of the WADA IO Team felt privileged to be part of this unique experience. The successful preparation and execution of our mission was made possible by the incredible welcome we received from the IPC, AFLD and Paris 2024 staff, employees, volunteers and others involved in the development and implementation of the anti-doping program during the Games.

For this great cooperation, the IO Team would like to thank in particular Jude Ellis and the IPC Anti-Doping Team composed of Phillip Riemann, Tsebo Mahlophe and Zinzi Sitoto as well as other IPC colleagues namely Liz Riley, Adam Thew and Judith van der Veen. We are also grateful to Francesca Rossi and the AFLD colleagues not forgetting David Herbert, Head of Anti-Doping at the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and his team for the long hours they spent answering our questions and considering our daily recommendations.

Special recognition must be given to the Sample Collection Personnel, Blood Collection Officials (BCOs), Doping Control Officials (DCOs) and volunteers, without whom the Anti-Doping Program could not have taken place, for their tremendous work and their continued motivation and commitment under all circumstances.

Finally, there are not enough words to express our gratitude to the athletes, their support personnel as well as the International Federation staff present at the venues. Without their goodwill and enthusiasm, the experience would not have been the same.

2.0 Executive Summary

In agreement with the IPC, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appointed 5 members to constitute an Independent Observer (IO) Team, that was present at the 2024 Paralympic Games that took place in Paris, from August 28 to September 8, to monitor the effectiveness and compliance of the anti-doping program. The IO program's mission is to enhance confidence in anti-doping processes by ensuring fairness, transparency, and adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards. By conducting independent reviews and evaluations, the IO Team aims to safeguard the integrity of sport and provide constructive recommendations for improvement. This report outlines key observations, challenges and opportunities to further strengthen the anti-doping system at future major events.

Key Achievements:

The collaborative efforts between the IPC, Paris 2024 Local Organizing Committee (LOC), and the French Anti-Doping Agency (AFLD) ensured the anti-doping program met the required standards and that key elements of the anti-doping program such as the infrastructure, logistics and Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) where well planned and supported the successful delivery of the anti-doping program during the Games. The Test Distribution Plan (TDP), underpinned by thorough Risk Assessment (RA) and intelligence, was tailored to the demands of the Games. The IO Team believes that this targeted approach globally resulted in efficient resource allocation and strategic testing, particularly in high-risk sports.

The IO Team commends the IPC for the significant efforts it has made to implement recommendations from the previous IO report, such as the establishment of a Pre-Games Testing Task Force, a robust and efficient results management system, the establishment of clear TUE procedures and the promotion of a reporting platform allowing athletes, their support personnel and all others who may have information to share regarding a possible Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) to share such information in the WADA Speak-up platform and consequently to the IPC

While the program has been successful in many areas and has been a strong advocate for clean sport, some challenges emerged that require attention for future events and are summarized below.

Main areas of recommendations:

1. **Strengthen cooperation with key stakeholders**: For the IPC to strengthen the cooperation with the future Sample Collection Authorities (SCA) to align the requirements for the implementation of testing activities. In addition, increasing the engagement with International Federations (IFs), National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) and Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs) and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) at least 12 months prior to the Games would ensure the necessary testing and education requirements are incorporated into their plans and maximize the effectiveness of the program.

2. **Adapt training of SCPs to specificities related to Para Sport and athletes with impairments**: Enhance the DCO, BCO and chaperone training program by putting more focus on specificities of athletes with impairments and the use in practical scenarios as well as Para sports-specific challenges.

3. **Adopt innovative technological solutions**: Transition to paperless systems for the sample collection process to optimize the use of human resources, reduce errors in the completion of DCFs, and increase the use of ADAMS and other tools to improve whereabouts collection.

4. **Bring the education and awareness program to the next level**: Strengthen the monitoring of Pre-Games activities, reinforce the long-term cooperation with NPCs and look at ways to increase their monitoring on educational and awareness activities conducted prior to and during the event as already suggested in previous IO reports.

In summary, the anti-doping program of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games has been implemented by a competent, determined and friendly staff to a very high standard that meets the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standards. By addressing the challenges outlined and implementing these recommendations, the next edition of the Games could further raise the standards of fairness, transparency and effectiveness, thereby reinforcing the mission of protecting clean athletes and maintaining public confidence in sport.

3.0 WADA Independent Observer Team

3.1 Mandate, Role, Composition and Function

Since its inception at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, the IO Program's key objective has been to enhance athlete and public confidence at major sporting events by objectively monitoring and reporting on all phases of the doping control and results management processes. In recent years, the IO Program has evolved into a cooperative audit-style approach, providing on-site advice and recommendations based on its observations.

On April 30, 2024, the IPC and WADA entered into an agreement for the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games in Paris, France, authorizing members of the WADA IO Team to observe procedures and Testing carried out in advance of and during the event. The IO Team's mandate was to assess and provide feedback on:

- Test distribution planning;
- Selection of competitors;
- Provision of athlete whereabouts;
- Training of sample collection personnel;
- Implementation of the OOC and IC testing program;
- TUE procedures;
- Athlete notification and sample collection procedures;
- Transport and chain of custody of samples;
- Results management process including hearings; and
- Any other relevant areas under the 2021 WADA Code, International Standards or Technical Documents.

The IO team was not present to evaluate the operation of the Paris laboratory during the Paralympic Games but was able to observe sample transport and chain of custody procedures. However, it is worth noting that a WADA laboratory expert was observing the Paris laboratory activities during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where similar procedures were in place.

For this mission, the IO team represented a range of anti-doping professionals and athletes with different skills and expertise to observe and comment on the activities under observation. The IO Team consisted of the following members:

- Mr. Diego Grippo (Argentina), President, Comisión Nacional Antidopage Argentina (Chair)
- Mr. Valentin Capelli (France), Manager, Sport Movement Relations, WADA (Vice-Chair/Team Manager)
- Ms. Rym Zerifi (Tunisia), Executive Manager, North Africa RADO (Expert)
- Ms. Seena Omar Hatuqay (Jordan), Secretary General, West Asia RADO (Expert)
- Mr. Patrick O'Leary (Ireland), Paralympian, WADA Athlete Council (Expert / Athlete)

IO Team Members for the Paris 2024 Paralympics

(from left to right) Diego Grippo, Rym Zerifi, Seena Omar Hatuqay, Patrick O'Leary, Valentin Capelli

4.0 Acronyms and Abbreviation

Acronym/Abbreviation	Full Name
ADAMS	Anti-Doping Administration and Management System
ADCOM	Anti-Doping Communication (Communication Platform by the ITA with external stakeholders)
ADRV	Anti-Doping Rule Violation
BCO	Blood Collection Officer
COMPASS	Paperless Testing Platform by the ITA
CCC	Code Compliance Centre
CCQ	Code Compliance Questionnaire
DBS	Dried Blood Spot
DCC	Doping Control Coordinator
DCCC	Doping Control Coordination Centre
DCF	Doping Control Form
DCO	Doping Control Officer
DCS	Doping Control Station
EG	European Games
EG2023	European Games 2023
EOC	European Olympic Committee
IC	In-Competition
iDCO	international Doping Control Officer
IF	International Federation
IO Team	Independent Observer Team
ISE	International Standard for Education
IS	International Standards
ITA	International Testing Agency
LOC	Local Organizing Committee
LTU NADO	Lithuanian Anti-doping Organisation
MedComAD	Medical Commission and Anti-Doping
MEO	Major Event Organizer
NADA Germany	National Anti-Doping Agency of Germany
NADO	National Anti-Doping Organisation
NOC	National Olympic Committee
POLADA	Polish Anti-Doping Agency
RA	Risk Assessment
RMA	Results Management Authority
RTP	Registered Testing Pool
SCA	Sample Collection Authority
SCP	Sample Collection Personnel
TA	Testing Authority
TDP	Test Distribution Plan
TP	Testing Pool
TUE	Therapeutic Use Exemption
TUEC	Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee
UA	Unsuccessful Attempt
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
WADC	World Anti-Doping Code

4.2 Methodology and on-site activities

The first contact between the IO team and the IPC, took place in July 2024 where the IPC presented the key components of its anti-doping program for the Games as well as an introduction of the team members and the structures in place. This good collaboration continued throughout the Games. The main observation period for the IO Team began on August 26 and ended on the final day of competition on September 8, 2024.

Once in Paris, the IO team made daily observations at both the Athletes Village and at competition venues and provided written reports of its observations and recommendations, which were discussed and responded to during coordination meetings between the IPC, the AFLD and the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee. These meetings were held initially on a daily basis and then every other day during the second half of the Games, and was where the IO team's observations were reported and was also where other operational matters impacting the anti-doping program were discussed by the IPC and the LOC.

In addition to bilateral exchanges with all relevant stakeholders on their organization for the Games, specific working sessions were held with relevant IPC staff on topics such as pre-Games activities, testing program and intelligence management, education, TUEs and results management.

Finally, the IO team was also able to attend two DCO/BCO refresher sessions, several venues volunteer site trainings and a team physician meeting focused on TUE procedures as part of their observations.

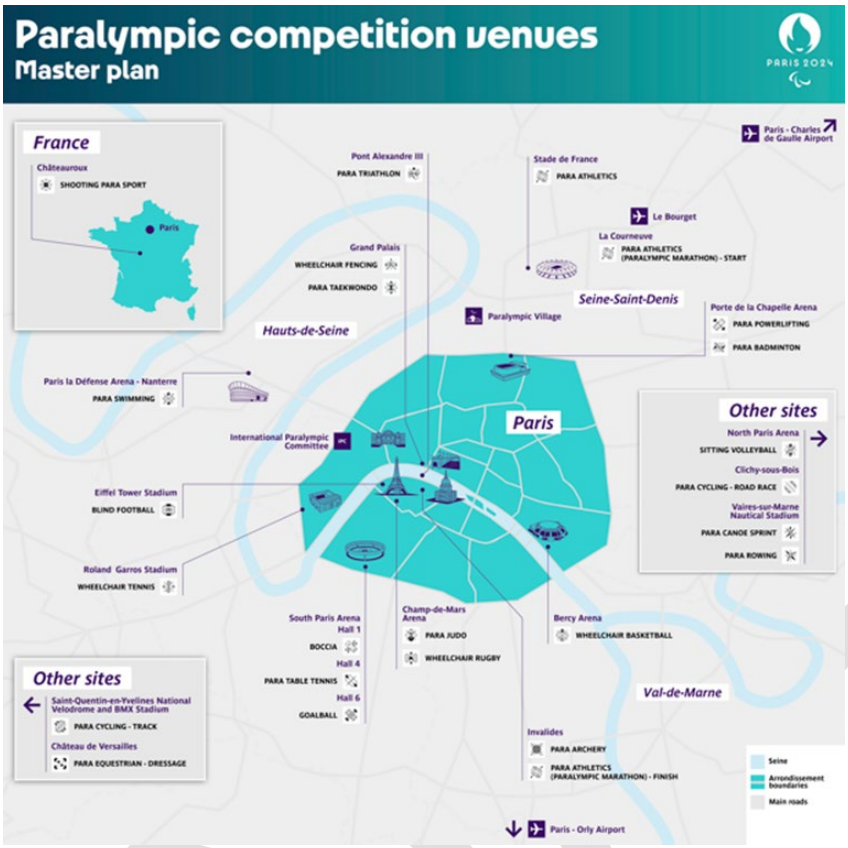
Recommendation No. 1

WADA, **IPC**: It is recommended that WADA and the IPC explore ways to strengthen the exchanges and sharing of documents with the IO team at an earlier stage in the leading up to the Games.

5.0 Overview of the Games

During the Opening Ceremony of the Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic Games, both Paris 2024 Organizing Committee President Tony Estanguet and IPC President Andrew Parson pledged to "launch a Paralympic revolution". To achieve this, all parties involved have increased their efforts tenfold to deliver a record edition with more than 4,400 athletes sent by 168 delegations (NPCs from around the world) to compete in 549 medal events in 22 sports over 11 days from August 28 to September 8, 2024.

Paralympic athletes were also able to benefit from the same amazing venues used during the Olympic Games. IO team members had the opportunity to visit the 18 venues in and around Paris, the Olympic Village in Saint Denis, and the Para shooting range in Chateauroux.



5.1 Key players

As governing body for the event and a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code, the IPC was responsible for developing and directing the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games anti-doping programme. To fulfill this role, the IPC Anti-Doping Code which sets out the rules in which anti-doping will be conducted within was declared compliant with the Code by WADA. It is worth noting that the IPC acts both as the organizer of the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games, as well as the International Federation for five Para sports, it assumes the roles and responsibilities set out in Articles 20.2 and 20.3 of the Code respectively. While activities of the IPC as an IF were beyond the scope of the IO mission, this element will sometimes be highlighted in the report when it contributes to the MEO role of the IPC.

The IPC Anti-Doping Code contains a Games Section (IPC Games Rules) which applied during the Games period from the opening of the Athlete Village on August 21, 2024, up to and including the day of the Closing Ceremony on September 8, 2024. All athletes qualified to the Games are considered as International Level Athlete by the IPC and can be subject to testing at any time during the Games period. The IPC signed agreement with IFs for transfer of authority of anti-doping programme jurisdiction, giving the IPC access to ADAMS information of the participating athletes during the Games. For the Paris 2024 Paralympics, all participants were required to accept and agree to comply with the IPC Anti-Doping Code as a condition of participation.

Three main IPC's departments were involved in the preparation and the delivery of the Anti-Doping program for the Games:

- The IPC Anti-Doping Team, which focuses primarily on testing, intelligence and logistical implementation of the program.

- The IPC Legal Department with a focus on results management and privacy, noting that the IPC has the capacity to conduct the entire results management process with the support of its Independent Anti-Doping Tribunal.
- The IPC Medical team for all TUE related aspects, with the support of IPC TUE Committee.

As the Major Event Organisation for the Paralympic Games, the IPC delegated the responsibility for sample collection, including the logistics required to support that the local organizing committee, namely the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee (Paris 2024 LOC), as described in the Paris 2024 Anti-Doping Guide, which was shared with all stakeholders prior to the Games.

PARALYMPIC GAMES

During the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, doping controls will be conducted by the following organisations:

Testing Authority (TA)	**IPC**
Sample Collection Authority (SCA)	**Paris 2024 Organising Committee**
Results Management Authority (RMA)	**IPC**

A third actor, the French National Anti-Doping Agency ("AFLD"), also played a central role on the ground, in the implementation of sample collection, working with and supporting the Paris 2024 LOC in various aspects.

Finally, the WADA-accredited laboratory in Paris (LADF) was selected by the LOC to analyze samples collected during Paris 2024 Games.

5.2 Operational approach

To facilitate communication, information sharing and emergency management, the Doping Control Command Center (DCCC), located in the Athletes Village, was the nerve center for the implementation of the anti-doping program. Operational staff from the IPC, Paris 2024 LOC and AFLD were all located on the same floor to carry out their respective activities. The three organizations discussed the division of roles and responsibilities during pre-Games meetings.

For these Games, the IPC was responsible for developing the test distribution plan for the event, adjusting it based on the results of the intelligence and live test selections, coordinating whereabouts collection with the NPCs, and overseeing the implementation of the program. The IO team was always well received by the four IPC Anti-Doping staff working in the DCCC and the four external experts from other Anti-Doping Organizations brought in to support their work.

The planning and management of the Sample Collection Sessions was in the hands of the Paris 2024 LOC team for the logistical side, including the management of Sample Collection Personnel, the preparation of the DCS and the collaboration with other functional areas (e.g. transport and volunteers). The AFLD was responsible for the selection and day-to-day management of the DCOs, BCOs, the concrete implementation of the test distribution plan provided by the IPC, and the delivery of the samples to the laboratory and the entry of DCFs into ADAMS.

However, as highlighted in the next section of the report, the IO team did observe at times a lack of clarity and preparation in certain areas of the anti-doping program including the implementation of OOCT due to challenges in the collection of whereabouts (see recommendations 15/16) , the recruitment and management off SCP (see recommendations 21/23/25) or the use of paperless system for DCFs(see recommendation 10) . The working methods established by the Paris 2024 LOC and the AFLD for the Paralympic Games were identical to those established during the Olympic Games, ensuring that lessons learned were implemented. While there were clear benefits from the work carried out during the Olympic Games, the IO team felt that it would have been beneficial for the IPC and Paris 2024 to have set-up additional mechanisms during the preparation phase to better plan the transition between the Olympics and the Paralympics and to guarantee that Paris 2024 and the AFLD addressed some specific requirements related to Para athletes and Para Sport. Earlier cooperation could also have allowed the IPC and AFLD staff to fully focus on implementing the ambitious testing program being set up for the Games, while reducing the intense workload on some individuals in the DCCC. The IO team believes that strengthening interconnection between staff of the three organizations prior to the Games for instance via a stronger involvement of one NADO staff in the LOC team and in the DCC could have assisted with greater sharing of information and to facilitate quicker action of certain issues.

Overall, the IO team observed that both the IPC and the AFLD had a very strong and dedicated team of experienced individuals from their own organizations. In addition, inviting several experts from other ADOs was clearly beneficial for the quality of the program as well as the legacy of the activities. On its side, the Paris 2024 LOC has a dedicated and dynamic team of young professionals to support the development and implementation of a high-quality anti-doping program.

The IO Team Chair and Vice-Chair were invited to attend the daily meeting between representatives of the three organizations, where they exchanged feedback on the previous day's challenges. The IO team could also call the two 24/7 hotlines set up for SCP to communicate their logistical or technical issues directly to the team. Other channels of communication, including chat groups and email were also available but reserved to SCP.

Commendation No 1

IPC, **AFLD**: The IO team commends the IPC and AFLD for their decision to involve several volunteers from other ADOs in the DCCC, including colleagues from NADOs who will be involved in the delivery of other Games in the near future. Such collaboration was beneficial to the program, to strengthening inter-organizational cooperation, and to the legacy of the Games.

Commendation No 2

Paris 2024, **AFLD**: The IO Team commends Paris 2024 LOC and AFLD for having setting-up a system of 24/7 hotlines allowing SCP to raise in real time any concerns and challenges to the DCCC.

Recommendation No 2

IPC: Acknowledging the challenges in dealing with LOC organizing both the Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as the important efforts made by the IPC prior to the Games, the IO Team recommends that the IPC reinforces cooperation with the LOC/SCA during the preparation phase for future editions for example by setting-up clear milestones with the actors involved that could be monitored to guarantee that specific needs and requirements of the event are better integrated in the LOC/SCA planning of activities

Recommendation No 3

IPC, LOC, NADO To guarantee smooth implementation of the testing program during the event and real time management of any crisis, the IO team recommends that all parties (IPC, the LOC and the NADO) uphold a one team approach both in the lead up and during the Games (within the DCCC).

IPC Jurisdiction

According to the IPC Games Regulations for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the IPC had the authority to conduct IC and/or OOC Testing of Athletes who were registered to participate in the Games during the Games period, i.e. from the opening of the Athletes' Village on August 21, 2024, i.e. 7 days prior to the Opening Ceremony, until the day of the Closing Ceremony, i.e. September 8, 2024. As of August 4, all athletes requiring a TUE were required to apply to the IPC TUE Committee.

Once again, it is worth noting that the IPC acts as the International Federation in four summer sports that are represented at the Games for which it is responsible for throughout the year. It is also worth highlighting that the IPC is currently facilitating the exit of these sports out of the IPC, leaving the IPC to focus on its key role as the leader of the Paralympic Movement and the MEO for the Paralympic Games.

Recommendation No 4

IPC: The above mentioned changes undertaken by IPC regarding its role as IF, combined with the limited resources that other ADOs have to test Para Athletes, lead the IO Team to recommend that the IPC consider extending its jurisdiction a few weeks/months prior to the Games to allow the IPC, or a delegated third party such as the local NADO, to coordinate testing on behalf of the IPC for Athletes who may not have been adequately tested in the lead-up to the Games, prior to their arrival on site. This is similar to what the IOC has in place for the Olympic Games.

5.1 Paris 2024 Anti-Doping Guide and IPC Website

In April 2024, the Paris 2024 LOC published an anti-doping guide to provide participants and stakeholders with information on the anti-doping program for both Games. The guide summarized the most important information on the anti-doping procedures and requirements of the events, as well as links to relevant documentation. This guide was also distributed by the IPC to the NPCs.

As required by Article 18.2 of the World Anti-Doping Code, the IPC has a dedicated anti-doping page on its website. It is worth mentioning that the webpage was reshuffled prior to the Games. The information was complemented by a specific anti-doping information on the Paris 2024 section of the IPC website, which provided athletes with information on their expected role in anti-doping at the Paralympic Games.

Recommendation No 5

IPC: The IO team recommends that the IPC consider how best it could present its Anti-Doping procedures related to its MEO role on the website for instance by highlighting the MEO specific elements in all sections or create cross connection with the page dedicated to a specific edition of the Games.

Part 2: Doping Control Program

The second part of the report is describing all aspects of the Doping Control program for the Games. To do so, the IO Team has chosen to distinguish, in all sections, between the preparation and the implementation phase. The aim is to emphasize activities and cooperation aspects in the preparation phase and how these can mitigate risks during the event. The members of the DCCC proved to be extremely well organized and equipped to respond to unexpected challenges but were sometimes constrained by structural limitations decided upon in advance of the Games.

6.0 Testing

The IO Team would like to begin this section on Testing by reiterating the IPC's strong commitment to establishing an ambitious and effective testing program and the tremendous effort that has been made to integrate the recommendations from previous reports. Overall, the number of tests conducted, and the quality of the Testing program is worthy of commendation

This section starts with the preparation phase before providing a summary of the IO Team's observations of the IPC's testing activities and outlines the recommendations resulting from those observations.

6.2 Pre-Games Testing Task Force and Pre-Games activities

6.2.1 Pre-Games Testing Task Force

Following the objective of increasing the efficiency and the impact of its testing program, the IPC decided, for the first time, to put in place a Pre-Games Testing Task Force in the lead-up to the Games. The main role of this Task Force was to fine-tune the RA made for the Games, to assess testing activities of NADOs and IFs related to athletes likely to participate in the Paralympics and to assist the IPC in providing ADOs with testing recommendations, to help ensure their resources are targeted in a way that maximizes both detection and deterrence of doping in Para Sport leading up to the Games.

The group was chaired by the IPC and composed of a dynamic team of 8 experts from NADOs, IFs, an athlete and an APMU representative, all with diverse experience with Para Sport. An ex officio member also supported shaping the functioning of the group:

While the IO members were not involved in meetings of the Taskforce, the setting-up of this first Task Force was an opportunity for the IPC to get a better understanding on the level of expertise in Para Sport within the community, to raise awareness and understanding by ADOs of the risks of doping in Para Sport, to inform their testing pools and test planning over the longer term, to fine-tune the RA prepared by the IPC Anti-Doping Team as well as to strengthen cooperation and coordination with NADO/RADOs and IFs by sharing recommendations for target testing. On 22 February 2024, the IPC and WADA sent a dual signed communication, informing ADOs about the role of the Taskforce and requesting their full support in the process.

One important challenge for the Task Force was the access to historical and current testing data on athletes and countries participating in the Games to better inform the RA and the test recommendations. The Task Force based its work on available data from Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, WADA testing reports, data in ADAMS by Sport where the IPC are acting as the IF as well as bilateral exchanges with IFs and NADO/RADOs. Intelligence received by APMUs and other ADOs were also included in the discussion.

The outcome of this work was the sending of Pre-Games testing guidelines to the 89 NADOs/RADOs and 6 IFs. It included 2,047 testing recommendations for athletes from medium-high- and high-risk sports and 1,185 from medium to low-risk sports. The test recommendation indicated the optimal time for testing, the type of sample to be collected and additional analyses were also shared leaving the ADOs with flexibility on the implementation.

Based on the feedback received from the IPC, the Task Force brought a lot of added value to the preparatory work conducted by IPC before the Games, while highlighting the multiple gaps remaining in ADOs – IF and NADO/RADOs - testing program for Para sport. Continued efforts must be made to help raise awareness of ADOs of the risk of doping across Para sport and encourage more attention being given to Para athletes. Para athletes continue to receive insufficient testing (and education), falling under the radar of too many ADOs that dedicate only limited resources to testing Para athletes under their jurisdiction. ADOs need to align their budget planning with an increase in testing efforts leading into the Games.

Greater efforts are required from NADOs and IFs to integrate Para athletes into their Risk Assessment and Test Distribution Plans, especially in the lead-up to major Games. The IPC's selection of Task Force members was strategic, with the intention of creating Para sport "ambassadors" to assist with this, sharing their learnings from the experience and raise awareness of Para sport within their anti-doping community or region.

Commendation No 3

IPC: The IPC must be commended for the establishment of a Pre-Games Task Force with an ambitious scope of activities and objectives in its inaugural year of operation. The Taskforce contributed to an increase in the level of awareness and identified gaps in ADOs activities for Para athletes which was beneficial for this edition of the Games as well as globally for the Anti-Doping community. The Taskforce members must also be commended for their contributions, commitment and the achievements from their hard work.

Recommendation No 6

IPC: It is recommended that the IPC build on the learnings from this first experience with its Taskforce model and make it a permanent fixture for future editions of the Games and consider ways to fine-tune its function and scope for future Games. Some ideas for consideration are outlined below:

- An earlier start of the Taskforce activities, as far as twelve months prior to the Games, this would provide its members with additional time to sharpen test recommendations and allow IFs and

NADOs more time to incorporate such recommendations into their budgetary and planning process;
- The IPC could consider dedicating a specific budget for Pre-Games testing that could contribute to the implementation of certain recommendations in particular in the period where they would have testing jurisdiction over athletes a few weeks/months prior to the Games and where it was observed that certain athletes had not been tested sufficiently by their respective IF or NADO;
- Adopt a more regular and formal approach with ADOs and other stakeholders regarding the sharing of data and intelligence so that this information can be incorporated into the risk assessment and test recommendations.
- Increase the monitoring of the implementation of testing recommendations by ADOs and adapt the TDP consequently.

Recommendation No 7

WADA, **ADOs**: To increase the efficiency of Pre-Games Task Force, the IO Team recommends that, with due regard for the ISPPPI, WADA and the entire Anti-Doping community explore ways to expand the access to the most recent testing figures from ADOs involved in the preparation of the Games, in a user-friendly manner, such as a dashboard, which could provide an overview of the testing of para sports by IFs and NADOs which could then help fine tune the risk assessment as well as improve the quality of the data shared and facilitate the effectiveness of the Task Force.

6.2.2 Cooperation with NADO-RADOs & IFs

The IO team noted the multiple initiatives taken by the IPC, sometimes in cooperation with WADA, to connect and communicate with NADO-RADOs, IFs and NPCs. It was notably done in the area of testing and analysis of samples, results management, whereabouts, TUE and education. For the IPC to involve experts from NADOs and IFs in the Pre-Games Taskforce as well as their operational team during the Games was a positive practice to increase the knowledge and expertise in the community. However, the work conducted by the Taskforce supported the assumption that the level of testing in Para Sport, among ADOs, remains at a low and unsatisfactory level.

In addition, and, as highlighted in other sections of this report, the contribution of NPCs regarding the collection of whereabouts as well as in terms of education was not meeting the IPC's expectations. Finally, the IO Team is of the opinion that the IPC could seek to receive more information from the IFs in charge of lower risk sports to ensure more intelligent testing on those sports during the Games.

Commendation No 4

IPC: The IO team commends the important cooperation between the IPC and WADA to send regular reminders to the Anti-Doping community regarding testing requirements, timely analysis of sample collected and Results Management activities in preparation for the Games.

Recommendation No 8

IPC: The IO team encourages the IPC to reinforce the cooperation with all ADOs playing a role in the preparation of athletes for the Games. One option that could be considered is to establish one contact point with expertise on Para activities in all applicable ADOs that could support common activities.

Recommendation 9

WADA: The IO team recommends that WADA considers expanding its existing monitoring practices of ADOs performance in testing athletes with impairments as well as encouraging initiatives aiming at increasing those numbers.

6.2.3 Technologies

The Anti-Doping Administration and Management System - ADAMS was the main platform for test planning and implementation during the Games. As recommended in previous IO reports, the IPC put in place a number of efforts to work closely with the WADA ADAMS team and WADA Sport Movement Relations during the preparation phase of the Games to guarantee access for the IPC to the relevant information to plan activities ahead of the Games period. Games specific access to ADAMS was created on 12 July and an accurate list of athletes 'long list' was shared by the IPC to WADA on 18th July, a month before the opening of the Athletes Village.

Once the 'long list' of athletes was uploaded, this allowed the IPC Anti-Doping Team to prepare, in advance of the Games, all testing mission orders (TMO) and to optimize the use of resources during the Games by gaining time in their daily work while maintaining flexibility when changes occurred.

The system proved to be effective for IC testing despite some minor challenges related to communication of pre-selected athletes to the Doping Control Station Managers (DCSM) as well as preparation of the live selection of athletes in some sport-disciplines. In addition, the IO Team observed that this advanced planning system created some difficulties for the OOCT missions as multiple TMOs were used during a single session.

The IO team observed that the main challenges with sample collection were related to technology in the absence of a paperless system for recording the information of each individual sample collection session which is primarily documented on a doping control form. Neither the IPC nor the AFLD have their own paperless IT solution and no agreement was made with the LOC to facilitate the use of external system at the Games.

It is noted that the IPC has been in discussion with WADA regarding the use DCO Central paperless system for this Games but that the decision was taken not too move forward as some concerns were raised due to the absence of test of DCO Central platform in such a large scale event.

However, not using a paperless system during the Games generated a number of hurdles for the testing activities including:

- Despite attempts to better coordinate prior to the Games, no specific plan was put in place by DCCC staff to transition from the paperless system in place during the Olympic Games to the printing of DCFs for use during the Paralympics. It took few days at the start of the Games for the DCCC and the SCP workforce to adapt and find solutions to the logistical challenges faced from using paper DCFs.
- The initial batch of paper DCFs did not meet the expected quality standards, making the work of DCOs harder to execute.
- The use of paper DCFs also increases the number of mistakes that can occur by SCP when recording the information provided by athletes.
- The IO team also noticed that many athletes are used to paperless DCFs and complained about the length of sample collection due to having to use paper DCFs.
- Finally, it created additional workload to the AFLD staff, to enter manually the DCFs into ADAMS which impacted the resources dedicated to other activities.

The IO team observed that the IPC expanded its use of secured communication platform such as Share File to communicate with the relevant stakeholders and experts. During the Games, multiple technologies were used to communicate e.g. Signal and Threema, by the different DCCC teams, creating some confusion and leading, in certain situations, to the sharing of personal or confidential information via email or to a larger audience than necessary.

Commendation No 5

IPC: The IO team commends the IPC for the timely provision of the participating athletes 'long list' so it could be uploaded into ADAMS and strongly encourages that a similar timeline is maintained for future editions of the Games.

Recommendation No 10

IPC, WADA: The IO team recommends that the IPC continues to explore possibilities for the permanent use of a paperless system during their events, and as applicable enter into earlier discussions with future LOCs. The IO team would also encourage WADA to continue working towards the development of a paperless system that could support ADOs work during major events.

Recommendation No 11

LOC, **IPC, AFLD**: The IO team recommends that methods of communication in the DCCC including between the SCA staff, and the workforce onsite are harmonized to ensure that information is safely communicated in a secure way to the relevant audience.

6.2.4 RA and TDP

The IPC goes to great lengths to develop a detailed RA that covers all 23 sports and disciplines that take place during the Games, using a combination of qualitative and quantitative data as well as other relevant information. The RA assigns numerical values to risks based on quantifiable data, such as;

a) country risk, based on a political and economic corruption index;
b) testing quality risks assigned to the IPC, NADOs and IFs based on the testing data available for Para Sport in the different countries and sports;
c) number of samples collected from the Athlete by different Testing Authorities;
d) previous ADRVs;
e) individual Athlete parameters such as performance and test history;
f) laboratory and Athlete Passport Management Unit (hereinafter "APMU") recommendations;
g) various rankings;
h) TDSSA; and
i) other quantifiable data such as sports data.

These factors, combined with the physiological and physical requirements specific to each sport and discipline, have helped to categorize the risk of sports as high/medium/low, which assists in the allocation of testing for the Games. The IPC has worked diligently to narrow down the scope to individual athlete recommendations where possible. The aim is not only to focus on current performance, but also to assess the athlete's development over the Paralympic cycle, e.g. rankings, records.

Developing a comprehensive RA for the Paralympic Games is a complex exercise because the number of medal events is significantly higher than at any other Games, as a single discipline can see multiple competitions based on the athletes' impairment classification system. Nevertheless, it is a crucial step in ensuring that resources are well spent. While this exercise was straightforward for IPC governed sports and high-risk sports, the lack of testing data or physiological risks associated to certain disciplines - adds another layer of complexity to the exercise. As described in the Pre-Games Taskforce section, one of the outcomes of the RA highlighted the lack of adequate testing for athletes with impairments in many countries and sports/disciplines.

Given the detail and amount of information involved in the RA including the criteria and data that was assessed it was a challenge for the IO Team and other experts to review and propose any recommendations due to the complexity of the process.

The RA supported the work of the Pre-Games Taskforce and enabled the IPC Anti-Doping Team to prepare a comprehensive TDP well in advance of the Games.

Two different approaches to test selection were adopted based on the risk:

- Pre-selected selection of athletes based on the risk evaluated;
- Onsite live selection of athletes based on many factors including the competition performance.

In addition, the TDP foresees a contingency number of tests to ensure flexibility when APMU recommendations or other intel is received.

Commendation No 6

IPC: The IO team acknowledges the tremendous work done by the IPC to produce a comprehensive RA based on objective criteria and data as well as expertise gained over the years.

Recommendation No 12

IPC: It is recommended that the IPC consider how they can facilitate the access and the reading of the RA for the IO team who may wish to provide recommendations or feedback prior to the Games

Recommendation No 13

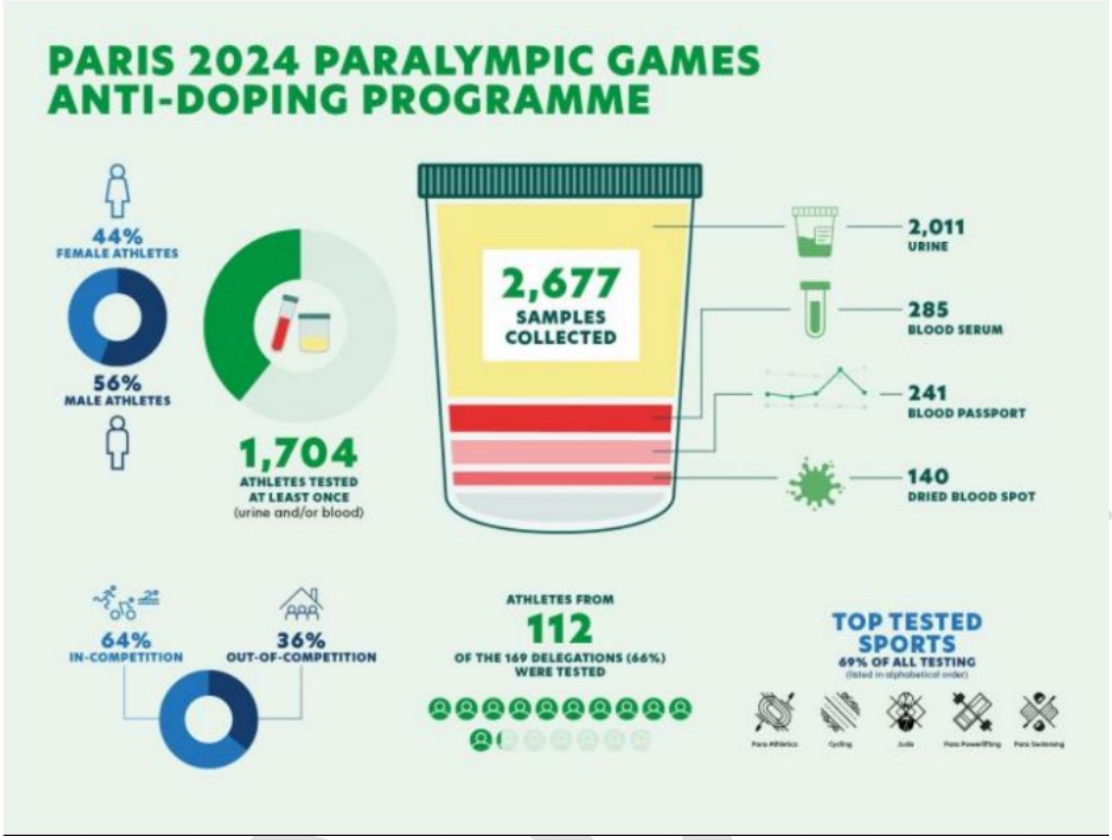
IPC, **IFs, NADOs**: Refining the knowledge of certain low-risk disciplines for instance by increasing research related to physical and the physiological requirements would allow the IPC to sharpen the testing strategy to those sports during the Games.

7.0 Implementation phase

For this edition of the Games, the IPC planned to conduct 2000 Sample Collection Sessions including 800 OOCT (40%) and 1200 ICT (60%). The aim was to collect 2700 samples, including 2000 urine tests, 600 blood tests (ABP and serum) and 100 Dried Blood Spot (DBS).

The decision for the analysis of erythropoietin (EPO), growth hormone releasing factors (GHRFs), gonadotropin releasing factors (GnRHs) and human growth hormone (hGH) was to follow as a minimum the WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) or to go beyond it based on the IPC risk assessment.

A total of 4400 athletes participated in the Games. Overall, the original testing plan was met, with 2677 samples collected from 1988 sample collection sessions, of which 2011 were urine, 526 blood and 140 dried blood spots. This represents a significant increase of 25% compared to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, allowing the IPC to collect samples from 1704 athletes from 112 delegations.



Due to challenges with whereabouts collection, a small number of tests had to be switched from OOCT to ICT, with a total of 733 OOCT and 1278 ICT samples collected. Both ICT and OOCT were conducted in all 23 sports. The IPC adjusted the selection of Athletes to take into account the nearly 145 APMU recommendations received during the Games.

As a general principle and taking into account the gaps identified by the RA, the IPC attempted to avoid testing an athlete more than once during the Games in order to distribute testing to a wider range of athletes as possible.

7.1 Out-of-Competition Testing

OOCT testing was conducted exclusively in the Athletes Village, where all athletes were accommodated. As described in the section above, and following the comprehensive risk assessment this resulted in the selection of 733 Athletes for OOCT testing.

The list of all targeted Athletes was provided to the AFLD prior to the opening of the Athletes Village on 19 August, together with the available whereabouts information provided by the NPCs. While specific recommendations were made by the IPC for certain athletes, the timing of the vast majority of tests was decided by the AFLD, who was responsible for their implementation on behalf of Paris 2024 LOC. The daily selection of athletes was mainly based on available whereabouts information.

Based on the information available, the DCCC staff issued daily deployment orders containing the athletes' details and the type of tests to be carried out. The Doping Control Station staff in the Athletes Village worked in two shifts, one starting at 5am and the other at 1pm. The IO team observed some challenges in the first few days of implementation in terms of consistency of procedures, such as knocking on all athlete doors, number of attempts made to find athletes, and communication of information between shifts, overall, the team settled in well after the first few days.

Recommendation No 14

IPC: To maximize the effectiveness of each OOCT Sample collected, to facilitate the work of the SCA and to make the most of the risk assessment, the IO Team recommends that the IPC provide the SCA with more precise information on the desired date and time of OOCT testing for as many athletes as possible.

7.1.1 Collection of Whereabouts

Collecting accurate and reliable whereabouts information during a major event is always a difficult task due to the diversity of the parties involved, and the privacy of the information collected. The TA must remain proportionate to the amount of testing planned to be conducted in the level of whereabouts information requested, while having sufficient material to implement the OOCT plan. The IFs and NADOs remained the whereabouts custodians in ADAMS for their respective athletes, and the athletes in an RTP were asked to continue to provide information during the Games. However, the IO team observed that the whereabouts information collected in ADAMS was not used to plan the OOCT testing missions held during the Games as the IPC decided to rely exclusively on information received from NPCs related to rooming list and arrival dates.

In contrast to previous editions of the Games, IPC or the DCCC did not receive support from a LOC application to assist in locating and notifying athletes. The IPC asked all NPCs to include rooming lists prior to arrival at the Athletes Village with relevant information for all participants on an excel sheet shared on Share File: the athlete's full name, the athlete's building location and assigned room number, the athlete's sport, and the athlete's arrival and departure dates.

It is worth noting that all athletes stayed in the Athletes Village. Once the information had been collected, it was shared with SCA staff at the DCCC. The relevant and necessary information was included in the daily schedule that was sent to the DCSM.

Despite the IPC's ability to fine the relevant NPC for any inaccurate or late submission of whereabouts information, a significant number of NPCs were missing information when the IO team began its observation. In addition, this method of collecting information did not encourage NPCs to update information in a timely manner. This situation affected the planning of the 800 planned OOCT, with the SCA giving priority to athletes with available information to optimize the effectiveness of the Sample Collection Sessions. Significant efforts were made by the IPC team to finally obtain information from all delegations.

Recommendation No 15

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC use all available information, including ADAMS RTP location information, to ensure that it provides sufficient and up-to-date information to the SCA. In addition, the IPC is encouraged to explore roads to improve the efficiency of whereabouts collection for instance by introducing more immediate methods of incentivising NPCs to submit whereabout or by identifying any technological support (e.g. consider use of a rooming app as used for the Olympics) that the SCA and/or LOC can provide in the preparatory phase to assist in locating Athletes during the Games. Finally, the IPC may wish to consider increasing pre-Games cooperation with NPCs on this issue and establishing a clear timeline with possible consequences.

7.2 In-Competition Testing

A total of 1278 samples were collected IC in 23 sports. Of these samples, 1187 were urine, 26 blood, 19 ABP and 1 DBS.

The selection of Athletes for IC testing was a combination of targeted Athletes, live selection, medal-based selection and, in some specific cases, random selection. The IO team found that live selection was used in all high-risk sports, with great potential for targeting the right athletes for testing. Athletes are selected on the basis of past performance, current performance, test history, intelligence and overall risk assessment. Real-time selection requires a lot of preparation and co-ordination between the IPC Anti-Doping Team and the Sample Collection Personnel, who only learn of the athletes to be notified at the last minute. As in other areas, after a few challenging sessions at the start of the Games, the workforce managed to adapt quickly to this system.

Recommendation No 16

IPC: The IO Team recommends that where possible the IPC conduct test events in venues and sports where athlete selection will be performed live during the Games. The test event could replicate those scenarios to ensure that the SCA is adequately equipped and capable of absorbing and managing the demands of live athlete selection without disruption as well as identifying potential challenges in the venues. Such scenario could also be included in SCP training, to familiarize them with the functioning of the live selection of athletes. This proactive approach will improve coordination, reduce errors and ensure that the live selection process operates efficiently and effectively during actual events.

Recommendation No 17

IPC: The IO team noted that in certain sports (shooting, badminton, cycling) specific analyses for Growth Hormone Releasing Factors (GHRF) were systematically requested for all samples. The IPC could consider transferring some GHRF analyses in lower risk sports to other types of additional analyses in higher risk sports.

8.0 Intelligence and cooperation with APMUs

The IPC received and used a variety of information and intelligence from several sources, with the main source being recommendations from APMU laboratory experts. This was used to assist in conducting OOCT, IC and Target Testing. To this end, in addition to its regular cooperation with the Ghent APMU, the IPC took a proactive approach by establishing a communication channel with the 16 WADA-accredited APMUs to facilitate the exchange of information that enabled them to conduct intelligence-led targeting. More than 145 recommendations were received by the IPC and either implemented directly before and during the Games and information on the conducted activities were passed onto the relevant passport custodian.

Prior the Games, the IPC received approval from WADA Compliance Investigations Unit to continue promoting the use of WADA's "Speak Up" platform to facilitate the collection of information from whistleblowers. While the process was finalized only few weeks prior to the start of the Games the promotion campaign included posters and other awareness material provided at doping control stations. Following discussion between the IPC and the AFLD, the decision was taken not to adopt specific information-sharing agreement between the IPC and the applicable French authorities i.e. law enforcement, but there was good cooperation with the AFLD and some other NADOs or IFs around the Games and who shared multiple information that notably led to one AAF.

Commendation No 7

IPC: The IO Team commends the IPC for strengthening the existing system of cooperation with APMUs. The cooperation must be continued between the Games in order to develop the knowledge of all APMUs on Para Sport.

Recommendation 18

IPC: The IO team recommends that the IPC build on the experience of the Pre-Games Task Force to formalize the regular sharing of information by other Anti-Doping Organizations and consider

establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the local NADO and law enforcement agencies to establish systematic information sharing during the Games.

Recommendation 19

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC build on the use of the “Speak-Up” platform to continuously promote the reporting of information to all relevant stakeholders prior to the next Games.

9.0 Sample Collection

9.1 Sample Collection Personnel

Paris 2024 had the responsibility for the recruitment and selection of DCOs - BCOs to work at the Games was however this was delegated to the ITA-AFLD. In fact, the recruitment process for International Doping Control Officers (IDCOs) was combined for the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games and started in April 2023, with Paris 2024/ITA sending a call for nominations to NADOs and Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs). The deadline for nominations was June 2023. The final IDCO list was announced on December 20, 2023.

In total, recruitment was conducted for four positions: Doping Control Station Managers (DCSMs), Chaperone Coordinators (CCs), DCOs and BCOs. All DCOs received common training and specific sessions focused on their role. Around 50% of the SCPs working at the Paralympic Games had also worked at the Olympic Games and were therefore already familiar with the day-to-day running of the Games. The BCOs were all from the AFLD, as French law requires that blood collection in France can only be taken by a national nurse.

The recruitment of volunteer chaperones was carried out by the Paris 2024 LOC. They decided to combine volunteers with previous anti-doping experience with newly trained individuals. Volunteers completed online courses on the role of chaperones, as well as refresher courses during dedicated venue training sessions.

In total, the SCP was composed of 138 trained DCOs, 66 female DCO and 72 male DCO with around 60% of French nationals, with 38 of them acting as CC and DCSM. 4 French BCOs were also supporting the team.

In addition, DCO and BCO refresher training (virtual and face-to-face) was conducted prior to the Games. The IO team had the opportunity to attend one of these refresher training sessions in the Athletes Village.

While the training was a comprehensive review of sample collection procedures and provided great information on specific elements related to Para athletes, the IO team believes that, given the experienced profile of the workforce, more emphasis should have been placed on modifications for athletes with impairments.

This observation has been reinforced by the multiple exchanges the IO team had with the workforce highlighting that most of them do not deal with athletes with impairments on a regular basis and that they would have benefit from additional instructions or good practices during the refresher training. It was especially the case for BCOs who had to collect blood on amputees' athletes.

One of the main limitations observed by the IO team and which is at the heart of a successful workforce during the Games is the numerous logistical problems related to the working conditions of the DCOs. This included the lack of uniforms and challenges related to accommodation and subsistence. These issues had several consequences, for instance creating confusion in the DCS for the selected athletes

and their entourage as some DCOs and chaperones were dressed in volunteer uniforms while the lead DCO could be wearing his/her personal/NADO clothes.

It is worth noting that this situation with the DCOs was similar during the Olympic Games and led to a number of DCOs cancelling their participation in the Paralympic Games. This created problems in the day-to-day management of human resources (e.g. gender balance, language) and limited the SCA's ability to respond to urgent requests for testing at short notice or to adapt to major changes in the test plan.

Commendation No 8

IPC: The IO Team commends the IPC for the quality of the Doping Control Guide for Testing Athletes in Para Sport and encourage the IPC to use it even more extensively at future events.

Recommendation No 20

IPC: Following on from the previous recommendation, and with the aim of making better use of the Guide in the preparation of staff for the event, the IPC should ensure that sharing of best practices related to Para athletes (visual/intellectual impairment, and representatives) is central during the refresher course for the SCP.

One suggestion would be to include scenarios during the SCP training that covers past experiences of DCOs with athletes with impairments that could prepare them for situations they may experience during the Games.

Recommendation No 21

WADA, **IPC**, **All**: To pursue the efforts to ensure that modules on the specifics of Sample collection for Athletes with impairments (e.g. use of catheters, visual impairment) are included in the regular DCO training provided by NADOs and service providers.

Recommendation No 22

IPC, **LOC**: For the IPC to use all available ways to increase its influence on the recruitment of SCP and the planning methods chosen to manage them during the Games for example by raising the minimum requirements for SCP working conditions and putting this on the agenda at an early stage to facilitate LOC discussion with other functional areas.

All logistical elements that impact SCP must be confirmed well before the Games (accommodation, transport, subsistence, confidentiality).

Recommendation No 23

WADA: The IO Team recommends that WADA places more emphasis on the important roles that SCP play in the success of the anti-doping program and the importance for MEOs to guarantee minimum standards in the working conditions of the SCP.

9.2 Sample Collection Sessions

The 21 DCSs, all of which were visited by the IO team during the Games, were well equipped and functional, with an adequate number of sample collection rooms to ensure timely and efficient sample processing for athletes. Each DCS was staffed by a DCSM, a CC, a Venue Coordinator (from Paris 2024), DCOs and chaperones. The AFLD tried as much as possible to keep the DCSM, CC and DCOs in the same locations throughout the event, but the logistical challenges mentioned in the previous sections forced them to be moved around more than originally planned.

A selection of sealed water and soft drinks were available for athletes to hydrate in the DCS. Most Sample Collection Rooms were large enough to accommodate athletes in wheelchairs. Sealed samples were securely stored in the lockable refrigerator in the office of the DCSM. A reception desk was located at the entrance to each Doping Control Station to record the arrival and departure of Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel. The Doping Control team was supported by a courier service to ensure timely transport of all samples from the various venues and the athletes' village to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Paris.

The IO team had the opportunity to observe a significant number of sample collections, both IC and OOC, in all the different venues. As a general comment, Sample collection went well in all DCSs, despite some challenges with routes to access the DCS in some venues.

As with many Games, the first day of Sample collection in a particular venue is often challenging and required the Sample Collection team to become familiar with the management and operation of the venue. This was particularly the case in venues where the routes SCP were asked to use when performing their duties was changed by the organizers on the day of the Games. Once again, all the SCPs proved to be innovative and pragmatic in ensuring that the athletes were treated in the best possible way, while adhering to standards and procedures.

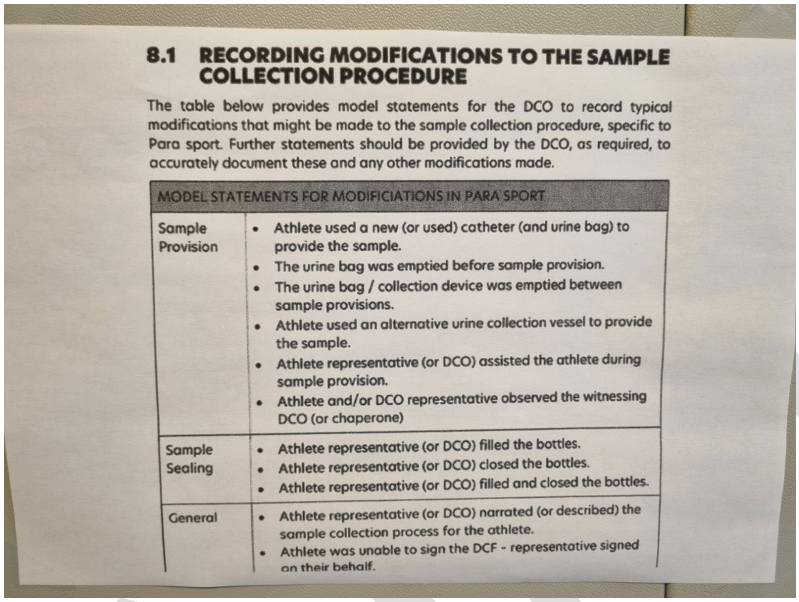
The IO team observed a significant number of Sample Collection Sessions for blood, urine and DBS. Overall, the Sample Collection Sessions were conducted in accordance with the Code and International Standards, as the IO Team did not observe any major deviations during the Sample collection process. The workforce is to be congratulated for demonstrating a high level of professionalism and ability to adapt when challenges arose. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel regularly commented on this professionalism to the IO Team members.

Overall, the quality and the performance of Doping Control Officers (DCOs), both international and local, was excellent despite the various challenges they faced. One clear area of progress was the implementation of modifications for Athletes with impairments. Indeed, despite the initiatives described in the previous section, the IO team observed occasionally a lack of consistency for certain procedures (e.g. diluted sample, specific gravity measurement and confidentiality in the DCS), particularly in the management of specific situations related to impairments, such as the procedure and communication with visually impaired athletes, athletes with intellectual impairments or athletes with reduced mobility.

Although the anti-doping manual for the SCP provides information on the various modifications for athletes with impairments, some BCOs found it difficult to deal with certain cases, particularly blood collection (e.g. amputee athletes without arms). It also appeared that the needles used for blood

collection had a larger gauge that prevented BCOs to adequately collect a blood sample , which was resolved by DCCC staff in a timely manner.

Once again, it is worth noting that the DCCC staff responded quickly to various comments made by the IO members, for example by printing out for all DCS a list of all the deviations from the ISTI list for athletes with impairments to be highlighted on the DCFs.



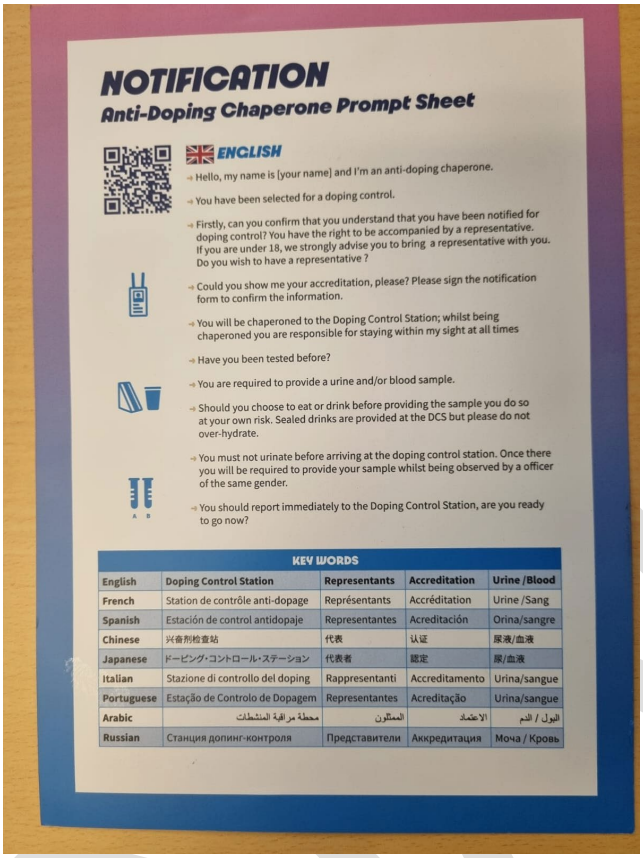
8.1 RECORDING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The table below provides model statements for the DCO to record typical modifications that might be made to the sample collection procedure, specific to Para sport. Further statements should be provided by the DCO, as required, to accurately document these and any other modifications made.

MODEL STATEMENTS FOR MODIFICIATIONS IN PARA SPORT	
Sample Provision	• Athlete used a new (or used) catheter (and urine bag) to provide the sample. • The urine bag was emptied before sample provision. • The urine bag / collection device was emptied between sample provisions. • Athlete used an alternative urine collection vessel to provide the sample. • Athlete representative (or DCO) assisted the athlete during sample provision. • Athlete and/or DCO representative observed the witnessing DCO (or chaperone)
Sample Sealing	• Athlete representative (or DCO) filled the bottles. • Athlete representative (or DCO) closed the bottles. • Athlete representative (or DCO) filled and closed the bottles.
General	• Athlete representative (or DCO) narrated (or described) the sample collection process for the athlete. • Athlete was unable to sign the DCF - representative signed on their behalf.

Finally, the IO team observed that the SCPs were not always familiar with the specifics of various sports disciplines and how the sport was played, which could have led to confusion in certain notification procedures. To facilitate their work, additional documentation could have been provided to the SCP in advance, such as the Sample Collection and Venue Manual or sport-specific protocols.

Another element that affected the smooth running of the Sample Collection Sessions was the lack of experience and the many challenges associated with the management of chaperones. Their regular absence due to not reporting for duty resulted in DCOs acting as chaperones, causing confusion in the DCS and sometimes forcing the IPC team to reduce the number of tests to be conducted. To address the absence of chaperones, Paris 2024 had to recruit volunteers from other functional areas with limited training for the role, leading to accreditation issues in some venues. In addition, the DCO/chaperone briefing that took place prior to each Sample Collection Session could have been better managed. The IO team noted a lack of consistency in this exercise, which led to confusion in the leadership of the DCS, and at times it also felt that as the chaperones were under the management of Paris 2024 LOC, the chaperone coordinator should not have been an IDCO, but rather a specific individual dedicated to the task. Given the limited experience of the Chaperones a Chaperone prompt sheet / que card was developed to highlight the key information that needed to be communicated to the athlete, and which was included in several languages to assist with the notification procedure and chaperoning the athlete to the DCS.



NOTIFICATION

Anti-Doping Chaperone Prompt Sheet

ENGLISH

- Hello, my name is [your name] and I'm an anti-doping chaperone.
- You have been selected for a doping control.
- Firstly, can you confirm that you understand that you have been notified for doping control? You have the right to be accompanied by a representative. If you are under 18, we strongly advise you to bring a representative with you. Do you wish to have a representative ?
- Could you show me your accreditation, please? Please sign the notification form to confirm the information.
- You will be chaperoned to the Doping Control Station; whilst being chaperoned you are responsible for staying within my sight at all times
- Have you been tested before?
- You are required to provide a urine and/or blood sample.
- Should you choose to eat or drink before providing the sample you do so at your own risk. Sealed drinks are provided at the DCS but please do not over-hydrate.
- You must not urinate before arriving at the doping control station. Once there you will be required to provide your sample whilst being observed by a officer of the same gender.
- You should report immediately to the Doping Control Station, are you ready to go now?

KEY WORDS

English	Doping Control Station	Representants	Accreditation	Urine /Blood
French	Station de contrôle anti-dopage	Représentants	Accréditation	Urine /Sang
Spanish	Estación de control antidopaje	Representantes	Acreditación	Orina/sangre
Chinese	兴奋剂检查站	代表	认证	尿液/血液
Japanese	ドーピング・コントロール・ステーション	代表者	認定	尿/血液
Italian	Stazione di controllo del doping	Rappresentanti	Accreditamento	Urina/sangue
Portuguese	Estação de Controlo de Dopagem	Representantes	Acreditação	Urina/sangue
Arabic	محطة مراقبة المنشطات	الممثلون	الاعتماد	البول / الدم
Russian	Станция допинг-контроля	Представители	Аккредитация	Моча / Кровь

Commendation No 9

IPC, **AFLD**: The IO Team commends the IPC/AFLD for the swift action taken to resolve matters once feedback was received from IO team members including the printing of all modifications for athletes with impairments to be registered on Doping Control Forms as well as making automatic the question related to athletes using eyes drops that could lead to Dorzolamide/Brinzolamide AAFs.

Commendation No 10

IPC: In general, the IO team commends the DCCC staff and the field staff for their efforts to ensure that the DCS was well equipped and for constantly trying to implement the daily missions with good practices, including the relocation of a number of DCSs to nearer to the exit point from the field of play due to the original DCSs being too far from the field of play.

Recommendation No 24

IPC, **SCA, LOC**: To develop and share a list of documents, including venue and Sample Collection Manual, sport-specific protocols, earlier in the process to minimize problems on the first day at a competition venue. The IPC could consider having a contact point within the IFs to facilitate cooperation in the preparation of the notification process and to understand any specific aspects of the sports that SCP should be aware of.

Recommendation No 25

IPC, **SCA** (associated to recommendation 20): The IO Team recommends that the IPC and SCA place greater emphasis on the specificity of Sample collection for Athletes with impairments. Best practices such as waiting for the athlete to request assistance, the presence of a support person for athletes with visual or mental impairments, and direct communication with these athletes is required to be implemented consistently.

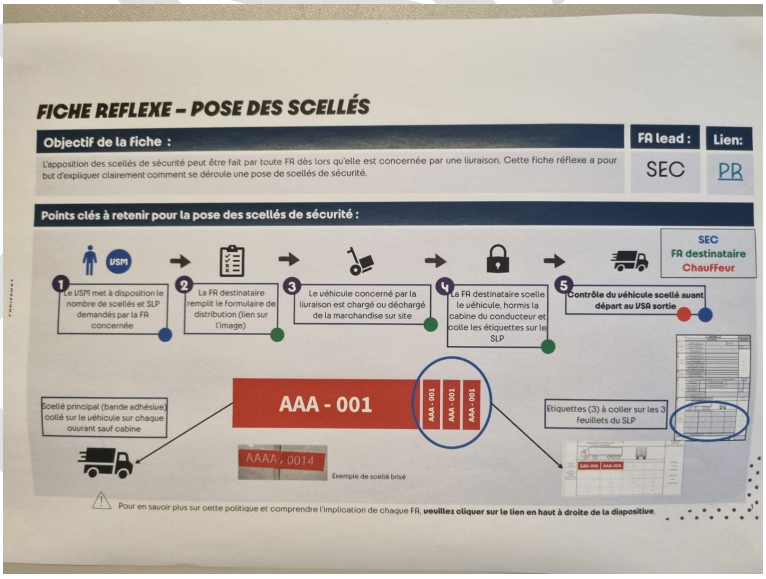
10.0 Analysis of Sample in Long Term Storage Pre-Games

The IO Team notes that the IPC has all samples it collects annually and during the Games period, stored centrally at the Ghent laboratory. Prior to the Games the IPC conducted further analysis on 12 samples that were in long term storage belonging to athletes that were foreseen to compete at the Games. All samples from Paris2024 will be sent to the IPC storage facility at the Ghent laboratory for long term storage.

11.0 Lab, transport

Paris 2024 was responsible for the temporary storage of samples and their onward transport to the WADA-accredited laboratory in Paris. For the Olympic Games, it was decided to set up a special secure area in the laboratory's car park, called the "Anti-Doping Hub", to which only accredited persons had access. The purpose of the Hub was to streamline the delivery of samples to the laboratory. Staff at the Hub collected the samples delivered by the courier each morning, checked documentation and stored samples prior to delivery to the laboratory. Once collected from the DCS and transported to the hub, all sample boxes were stored in a secure and refrigerated container at 4°C.

In all DCSs, the collected urine and blood samples were placed in sealed boxes containing a tracer and two numbered seals. The collection of samples was scheduled to take place each day approximately 2 to 3 hours after the end of the last test at each venue. The samples were collected by a courier under the responsibility of Paris 2024. Prior to putting the samples into the courier van, the DCSM unseals the transport vehicle, collects the empty boxes to be stored at the DCS, returns the sealed box containing the samples collected and completes the transport documentation. The DCSM then re-seals the rear door of the van transporting the samples. Paris 2024 used the courier's online platform to track the samples using the box number.



The IO team did not have the opportunity to observe the operation of the WADA-accredited laboratory in Paris during the Games, however the IO Team did follow the transport of samples from the venues to the Hub and the reception of the samples by the dedicated person at the Hub. The main challenge was the use of paper DCFs, which increased the workload for the laboratory staff. It is also worth noticing that, unlike for the Olympics, the laboratory continued to provide their normal services by receiving and analyzing samples from other ADOs during the Games.

Commendation No 11

Paris 2024: The Hub system was cost effective and efficient.

12.0 TUE

Athletes may have illnesses or conditions that require them to take medication(s) or use (a) prohibited method(s) that are on the Prohibited List. A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) may give an athlete the authorization to use (a) prohibited substance(s) or method(s) while competing in sport if it is in accordance with the International Standard for TUEs (ISTUE). The purpose of the ISTUE is to ensure that the process of granting TUEs is harmonized across sports and countries. All TUE requests for the granting of a new TUE or for recognition of an existing TUE were reviewed by the IPC TUEC. All TUE requests for the granting of a new TUE or for recognition of an existing TUE were reviewed by the IPC TUEC. The IO team reviewed the processes and procedures for handling TUEs at the Paralympic Games, but did not review the content of the medical files or the rationale for the decisions made by the IPC Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) to recognize, grant or refuse a TUE. This is the role of the WADA TUEC, which has the right of review and appeal in these matters.

The IPC based its TUE process for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games on the applicable Articles of the IPC Anti-Doping Code. All athletes registered to compete at the Paralympic Games were considered International Athletes (for anti-doping purposes) for the Games period. The process was shared on multiple occasions with NPCs and was available on the IPC website. As with previous Games, the IO Team is of the opinion that the IPC had a compliant and effective TUE process in place for the Games.

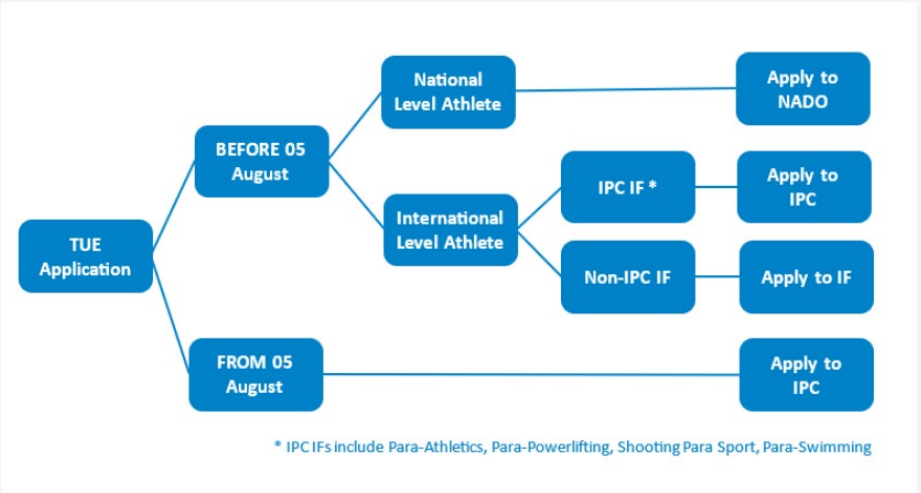
The IPC took several initiatives to inform Athletes and their support personnel of the TUE issue and the applicable procedures, including Pre-Games communication with the NPC chef de mission, a letter to the NPC team physician and a meeting were both were invited that was held in the Athletes Village just prior to the Games, as well as other medical sessions. The IO team noted that these communications are mainly focused on NPCs and could be extended in advance of the Games to NADOs/IFs to increase their impact.

The recognition of TUEs is always a key issue at major events. As published on its website, the IPC had a process in place that allowed for automatic recognition of TUE decisions (or categories of such decisions i.e., certain substances or methods) made by certain ADOs without undergoing an IPC TUEC review. The complete list of eligible NADOs and IFs for automatic recognition was made available on the IPC website. If the TUE is not automatically recognised, athletes must submit a request for recognition prior to the Games. As recommended in previous Games, some further clarification of the

wording in the anti-doping section of the website is needed to remove any possibility of confusion for athletes and support staff as to how recognition applies depending on their country and/or ADO and the substance.

A total of 29 new TUEs were submitted prior to the Games, of which 27 were approved and 2 were rejected. In addition, 13 TUEs were submitted and approved during the Games period. There were 160 TUEs recognized during the pre-Games period. There was no retroactive TUE applications during the Games.

The process was as following:



A major innovation that must be highlighted is the launch of a medication website by the IPC on 20 August 2024 where medication could be searched by brand or individual ingredients, to identify any prohibited substances based on the current Prohibited List. The IO team found this tool to be extremely useful for athletes and support staff, and it should certainly be used at future events.

The administration of the TUE process at the Games was managed by the IPC TUE Manager, who was present throughout the Games. The IPC used members of its Standing Committee, as its TUEC, which consisted of a chair and four members, all of whom are experienced. Although still linked to the IPC Medical Committee, the activities of the TUEC members were more separated than previous Games. The chair and three of the four members were on site during the Games.

Commendation No 12

IPC: The IO team warmly commends the IPC for the introduction of its Medication Check tool, which has proved to be very useful for athletes. Now that the tool is in place, the IPC must use the time between now and the next Games to promote the tool to athletes and their support staff and consider integrating it into all its educational activities.

Recommendation No 26

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC clarify the automatic approval process and update the TUE information on the website, in particular to ensure consistency between general and Games-specific information.

13.0 Result Management

Result Management (RM) was an important part of the IO team's observation as the IPC had several adverse analytical findings during the Games, which increased the pressure on the on-site team responsible for the initial review. The IO team's observation of the process did not go beyond the end of the Games the Games, but with 33 seven Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) reported, including 18 Dorzolamide/Brinzolamide findings, the IO team had many opportunities to observe and found the results management process was conducted in a very professional and smooth manner in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM). A total of 9 AAFs have been pursued (or still are) by the IPC while 24 AAFs were not moved forward due to either the presence of a valid TUE (8) or ingestion by a permitted road (16).

It is also important to highlight that the IPC managed to limit the interdependence of its IF and MEO roles from an RM perspective, which was regularly highlighted as an area for improvement in the previous report.

The initial review was conducted in a timely manner by an IPC staff member who was well prepared with appropriate templates for all stages of the process, including the Provisional Suspensions that were imposed on three occasions. A good IPC practice was to physically notify the NPC representative and the athlete to avoid any delay in the management of the case. However, follow-up notification by email was sent to only to the NPC and not necessarily to the athlete's direct email. This will need to be prioritized by the IPC if it is available on the DCF.

An independent anti-doping tribunal handled all cases where an anti-doping rule violation may have occurred. See the next section for information on this tribunal.

A challenge regularly identified at major Games is the issue of pending results of Sample analysis or on-going results management for cases managed by NADOs or IFs and relating to Athletes who will be competing during the Games. The IO team noted the initiatives taken by the IPC to liaise with these Anti-Doping Organizations prior to the Games, as well as WADA's communications in this regard. Despite these efforts, a critical situation arose with one Athlete for whom the RM process was not completed, but the IPC managed the situation in an appropriate manner.

From the IO team's perspective, the committed changes in the IPC's role as IF could reinforce this challenge for future Games as the IPC will lose visibility on four additional summer sports. The lack of

visibility of the IPC on certain cases managed by NADOs or IFs but having a potential impact on qualification for the Games was also raised by the IPC legal team.

The IO team would also like to highlight the handling of Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) cases involving the substances Dorzolamide/ Brinzolamide; a substance that is prohibited depending on the route of administration and that could be detected in the analysis of athletes using eye drops medication. As such situation does not allow access to a TUE, the IPC had a clear process to manage these cases, in a timely manner, to confirm the Apparent Ingestion through Permitted Route[1] .

Commendation No 13

IPC: The IO Team commends the IPC for the effectiveness of its initial review process observed during the Games, as well as the specific protocol in place for the management of AAFs related to Dorzolamide/ Brinzolamide AAFs, including close cooperation with the APMU and the laboratory. The IO Team encourages the IPC to continue cooperating with WADA and the anti-doping community to identify tools that can help facilitate the management of those cases.

Recommendation No 27

IPC, **WADA**: It is essential that the IPC, with the support of WADA, works to ensure that all outstanding results and unresolved cases are received and addressed prior to the start of the Games. To this end, it is recommended that the IPC strengthen its regular relationship with the NADOs and IFs to establish efficient cooperation mechanisms. On WADA's side, strengthening athletes' identification and preventing duplication of ADAMS profiles must be ensured to facilitate pre-games activities in testing and results management.

Note: The 2027 draft International Standard for Testing has a number of new mechanisms proposed in an attempt to reduce the number of outstanding results for athletes who are scheduled to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games for samples collected prior to the Games. In addition, MEOs will be able to see based on the 'long list' of athletes uploaded into ADAMS whether there are samples that have been collected prior to the Games that do not have a result reported in ADAMS. This will enable the MEO to then contact the applicable IF or NADO to ascertain when the reporting of the result will occur with a view to ensure as many results as possible are reported prior to the athlete's first competition at the Games.

Recommendation No 28

WADA: The IO Team recommends that WADA encourages all ADOs to extend the implementation of the existing right[2] for MEOs to be informed and to appeal decisions of Anti-Doping Organizations that affect their events.

13.1 **Independent Anti-Doping Tribunal**:

For the adjudicative part of the Results Management Process, the IPC established an Independent Anti-Doping Tribunal in 2021, consisting of 20 members. As suggested in the previous IO report, the IPC has made Appendix A to the IPC Anti-Doping Code, which sets out the rules of the Independent Anti-Doping Tribunal, readily available on the website, as well as the members and structure of the Tribunal for easy access by athletes.

[1] ISRM 5.1.1.3
[2] 13.2.3.1.e of ISRM

For the purposes of the Games, the Tribunal dealt only with provisional suspensions, disqualifications and the recovery of prize money. The various cases observed during the Games were referred to the Chairman by the Secretariat and then dealt with by written procedure, including hearings. The IO team noted that the secretariat of the Tribunal was handled by a member of the IPC AD Team.

Recommendation No 29

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC appoints or outsources the secretariat of the IPC Anti-Doping Tribunal to an entity outside the organization to strengthen the independence of the Tribunal from the IPC Anti-Doping Team.

14.0 Education and Athletes Engagement

Education of Athletes and their support staff is a key element in promoting a clean sport environment, and Anti-Doping Organizations have important responsibilities as defined in the International Standard for Education (ISE). For this edition of the Games, the IPC focused on pre-Games education. Most of the activities were organized during the pre-Games period with the aim of respecting WADA's key principle that an athlete's first experience of anti-doping should be through education rather than through the doping control process.

a. Pre-Games Education

The IPC, in collaboration with WADA, developed a Paris 2024 Anti-Doping E-Learning (ADEL) course for athletes and support personnel. The course provides an overview of the anti-doping program at the Games and key dates during the Games, roles and responsibilities and the TUE application process. ADEL for Paris 2024 was launched in March 2024 and communicated to the entire anti-doping community through a joint WADA-IPC communication. The course was available in 13 languages to reach the maximum number of participants.

The IPC empowered NPCs by encouraging them to make completion of this course mandatory for all members of their delegation attending the Paralympic Games - particularly in the absence of a robust education program from their NADO or RADO.

The IPC also promoted three other ADEL courses: International Level Athletes Education, Coaches of High-Performance Education and ADEL for Medical Professionals at Major Games which was mandatory for medical support personnel.

The IO team noted that 1883 people enrolled in the Paris2024 ADEL course specifically dedicated to the Games, which is an important first step, but noted that there was no close monitoring by the IPC or NPCs of course completion.

Recommendation No 30

IPC: As highlighted in previous IO reports, the IO team recommends that the IPC strengthen the monitoring of Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) education prior to the Games for instance by making the completion of the specific Games e-learning a mandatory element of eligibility or by strengthening the role and expectations of the NPCs.

b. Games Time Education

The IO team observed that the IPC's Games time education activities focused on sharing links and information in the DCS. To this end, posters containing a QR code leading to WADA documents such as Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities (available in several languages) were placed in all DCS. These were not always easy to identify and did not include information on the poster itself. In addition, the QR

code did not land on user-friendly pages, requiring multiple clicks to access the information. Whilst QR codes provide important additional information for athletes and supporters, they would be more effective if used in conjunction with other visual or printed information, including videos.

Recommendation No 31

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC adopt an education plan specific to its MEO role, covering all elements of the ISE, including educational activities at the Games.

c. Athlete Perspectives

It was clear to the IO team that athletes and support staff were aware of the anti-doping process. From notification to testing, most athletes seemed comfortable and accepted the anti-doping process as a normal part of the competition experience. Most athletes with whom the IO team interacted had been through an anti-doping control process prior to the Paralympic Games. This reflects the work carried out by the IPC, NPCs, IFs and NADOs. There were, of course, exceptions, which were generally handled well. The importance of education was evident in cases of Athletes who had previously used different sample collection kits or slightly different sample collection procedures.

d. Athletes Engagement

Although outside the scope of the observation, the IO team would like to mention that the Athletes Engagement Booth, set up by WADA in close collaboration with the IPC, was a success, providing the opportunity to interact with thousands of competing athletes and their support staff within the Athletes Village. The WADA athlete teams were made up of representatives from 3 countries and included athlete leaders from the WADA Athlete Council and various athlete representative bodies.

APPENDIX 1 - Collated Commendations and Recommendations

a. Commendations

Commendation No 1

IPC, **AFLD**: The IO team commends the IPC and AFLD for their decision to involve several volunteers from other ADOs in the DCCC, including colleagues from NADOs who will be involved in the delivery of other Games in the near future. Such collaboration was beneficial to the program, to strengthening inter-organizational cooperation, and to the legacy of the Games.

Commendation No 2

Paris 2024, **AFLD**: The IO Team commends Paris 2024 LOC and AFLD for having setting-up a system of 24/7 hotlines allowing SCP to raise in real time any concerns and challenges to the DCCC.

Commendation No 3

IPC: The IPC must be commended for the establishment of a Pre-Games Task Force with an ambitious scope of activities and objectives in its inaugural year of operation. The Taskforce contributed to an increase in the level of awareness and identified gaps in ADOs activities for Para athletes which was beneficial for this edition of the Games as well as globally for the Anti-Doping community. The Taskforce members must also be commended for their contributions, commitment and the achievements from their hard work.

Commendation No 4

IPC: The IO team commends the important cooperation between the IPC and WADA to send regular reminders to the Anti-Doping community regarding testing requirements, timely analysis of sample collected and Results Management activities in preparation for the Games.

Commendation No 5

IPC: The IO team commends the IPC for the timely provision of the participating athletes 'long list' so it could be uploaded into ADAMS and strongly encourages that a similar timeline is maintained for future editions of the Games.

Commendation No 6

IPC: The IO team acknowledges the tremendous work done by the IPC to produce a comprehensive RA based on objective criteria and data as well as expertise gained over the years.

Commendation No 7

IPC: The IO Team commends the IPC for strengthening the existing system of cooperation with APMUs. The cooperation must be continued between the Games in order to develop the knowledge of all APMUs on Para Sport.

Commendation No 8

IPC: The IO Team would commend the IPC for the quality of the Doping Control Guide for Testing **IPC**: The IO Team commends the IPC for the quality of the Doping Control Guide for Testing Athletes in Para Sport and encourage the IPC to use it even more extensively at future events.

Commendation No 9

IPC, **AFLD**: The IO Team commends the IPC/AFLD for the swift action taken to resolve matters once feedback was received from IO team members including the printing of all modifications for athletes

with impairments to be registered on Doping Control Forms as well as making automatic the question related to athletes using eyes drops that could lead to Dorzolamide/Brinzolamide AAFs.

Commendation No 10

IPC: In general, the IO team commends the DCCC staff and the field staff for their efforts to ensure that the DCS was well equipped and for constantly trying to implement the daily missions with good practices, including the relocation of a number of DCSs to nearer to the exit point from the field of play due to the original DCSs being too far from the field of play.

Commendation No 11

Paris 2024: The Hub system was cost effective and efficient.

Commendation No 12

IPC: The IO team warmly commends the IPC for the introduction of its Medication Check tool, which has proved to be very useful for athletes. Now that the tool is in place, the IPC must use the time between now and the next Games to promote the tool to athletes and their support staff and consider integrating it into all its educational activities.

Commendation No 13

IPC: The IO Team commends the IPC for the effectiveness of its initial review process observed during the Games, as well as the specific protocol in place for the management of AAFs related to Dorzolamide/ Brinzolamide AAFs, including close cooperation with the APMU and the laboratory. The IO Team encourages the IPC to continue cooperating with WADA and the anti-doping community to identify tools that can help facilitate the management of those cases.

b. Recommendations

Recommendation No 1

WADA, **IPC**: It is recommended that WADA and the IPC explore ways to strengthen the exchanges and sharing of documents with the IO team at an earlier stage in the leading up to the Games.

Recommendation No 2

IPC: Acknowledging the challenges in dealing with LOC organizing both the Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as the important efforts made by the IPC prior to the Games, the IO Team recommends that the IPC reinforces cooperation with the LOC/SCA during the preparation phase for future editions for example by setting-up clear milestones with the actors involved that could be monitored to guarantee that specific needs and requirements of the event are better integrated in the LOC/SCA planning of activities

Recommendation No 3

IPC, LOC, NADO To guarantee smooth implementation of the testing program during the event and real time management of any crisis, the IO team recommends that all parties (IPC, the LOC and the NADO) uphold a one team approach both in the lead up and during the Games (within the DCCC).

Recommendation No 4

IPC: The above mentioned changes undertaken by IPC regarding its role as IF, combined with the limited resources that other ADOs have to test Para Athletes, lead the IO Team to recommend that the IPC consider extending its jurisdiction a few weeks/months prior to the Games to allow the IPC, or a delegated third party such as the local NADO, to coordinate testing on behalf of the IPC for Athletes who may not have been adequately tested in the lead-up to the Games, prior to their arrival on site. This is similar to what the IOC has in place for the Olympic Games.

Recommendation No 5

IPC: The IO team recommends that the IPC consider how best it could present its Anti-Doping procedures related to its MEO role on the website for instance by highlighting the MEO specific elements in all sections or create cross connection with the page dedicated to a specific edition of the Games.

Recommendation No 6

IPC: It is recommended that the IPC build on the learnings from this first experience with its Taskforce model and make it a permanent fixture for future editions of the Games and consider ways to fine-tune its function and scope for future Games

Recommendation No 7

WADA, **ADOs**: To increase the efficiency of Pre-Games Task Force, the IO Team recommends that, with due regard for the ISPPPI, WADA and the entire Anti-Doping community explore ways to expand the access to the most recent testing figures from ADOs involved in the preparation of the Games, in a user-friendly manner, such as a dashboard, which could provide an overview of the testing of para sports by IFs and NADOs which could then help fine tune the risk assessment as well as improve the quality of the data shared and facilitate the effectiveness of the Task Force.

Recommendation No 8

IPC: The IO team encourages the IPC to reinforce the cooperation with all ADOs playing a role in the preparation of athletes for the Games. One option that could be considered is to establish one contact point in all applicable ADOs with expertise on Para activities that could support common activities.

Recommendation No 9

WADA: The IO team recommends that WADA considers expanding its existing monitoring practices of ADOs performance in testing athletes with impairments as well as encouraging initiatives aiming at increasing those numbers.

Recommendation No 10

IPC, WADA: The IO team recommends that the IPC continues to explore possibilities for the permanent use of a paperless system during their events, and as applicable enter into earlier discussions with future LOCs. The IO team would also encourage WADA to continue working towards the development of a paperless system that could support ADOs work during major events.

Recommendation No 11

LOC, **IPC, AFLD**: The IO team recommends that methods of communication in the DCCC including between the SCA staff, and the workforce onsite are harmonized to ensure that information is safely communicated in a secure way to the relevant audience.

Recommendation No 12

IPC: **IPC**: It is recommended that the IPC consider how they can facilitate the access and the reading of the RA for the IO team who may wish to provide recommendations or feedback prior to the Games

Recommendation No 13

IPC, **IFs, NADOs**: Refining the knowledge of certain low-risk disciplines for instance by increasing research related to physical and the physiological requirements would allow the IPC to sharpen the testing strategy to those sports during the Games.

Recommendation No 14

IPC: To maximize the effectiveness of each OOCT Sample collected, to facilitate the work of the SCA and to make the most of the risk assessment, the IO Team recommends that the IPC provide the SCA

with more precise information on the desired date and time of OOCT testing for as many athletes as possible.

Recommendation No 15

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC use all available information, including ADAMS RTP location information, to ensure that it provides sufficient and up-to-date information to the SCA. In addition, the IPC is encouraged to explore roads to improve the efficiency of whereabouts collection for instance by introducing more immediate methods of incentivising NPCs to submit whereabout or by identifying any technological support (e.g. consider use of a rooming app as used for the Olympics) that the SCA and/or LOC can provide in the preparatory phase to assist in locating Athletes during the Games. Finally, the IPC may wish to consider increasing pre-Games cooperation with NPCs on this issue and establishing a clear timeline with possible consequences.

Recommendation No 16

IPC: The IO Team recommends that where possible the IPC conduct test events in venues and sports where athlete selection will be performed live during the Games. The test event could replicate those scenarios to ensure that the SCA is adequately equipped and capable of absorbing and managing the demands of live athlete selection without disruption as well as identifying potential challenges in the venues. Such scenario could also be included in SCP training, to familiarize them with the functioning of the live selection of athletes. This proactive approach will improve coordination, reduce errors and ensure that the live selection process operates efficiently and effectively during actual events.

Recommendation No 17

IPC: The IO team noted that in certain sports (shooting, badminton, cycling) specific analyses for Growth Hormone Releasing Factors (GHRF) were systematically requested for all samples. The IPC could consider transferring some GHRF analyses in lower risk sports to other types of additional analyses in higher risk sports.

Recommendation 18

IPC: The IO team recommends that the IPC build on the experience of the Pre-Games Task Force to formalize the regular sharing of information by other Anti-Doping Organizations and consider establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the local NADO and law enforcement agencies to establish systematic information sharing during the Games.

Recommendation 19

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC build on the use of the “Speak-Up” platform to continuously promote the reporting of information to all relevant stakeholders prior to the next Games.

Recommendation No 20

IPC: Following on from the previous recommendation, and with the aim of making better use of the Guide in the preparation of staff for the event, the IPC should ensure that sharing of best practices related to Para athletes (visual/intellectual impairment, and representatives) is central during the refresher course for the SCP.

One suggestion would be to include scenarios during the SCP training that covers past experiences of DCOs with athletes with impairments that could prepare them for situations they may experience during the Games.

Recommendation No 21

WADA, **IPC**, **All**: To pursue the efforts to ensure that modules on the specifics of Sample collection for Athletes with impairments (e.g. use of catheters, visual impairment) are included in the regular DCO training provided by NADOs and service providers.

Recommendation No 22

IPC, **LOC**: For the IPC to use all available ways to increase its influence on the recruitment of SCP and the planning methods chosen to manage them during the Games for example by raising the minimum requirements for SCP working conditions and putting this on the agenda at an early stage to facilitate LOC discussion with other functional areas.

All logistical elements that impact SCP must be confirmed well before the Games (accommodation, transport, subsistence, confidentiality).

Recommendation No 23

WADA: The IO Team recommends that WADA places more emphasis on the important roles that SCP play in the success of the anti-doping program and the importance for MEOs to guarantee minimum standards in the working conditions of the SCP.

Recommendation No 24

IPC, **SCA, LOC**: To develop and share a list of documents, including venue and Sample Collection Manual, sport-specific protocols, earlier in the process to minimize problems on the first day at a competition venue. The IPC could consider having a contact point within the IFs to facilitate cooperation in the preparation of the notification process and to understand any specific aspects of the sports that SCP should be aware of.

Recommendation No 25

IPC, **future SCA** (associated to recommendation 20): The IO Team recommends that the IPC and the future SCA place greater emphasis on the specificity of Sample collection for Athletes with impairments. Best practices such as waiting for the athlete to request assistance, the presence of a support person for athletes with visual or mental impairments, and direct communication with these athletes is required to be implemented consistently.

Recommendation No 26

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC clarify the automatic approval process and update the TUE information on the website, in particular to ensure consistency between general and Games-specific information.

Recommendation No 27

IPC, **WADA**: It is essential that the IPC, with the support of WADA, works to ensure that all outstanding results and unresolved cases are received and addressed prior to the start of the Games. To this end, it is recommended that the IPC strengthen its regular relationship with the NADOs and IFs to establish efficient cooperation mechanisms. On WADA's side, strengthening athletes' identification and preventing duplication of ADAMS profiles must be ensured to facilitate pre-games activities in testing and results management.

Recommendation 28

WADA: The IO Team recommends that WADA encourages all ADOs to extend the implementation of the existing right*3* for MEOs to be informed and to appeal decisions of Anti-Doping Organizations that affect their events.

Recommendation 29

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC appoints or outsources the secretariat of the IPC Anti-Doping Tribunal to an entity outside the organization to strengthen the independence of the Tribunal from the IPC Anti-Doping Team.

Recommendation 30

IPC: As highlighted in previous IO reports, the IO team recommends that the IPC strengthen the monitoring of Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) education prior to the Games for instance by making the completion of the specific Games e-learning a mandatory element of eligibility or by strengthening the role and expectations of the NPCs.

Recommendation 31

IPC: The IO Team recommends that the IPC adopt an education plan specific to its MEO role, covering all elements of the ISE, including educational activities at the Games.

[3] 13.2.3.1.e of ISRM

APPENDIX 2 - Statistics

Figure 1: Statistics by Date and by Type of Test

Date	IC	OOC	Total
21/8/2024	0	7	7
22/8/2024	0	68	68
23/8/2024	0	194	194
24/8/2024	0	152	152
25/8/2024	0	109	109
26/8/2024	0	94	94
27/8/2024	0	190	190
28/8/2024	0	136	136
29/8/2024	66	157	223
30/8/2024	107	63	170
31/8/2024	125	35	160
1/9/2024	104	52	156
2/9/2024	161	73	234
3/9/2024	92	44	136
4/9/2024	98	0	98
5/9/2024	164	0	164
6/9/2024	158	0	158
7/9/2024	160	0	160
8/9/2024	68	0	68
Total	**1303**	1374	**2677**

Figure 2: Statistics by Sport and by Type of Test

Sport	Discipline	IC	OOC	Total
Archery	Para Archery	19	0	19
Badminton	Para Badminton	32	0	32
Basketball	Wheelchair Basketball	49	20	69
Blind Football	IBSA Blind Football	24	10	35
Boccia	Para Boccia	10	0	10
Canoe	Para Canoe	41	54	95
Cycling	Para Cycling	107	173	280
Equestrian	Para Equestrian	4	0	4
Fencing	Wheelchair Fencing	21	0	21
Goalball	Goalball	32	0	32
Judo	Para Judo	58	120	178
Para Athletics	All Para Athletics disciplines	402	338	740
Para Powerlifting	Para Powerlifting	76	245	321
Para Swimming	All Para swimming disciplines	186	173	359
Para Volley (Sitting Volleyball)	Para Volley Sitting	26	0	26
Rowing	Para Rowing	30	72	102
Rugby Union	Wheelchair Rugby	24	9	33
Shooting Para Sport	Shooting Para Sport	26	0	26
Table Tennis	Para Table Tennis	52	0	52
Taekwondo	Para Taekwondo-Kyorugi	31	19	50
Tennis	Wheelchair Tennis	16	13	29
Triathlon	Para Triathlon	37	128	165
Total		**1303**	**1374**	**2677**

Figure 3: Statistics by Specific Analysis and Type of Test

Specific analysis	IC	OOC	Total
Endocrine Profile	4	47	97 51
EPO (urine and blood analysis)	98	267	364 365
GC/IRMS	41	51	92
GH Isoforms	5	258	85 263
GHRF (GHS/GHRP)	1276	727	1981 2003
GnRH	1276	727	1981 2003
Steroid Blood Profile	1	32	34 33

Figure 4: Statistics of ATF and AAF

Test Type	Analysis Result	Test Type	Substances
IC	ATF	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	19-norandrosterone
OOC	ATF	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	19-norandrosterone

Test Type	Analysis Result	Substance Class	Substances
IC	Triathlon	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	19-norandrosterone
OOC	Cycling	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS); S2. Peptide Hormones, Growth Factors, Related Substances and Mimetics	stanozolol; erythropoietin (EPO)
OOC	Para Powerlifting	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	stanozolol
OOC	Para Powerlifting	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	The GC/C/IRMS result for Boldenone and/or boldenone metabolite(s) is consistent with an exogenous origin
OOC	Cycling	S5. Diuretics and Masking Agents	chlortalidone
OOC	Para Athletics	S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS)	methasterone
IC	Para Swimming	S6. Stimulants	methamfetamine (D-); amfetamine
IC	Para Athletics	S5. Diuretics and Masking Agents	brinzolamide
IC	Table Tennis	S5. Diuretics and Masking Agents	dorzolamide