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**Story Headline:** A more independent anti-doping system to strengthen sport integrity at the Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018.

**Location:** PyeongChang and Seoul, Republic of Korea.

**Date:** 3rd February 2018

**STORY SCRIPT**

Anti-doping measures at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 will be the most comprehensive and independent in Olympic history, according to the IOC’s medical chief.

IOC Medical Director Richard Budgett said: “In PyeongChang we are even more independent than in Rio and we are actually using the Global Association of International Federations in Sport to provide the decisions around who to test when and where, the so called ‘Test Distribution Plan’ to do all the therapeutic use exemptions and to decide which adverse analytical findings should go forward to a prosecution to become, maybe, an anti-doping rule violation. So it is as independent as possible and it also brings great new expertise to the games in doping control.”

There are more than 2400 urine and blood tests planned in PyeongChang - over 1000 in-competition and over 1400 out-of-competition.
Head of FCC (Functional Coordination Centre) Doping Control Minjung Seo said: "The IOC and WADA and pre games task force team gather the information from all around the world; we can have whistleblowers, some intelligence gathered by national anti-doping agencies or international federations, so IOC, WADA and ITA gather the information and we talk about that, we discuss it for a long time and then we decide who should be tested."

The doping control system has undergone a considerable overhaul since evidence of systematic, state-sponsored doping emerged in the aftermath of the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

It led to the creation of the International Testing Agency (ITA), a not-for-profit foundation set-up to provide doping control and related services to international federations (IFs) and major events. But as the ITA is not yet fully up and running, the Doping Free Sport Unit (DFSU), an independent body within the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), has stepped in and taken on many of the ITA’s future tasks.
Added Budgett: “At the Games we do a lot of out of competition testing because there is a lot of evidence that is very effective. Every athlete who does well at a Games knows they are going to be tested at the end of competition but we will be doing over 1000 tests in competition and over 1400 tests out of competition. With the blood samples as well there are over two and a half thousand tests all together.”

BACKGROUND

POCOG

From 1 February 2018, the day the Athletes’ Village officially opened, POCOG’s anti-doping division has taken responsibility for the following:

· Selecting the athletes to be tested as per the Test Distribution Plan (TDP)
· Notifying the athletes who will be tested
· Supervising and collecting samples
· Securing and transporting samples from the doping control stations to the laboratory
· Receiving and analysing the samples in the laboratory
· Reporting back any adverse analytical findings within 24 hours

The DFSU

The DFSU has taken over many of the core tasks carried out by the IOC at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Firstly, it chairs a daily meeting during the Games which advises POCOG on any amendments to the TDP, based on new intelligence or changed circumstance.

Secondly, it is the body which rules on whether any adverse analytical findings move forward to possible anti-doping violations. It is the DFSU which checks for approved Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), as well as being
responsible for determining that no human or technical error could have related in the adverse finding.

CAS
The CAS will be responsible for convening anti-doping case hearings, on-site in Republic of Korea.

WADA
WADA will have an independent observer team on the ground in PyeongChang, with responsibility for auditing the doping control process.

Games-time testing
The POCOG team, consisting of 1000 staff, carry out the testing programme. The samples are analysed at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) in Seoul. Established in 1984, WADA-accredited and responsible for
analysing around 5000 samples each year, the KIST has a strong global reputation.

POCOG has, thanks to the revelations from Sochi 2014 doping control laboratory, invested heavily in additional security measures at the KIST.

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