

IPC Taskforce: progress report, May 2017

This report is provided on behalf of the IPC Taskforce and summarises the progress that the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) has made to date in meeting the conditions for reinstatement established by the IPC (which conditions are available at www.paralympic.org/russian-paralympic-committee-suspension).

A. Progress to date

1. The RPC Coordination Committee continues to work hard to do what is necessary to meet the reinstatement conditions, and the Taskforce is encouraged by the progress made by the RPC to date. In particular:
 - (a) Since the last progress report the Taskforce and the RPC have developed a detailed roadmap for the RPC's reinstatement to membership of the IPC, based on the reinstatement criteria.
 - (b) The Taskforce has held a number of constructive meetings with (among others) the Russian Minister for Sport and other government officials.
 - (c) A positive meeting was held with the RPC Coordination Committee in May 2017, to review progress on the reinstatement criteria and to discuss certain operational matters relating to testing.
 - (d) The Taskforce continues to have a good working relationship and dialogue with the RPC Coordination Committee.
 - (e) The Taskforce is continuing to liaise as necessary with relevant third parties, including WADA and RUSADA.
2. However, as mentioned in the February 2017 progress report, the Taskforce continues to have significant concerns regarding the lack of any material progress on the following fundamental issues (despite efforts made by the RPC in this respect):

The findings made by Professor McLaren

- 2.1 A central requirement of the reinstatement criteria is the provision of an official response specifically and adequately addressing the findings made by Professor McLaren, including the findings of an institutionalised and wide-ranging doping conspiracy and cover-up, and



the involvement in that scheme of (among others) officials from the Ministry of Sport, the Centre of Sports Preparation of National Teams of Russia, and the FSB. In that respect, we note again the findings of the CAS Panel in Russian Paralympic Committee v International Paralympic Committee, CAS 2016/A/4745, at paragraph 95:

'What has occurred in Russia was not a minor breach of an obligation or a random failure. Instead, this situation of noncompliance has been ongoing for many years ... The RPC has not established that there was at the time of the Decision, or now, a systemic cure for the systemic failure that occurred within the RPC jurisdiction and "on the RPC's watch" and that clearly demonstrated that there had, at the least, been a marked failure by the RPC to fulfil its obligations to ensure compliance with its Anti-Doping Policy.'

- 2.2 As communicated by the Taskforce on a number of occasions, the Taskforce considers that Professor McLaren's findings must be specifically addressed, whether by acknowledging the findings and tackling the problems, or by properly rebutting the findings. Unless and until the problems that led to the RPC's suspension are fully understood and addressed, the Taskforce is of the view that there can be no meaningful change in culture, and that it would be almost impossible for Russian Para athletes to return to IPC-sanctioned competitions without jeopardising the integrity of those competitions.
- 2.3 The Taskforce notes that there has presently been no acknowledgement or acceptance of Professor McLaren's findings, nor any proper rebuttal. In particular:
 - (a) In a speech on 1 March 2017 (see https://paralymp.ru/en/press_center/news/official-information-en/on-improving-anti-doping-control-system-in-russia/) the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, acknowledged that:

'Despite some lapses in the work this Independent Commission, we must hear what they have to say, see what they have done and analyze results of their work. We must listen to the WADA's demands, simply because we have to recognize that we do have proven, identified cases of doping use. And this situation is absolutely unacceptable! That means that existing system of anti-doping control in Russia failed, and this is our fault and we have to admit it. I am really counting on the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, to bring this investigation to the end by revealing all responsible for the situation we are facing right now.'

The Taskforce is encouraged by such comments, but notes that the President also stated that *'we always said that there was never and I hope in the future never will be*



any state system which supports use of doping. On the contrary, we always fight against it.' The Taskforce accordingly awaits the outcome of the Investigative Committee's investigation.

- (b) No action has been taken against any of the individuals identified by Professor McLaren as being involved in the operation of the doping schemes. Instead, the Taskforce has been informed that an internal investigation carried out by the Ministry of Sport has found no evidence of wrongdoing, but that several individuals have nevertheless stepped down from their roles at their own request or due to the expiry of their contract.

Closed cities

- 2.4 The issue of access to athletes in closed cities (in particular for no-advance notice testing) is still unresolved, despite being a problem for many years and despite repeated assurances from the Ministry of Sport that the matter is close to being resolved.

RUSADA

- 2.5 The issue of the reinstatement of RUSADA by WADA also remains a key criterion for the RPC's reinstatement by the IPC. This matter is being managed by WADA and was an item for discussion at the WADA Foundation Board (held on 18 May 2017). WADA has appointed a number of staff to oversee the re-introduction of RUSADA, and there is encouraging progress being made with respect to RUSADA's operational capacity. However, without a functioning RUSADA, testing in the Russian Federation remains severely limited.

B. Recommendation

- 3. While the Taskforce remains encouraged by the RPC's progress, there are a number of reinstatement criteria still to be met (including the fundamental requirements referred to above). The Taskforce therefore unanimously recommends that the RPC's suspension be maintained at this stage.
- 4. The Taskforce also calls on the Russian authorities to assist the RPC in meeting the fundamental requirements that remain outstanding, as detailed above.

Andy Parkinson
IPC Taskforce Chair