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INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIS FACT SHEET

FIS Anti-Doping Programme Season 2015-2016

This FIS Fact Sheet is intended to provide an update on FIS Anti-Doping Activities leading up to and during the 2015/16 season. The fight against doping is fundamental to the integrity for FIS and its member National Ski Associations, through a zero-tolerance policy on doping and cheating in sport to protect clean athletes.

Once again, the subject of doping has hit the headlines with very serious findings revealed in the report of the WADA Independent Commission. Such incidents highlight that the fight against doping is a continual process and there can be no let-up. It has also ensured that FIS re-checks its procedures and follows up on all issues raised in the report (see point 3. below).

1. Out-of-Competition Testing Programme

The FIS Anti-Doping Programme focuses on unannounced out-of-competition testing and a key activity involves collecting athlete biological passport (ABP) tests.

The International Testing Pool of FIS currently consists of 323 athletes in the six FIS Olympic disciplines.

From 1st May to 24th November 2015, FIS has conducted the following number of out-of-competition tests:

FIS Out-of-Competition Tests 1st May-24th November 2015				
	Urine	Blood	ESAs (urine or blood)	Blood passport
Cross-Country	183	107	111	175
Nordic Combined	30	15	13	42
Ski Jumping	40	22	17	22
Alpine	168	64	61	149
Freestyle	5			
Snowboard	10			
Total	436	208	202	388

The above numbers do not include the out-of-competition tests conducted by the National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) under their responsibility.

To view a statistical summary of tests conducted during the 2013/2014 and 2014/15 season please refer to the links below:

http://www.fis-ski.com/mm/Document/documentlibrary/Medical/05/46/77/FIS-WADASTatistics2013-14seasonfinal_Neutral.pdf

http://www.fis-ski.com/mm/Document/documentlibrary/Medical/06/94/81/FISStatistics2014-15seasonfinal_Neutral.pdf

2. In-Competition Testing Programme at World Cups

FIS conducts in-competition testing at selected FIS World Cup events. Additionally, testing is coordinated with many National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) who carry out in-competition testing at a number of FIS World Cup events.

3. Report of the WADA Independent Commission

Following the investigation of the WADA Independent Commission and the publication of its final report, the FIS has taken the following steps:

- Russian FIS Medical committee member, Grigory Rodchenkov, provisionally suspended
- Investigation on possible effects on the FIS disciplines of the alleged anti-doping rule violations against the Director of the Moscow laboratory
- The Russian Ski Association was requested to comment on the statements in the WADA IC report as to how FIS disciplines may be affected
- Long-term storage samples stored at the Moscow laboratory re-located to another WADA-accredited laboratory for review and storage

FIS has already undertaken an investigation in 2009 and 2010, as a result of the large number of doping cases amongst Russian skiers. The FIS Council raised serious concerns with the Russian Ski Association regarding this situation and a thorough investigation took place by the FIS Doping Panel. At its meeting in June 2010 the FIS Council decided to sanction the Russian Ski Association with half of its yearly FIS financial support, as well as to urge the association to install appropriate education measures in order to carry out its

obligations in doping prevention and control, including the installation of a new group of officials and coaches, as well as to remove a list of coaches and medical personnel who have been connected with doping cases in the past.

The Russian Ski Association reported three months later on the detailed measures that were undertaken, in regard to education, adherence to the provision of whereabouts information and changes in athletes personnel, which were accepted by the FIS Council. The Russian Ski Association's programme has been monitored on an on-going basis subsequently.

FIS Testing in Russia

Generally, FIS has allocated significant resources for doping controls in Russia. Some testing missions have been coordinated and/or with the assistance of RUSADA, but most of the missions have been conducted directly by the FIS-appointed doping control agency using their own doping control officers and personnel. Most urine samples were transported outside Russia, whereby most of the blood samples for purpose of the Athlete Biological Passport were analysed at the Moscow laboratory due to the regulated time limitations for the analysis to be carried out.

4. FIS Anti-Doping Expert statement

FIS Anti-Doping Expert Rasmus Damsgaard has stated that the doping revelations in Russian Athletics have not come as a complete surprise. They serve as a clear message to all sports to be attentive, not only in the case of Russia, but throughout the sport.

Is it suspicious that only very few skiers are tested positive every year when skiers are being exposed to a solid anti-doping programme? From a scientific perspective, the FIS anti-doping programme has been reviewed by the world's leading experts and has been found to apply good anti-doping practices. If skiers are cheating the strong likelihood is that they will be caught. Preferably now, and if not, then later on when the long-term stored samples are re-tested with refined or new analyses.

For now, we are confident at the start of a new season that the FIS Anti-Doping Programme is effective and works well protecting our skiers health and to race Clean As Snow.

5. WADA Partnership to Quality Programme

At the request of the World Anti-Doping Agency, FIS was the first International Federation to have partaken in an individualised "Partnership to Quality Programme" to optimally implement the Code. The partnership involved a two days visit from WADA Experts at the FIS Headquarters during which the FIS anti-doping programme in place was discussed and assessed together with FIS Anti-Doping, including how to maximise its effectiveness in various areas. The FIS welcomes this partnership and WADA acknowledged that *"FIS is recognised as a strong partner of WADA and the anti-doping movement that has and continues to be involved in a significant number of anti-doping initiatives and projects."*

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The overall investment by FIS in its Anti-Doping programme during the 2015/2016 season is budgeted with the same amount as in the previous season and amounts to approximately CHF 1.5 million. This includes both the in- and out-of-competition testing programmes and various preventive, informational and educational efforts. Testing on athletes in the FIS disciplines by National Anti-Doping Agencies is not included in this investment.

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About FIS

FIS is the governing body for international skiing and snowboarding, [founded in 1924](#) during the first Olympic Games in Chamonix, France. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), FIS manages the Olympic disciplines of [Alpine Skiing](#), [Cross-Country Skiing](#), [Ski Jumping](#), [Nordic Combined](#), [Freestyle Skiing](#) and [Snowboarding](#), including setting the international competition rules. Through its 126 member nations, more than 7'000 FIS ski and snowboard competitions are staged annually. Specific initiatives are undertaken by FIS to promote snow activities as a healthy leisure recreation, [notably for the young](#). For more information, please visit www.fis-ski.com.

