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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIS MEDIA INFO: UPDATE

All Cross-Country Athletes now re-tested and cleared to compete

Pragelato, 25th Feb, 2006/ -- Following another blood test conducted by FIS today, two Athletes, Nikolai Pankratov (RUS) and Sergey Dolidovich (BLR), have been cleared to start as of tomorrow, Sunday 26th February, 2006.

All twelve Cross-Country Athletes that had received a start prohibition at the XX Olympic Winter Games – Torino 2006 have now been re-tested and cleared to compete.

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Pragelato, 21st Feb, 2006/ -- Following a third blood test conducted by FIS today, one Athlete, Nikolai Pankratov (RUS), has been issued with a third start prohibition for five consecutive days due to too high haemoglobin values.

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Pragelato, 21st Feb, 2006/ -- Following another blood test conducted by FIS yesterday, two Athletes, Natalia Matveeva (RUS) and Pavel Korosteljev (RUS), have been cleared to start as of today, Tuesday, 21st February, 2006.

All in all, ten of the twelve athletes that had received a start prohibition have now been re-tested and cleared to compete.

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Pragelato, 16th Feb, 2006/ -- Following a second blood test conducted by FIS today, one additional Athlete, Jean Marc Gaillard (FRA), has been cleared to start as of tomorrow, Friday, 17th February, 2006.

Altogether, eight of the twelve athletes that had received a start prohibition have now been re-tested and cleared to compete.

Two Athletes, Natalia Matveeva (RUS) and Nikolai Pankratov (RUS), who were also re-tested today, have been issued with a second start prohibition for five consecutive days due to too high haemoglobin values.

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Pragelato, 15th Feb, 2006/ -- Following a second blood test conducted by FIS today, two additional Athletes, Sean Crooks (CAN) and Robel Teklemariam (ETH), have been cleared to start as of tomorrow, Thursday, 16th February, 2006.

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Pragelato, 14th Feb, 2006/ -- Following a second blood test conducted by FIS today, one additional Athlete, Alen Abramovic (CRO), has been cleared to start as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 15th February, 2006.

As notified earlier today, one Athlete, Sergey Dolidovich (BLR), has been issued with a second start prohibition for five consecutive days due to too high haemoglobin value.

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Pragelato, 13th Feb, 2006/ -- Following a second blood test conducted by FIS today (as per Article FIS B 4.5 of the Procedural Guidelines to the FIS Anti-Doping Rules), the following Athletes have been cleared to start as of tomorrow, Tuesday 14th February, 2006:

Re-tested and cleared to start as of 14 th February
Aleksandr Latsukin (BLR), male
Kikkan Randall (USA), female
Evi Sachenbacher (GER), female
Leif Zimmermann (USA), male

The other Athletes that had received a start suspension due to too high haemoglobin levels have not yet been re-tested but will be tested before their first scheduled competition in the Olympic Winter Games in Torino.

Whilst the start suspension was issued for duration of five days, the new blood test will only be conducted before the Athlete's next competition, which may be in several days.

The results management of the urine doping tests carried out on the 12 Athletes that received a start suspension will be handled by the International Olympic Committee that will however only notify the NOC of the Athlete in the case of an adverse analytical finding.

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