

## International Association of Athletics Federations

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**To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS**

Copy: Council Members  
Committee Chairpersons  
Commission Chairpersons  
Area Association Headquarters  
RDCs / HPTCs

Dear General Secretary,

**RE. CHANGE TO THE PROHIBITED LIST OF SUBSTANCES**

This Circular letter is to advise you of an important change to the Prohibited List of Substances which comes into force with immediate effect.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”) recently published a report into EPO testing which concluded that the prohibited substance, EPO, may be detected in a urine sample alone without the need for an accompanying blood sample. This conclusion departed from the previously adopted position of the IOC (as reflected in the current IAAF Rules) requiring both a blood sample and a urine sample to result in a doping offence for EPO.

In order to avoid any possible scope for confusion, in particular at the forthcoming World Championships in Paris, the IAAF Council has exercised its emergency powers under IAAF Rules 5.6(c) and 10.2(d) to make an urgent amendment to IAAF Rule 55.10 allowing it to change the EPO definition in the List of Prohibited Substances with immediate effect.

The new EPO definition shall be as follows:

“Recombinant Erythropoietin (r-EPO) – a sample will be deemed to be positive for r-EPO where a laboratory detects its presence in a urine sample provided by an athlete. Blood samples may be used as an aid to the detection of r-EPO, or as providing (where relevant and appropriate) corroborative evidence of its presence in a urine sample.

Darbepoietin, NESP, Dynepo and any other substance which is an analogue or mimetic or these substances (or of r-EPO) is also prohibited. In such cases, the circumstances in which a sample is to be deemed to be positive, and the evidence necessary to establish this, shall be those described in the definition of r-EPO above”.

This definition recognizes that a positive urine test alone is sufficient to give rise to a doping offence for EPO at the same time as providing the IAAF with the possibility of continuing to take blood as an aid to the detection of EPO (and to detect other prohibited substances). WADA recommended as part of its report that International Federations who had previously taken blood in testing for EPO should continue to do so.

The new EPO definition shall be included in the List of Prohibited Substances which has been modified in line with the 2003 IOC/WADA List, as agreed by the IAAF Council in Dakar in April. The full List of Prohibited Substances can be viewed on the IAAF website at [www.iaag.org](http://www.iaag.org)>Downloads>Publications.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Istvan Gyulai', written in a cursive style.

Istvan Gyulai  
General Secretary