Olympic Enhancement: A Scandal

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Well folks, the Olympics are upon us once again, and that can mean only one thing: Yet another doping scandal. Still in the shadow of the fallout of the Russian doping scandal that will see no Russian delegation at this year’s games in Pyeongchang, a new scandal is erupting around a “new” performance enhancing substance.

Dihydrogen Monoxide (dihmo) is a “super-chemical” that has been in use since at least 1942: It has a dazzling array of applications - ranging from energy production to diamond mining to dietary supplements and global food systems - without it televisions, computers and automobiles could not be manufactured. Even your cell phone could not exist without this wonder substance.

But lately doping tests have found that Olympic athletes (and those in the pro-leagues, but that’s another story) are using it to improve their performance. The big question is why are the I.O.C. and WADA turning a blind eye?

 Dihmo and high performance athletics have become practically inseparable. In recent random test results from the U.S. Olympic Team no fewer than 205 of the 244 athletes were found to be using dihmo during training. Random tests from the recent FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Downhill event on November 25, in Lake Louise, Canada found that each of the top ten finishers in the men’s competition had dihmo in their urine samples. Recent Nordic skiing (cross-country) tests showed similar results, with all podium finishers- on both the men’s and women’s sides of the competition- at the Toblach, Italy World Cup event on December 16 and 17, 2017 testing positive for dihmo.

The I.O.C. has admitted to having positive tests for dihmo in every event from the 2014 games in Sochi and yet, as of this writing, there are no plans to add dihmo to the official banned substance list. Further there is no question of dihmo’s ability to improve the performance of those athletes who use it, Yan Vlitach, spokesperson for WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency) recently (December 6, 2017) commented [that]

*“…although dihmo is showing up in a very high percentage of athlete samples collected, and although it undoubtedly increases the performance potential of athletes, WADA currently has no intention of adding it to the official list of banned substances.”*

So, by all means, enjoy the winter games. Go ahead, show your patriotism by cheering for your country. Watch with pride as the athletes give their all to put in the performance of a lifetime. Just be aware that, perhaps there is a bit more than just hard work and dedication behind that Olympic performance; maybe, just maybe, there is some tarnish on that gold medal.

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