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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Translation and synthesis of the IOC consensus statements: The first mission of ReFORM for a better knowledge dissemination to the Francophonie



La traduction et la synthèse des positions de consensus du CIO : la première mission de ReFORM pour une meilleure diffusion des connaissances vers la francophonie

Several months ago, the Francophone Olympic Sports Medicine Research Network (ReFORM), labelled as a Research Centre by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2019, presented its research agenda [1–3]. The main objective is to increase and standardise knowledge and clinical practice within the Francophonie on contemporary sports medicine issues concerning injury prevention and protection of athlete's health. This aim is based on the observation that the vast majority of scientific and clinical resources are available only in English, compromising the accessibility of new knowledge for certain French-speaking stakeholders.

The consensus statements of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission are a striking example. This work, which began in the early 2000s, is based on a now well-established methodology: an important and topical issue is defined, and a broad panel of experts is invited to analyse the state of scientific knowledge in a systematic way and to issue practical consensual recommendations. The final document produced defines the problem, identifies the associated risk factors and lists recommendations for the implementation of concrete solutions. It therefore represents the most up-to-date and validated level of knowledge. The dissemination of these documents is therefore crucial for the IOC and is usually performed through its partnering journal, the *British Journal of Sport Medicine*, which benefits from an established international visibility and reputation, thereby prioritising English and omitting French, which is the other official Olympic language. ReFORM, thanks to its unique multinational and multicultural identity and its recognition by the IOC, aims at filling this gap by offering not only a

complete French translation of the original document but also a summary of the key messages for the field stakeholders surrounding the athletes. Based on a similar process of experts working groups within the ReFORM network, a synthetic document of a few pages, accompanied by an infographic, will be produced and published in the next issues through a unique partnership with the *Journal de Traumatologie du Sport* (JTS) and *Science & Sports* (S&S).

The editors of these two leading francophone sports medicine journals are pleased to ensure the publication of these summaries, thereby actively participating in the dissemination of scientific knowledge to field practitioners. An alternation of the documents between the two journals will enable to respond to their editorial orientations, while certain transversal subjects will be jointly published, reflecting the specificity but also the complementarity of the two journals.

The topics addressed will cover the rich and complex range of issues that may concern athletes: the development of young athletes, the relative energy deficiency of athletes, the maintenance of their mental health, the load and injury risk, harassment and abuse, pharmacological management of pain and certain therapeutic innovations.

The aim of these "practical sheets" is to disseminate the recommendations of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission in a broad and accessible way, going beyond the sole scientific community. ReFORM, the JTS and S&S thereby hope to take a step further towards a better standardisation of knowledge and practice, ultimately benefiting athletes.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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