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## **FIS MEDIA INFO**

### **Limited dispensation from haemoglobin limit granted to German Cross-Country Skier, Jens Filbrich**

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Before the 2005-2006 season, the German Ski Association applied for dispensation from the FIS Hb rule in connection with some of their cross country skiers.

Two of the skiers Evi Sachenbacher and Jens Filbrich were both denied a dispensation. However, it was agreed that these cases, along with several from other nations would be reviewed again due to fact that the cross-country skiing competitions at the Olympic Winter Games will take place at medium altitude.

The review took place in Copenhagen 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 between Dr Ernst Jakob and Professor Paul Nowacki representing the German Ski Association and Bengt Saltin and Rasmus Damsgaard who are responsible for the FIS blood profiling program.

FIS has data on both skiers over the last five seasons and during the last four seasons the testing has been quite complete and performed under well-controlled conditions.

A dispensation from the FIS Hb rule (upper limit less than 16.0 for ladies) is not granted to Evi Sachenbacher for the current season.

Given the specific situation at the Olympic Winter Games, Jens Filbrich is granted a temporary dispensation valid for the period from 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 until the end of the Olympic Winter Games, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2006. The allowed upper level for Mr Jens Filbrich is up to and including 17.4. g/100 ml (i.e. start is allowed up to and including the above indicated maximum level).

The granting of a temporary dispensation is based on the fact that Jens Filbrich has a mean value which is within the upper part of the normal range with significant variation around this mean value. Up to and during the whole period of the Olympic Winter Games, Jens Filbrich will be living, training and racing at altitude. Thus, based on the data evaluated on Mr Jens Filbrich, it cannot be excluded that a prolonged exposure to altitude could be a factor leading to a limited increase in his Hb values.

Jens Filbrich, as all skiers, remains of course fully subject to the FIS doping control program, including blood and urine testing and subject to other applicable anti-doping programs including the ones conducted by WADA and the IOC.

It was agreed that FIS and the DSV will jointly continue their evaluations of the two skiers after the current season in regard to their blood variables in order to establish a basis for a decision on possible Hb dispensation for the season 2006-2007.

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