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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FIS MEDIA INFO

### **Torino 2006: Eight start prohibitions issued due to too high haemoglobin values registered in FIS pre-Olympic testing**

Pragelato, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2006/ -- In the course of the pre-competition blood testing carried out by FIS in Torino whereby all Cross-Country and Nordic Combined Athletes will be tested prior to their first competition at the Olympic Winter Games, the following athletes have today been issued with a start prohibition for five consecutive days due to too high haemoglobin values:

Sean Crooks (CAN), male  
Sergey Dalidovich (BLR), male  
Jean Marc Gaillard (FRA), male  
Aleksandr Latzukin (BLR), male  
Natalia Matveeva (RUS), female  
Kikkan Randall (USA), female  
Evi Sachenbacher (GER), female  
Leif Zimmermann (USA), male

This prohibition from participating in the competition(s) is not a sanction, but is considered to serve to protect the health of the Athlete. Consequently, no disciplinary measures will be taken.

In the two days of testing, 224 Athletes have been tested. The total number of Cross-Country and Nordic Combined Athletes participating in the XX Olympic Winter Games is 330 and 63, respectively.

A start prohibition results from the process that is defined in the Article B.4.2 of the Procedural Guidelines to the FIS Anti-Doping Rules:

*"If an Athlete shows a haemoglobin value that is equal to or exceeds the values of 16.0 g/dl for ladies and 17.0 g/dl for men after two consecutive measurements, the Athlete will be notified by the representative of the Jury that he/she is not allowed to start any competitions for five consecutive days, including the day on which the test took place: e.g. if the blood test takes place on Monday the Athlete will not be permitted to start again until Saturday (and then only subject to the results of a new blood test, as defined in Article B.4.5)."*

In cases where Athletes have natural haemoglobin values that exceed the limits of 16.0 g/dl for ladies and 17.0 g/dl for men, they are required to provide certification for review by a specialist appointed by the FIS before the start of each season, respectively their first competition. This certification must come from an officially recognised Haematological Department and contain the Athlete's full history and haematological profile from an early age in life.

For the 2005/2006 season, six athletes have been granted a dispensation from the FIS Hb rule for the entire season, whilst six additional athletes have been granted a temporary dispensation valid for a defined period of time including the Olympic Winter Games.

To download a copy of the FIS Procedural Guidelines 2005/2006 to the FIS Anti-Doping Rules, please go to: <http://www.fis-ski.com/data/document/fis-proceduralguidelines2005-2006.pdf>

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