

Testing; a consultants perspective

Eric O'Donnell
Managing Director, Sports
Labs Ltd.



Testing; a consultants perspective



- Good design/construction engineering
- Who is performing testing
- Laboratories and their competence
- Testing for what purpose
- What testing is important – safety?
- What do the results mean to a consultant?
- Confidence in testing
- Summary

Testing; a consultants perspective



- **Contractors view of testing;**

The purpose of testing is to discover errors. Testing is the process of trying to discover every conceivable fault or weakness in a piece of work or product.

- **Governing Bodies view of testing;**

A process of evaluation that implies standardization in which the individual is compared against some norm-referenced set of scores or to a known group of individuals.

- **Consultants view of testing**

Covering ones backside!



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Good design/engineering*
- Cannot be replaced by testing
- Design from the ground up
- Good design should be translated into good construction practice
- Testing should be complimentary
- Testing here can be use as a tool to alter the design during the construction process



Testing; a consultants perspective



Compaction control



Testing; a consultants perspective



Base
construction



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Who is performing the testing?*
- Commercial laboratories
- Individuals
- Experience/qualifications of Staff
- Equipment

Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Laboratories and their competence*
- Accreditation to ISO 17025
- Approval by Sports Governing Bodies
- Membership of the ISSS
- Testing proficiency – round robin trials

“The accuracy of a test result is fundamental. Providing laboratories with poor test methods and equipment which cannot be calibrated which in turn leads to a lack of reproducible results is a recipe for disaster as it leads to a lack of confidence in the industry. Poor testing data can lead to erroneous decisions with serious commercial implications”.



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Testing for what purpose?*
- To be able to design properly
- Certification
- Quality control
- Compliance
- Environmental testing
- Failure/accident investigation



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *What is the most valuable form of testing - what is important?*

The safety of an athlete and the affirmation that the pitch/track has been built correctly from the ground up!

“The best return from testing is that which provides these assurances”



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *What do the results mean to the consultant?*
- Ticking the boxes
- Draw down funding
- Confirmation – meets the specification

“most consultants would not analyse test data unless there was a non compliant result or a failure to meet a specification requirement”



Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Confidence in testing*
- Fundamental properties
- Empirical data
- Tests which are reproducible

Testing; a consultants perspective



- *Summary*
- Good design/construction engineering
- Who is performing testing
- Laboratories and their competence
- Testing for what purpose
- What testing is important – safety?
- What do the results mean to a consultant?
- What is a good/bad test



Testing; a consultants perspective



THANK YOU
DO YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS?

