



WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES

18 March 2021 (08:00-12:30; in Montreal)
via virtual conference call

In attendance:

- Ben Sandford - BS (*Chair*)
- Danka Bartekova - DB
- Kirsty Coventry - KC
- Adriana Escobar - AE
- Chelsey Gottell - CG
- Petr Koukal - PK
- Kady Kanoute - KK
- Li Na - LN
- Jeff Porter - JP
- Yuhan Tan - YT
- Emma Terho - ET
- Hong Zhang - HZ

WADA Representatives:

- Witold Banka - WB (partial attendance)
- Olivier Niggli - ON (partial attendance)
- Stuart Kemp - SK
- Stacy Spletzer-Jegen - SSJ

External Representative:

- Adam Pengilly - AP (partial attendance)
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The following points are highlights from the agenda and meeting held virtually on 18 March 2021:

1. Welcome remarks and general update

Ben Sandford opened the meeting and welcomed members to their first official Athlete Committee meeting of 2021. Due to the global pandemic the meeting was held virtually. He introduced the three newest members: Ms. Adriana Escobar (El Salvador), Dr. Jeff Porter (USA) and Ms. Hong Zhang (China), and farewelled three valued members including, Mr Adam Pengilly (UK), Ms. JeongHo Hong (South Korea) and Seung Min Ryu (South Korea).

WADA President Witold Banka and Director General Olivier Niggli joined the beginning of the meeting and provided an overview and updates on a range of topics including COVID-19, testing in Tokyo, representation matters and the President's on-going athlete engagement plans. They were pleased to stay for any questions.

2. Athlete Representation Working Group Update & Next Step

Past WADA Athlete Committee member Adam Pengilly continues to chair the Athlete Representation Working Group looking at ways to make the WADA Athlete Committee more representative. He presented the working group's current updates for discussion.

There are many views on what athlete representation should look like within WADA from both athletes and stakeholders and the topic does not have any easy answers. The Working Group has received the athlete representation feedback from the survey conducted as part of the Governance Review Working Group's consultation and is currently working through this and looking for future models to discuss.

3. Ombudsperson Working Group Update

BS provided an update around the development and progress around the ambitious project of the anti-doping Ombudsperson office, reiterating that it is intended to fill the gaps around the world for athletes requiring independent advice and recourse when encountering difficulty navigating the anti-doping system, and results management in particular. The office would focus solely on anti-doping. Such an office would not replace any existing domestic offices, but rather be a backup service to those athletes that did not have access to such service. It would also help co-ordinate existing services where possible.

Further discussions included a general support from the AC on the concept. A few members encourage the group to make sure to assess local cultures and explore different platforms such as virtual to ensure we can connect locally. BS reiterated that the goal of the office is to fill a gap and not replace the services of the approximately 20 organizations that currently offer this support for athletes.

4. WADA Athlete Committee Webinar Series Update & Brainstorming

BS provided an update on the Athlete Committee's webinar series which is recorded and available on WADA's YouTube channel.

The first webinar of the year was held on 25 February 2021. The topic was "**2021 COVID-19 and Clean Sport Update**" and over 1,000 athletes and stakeholders registered for the webinar.

The second webinar for athletes is planned for 30 March 2021 under the topic "**Anti-Doping Education: How athletes can contribute to clean sport**". BS will serve as moderator and the presenters include Kady Kanoute (Chair, WADA's Education Committee and WADA AC Member), Amanda Hudson (Director, Education, WADA) and Kangeun Lee (Senior Manager, Digital Learning and Education, WADA).

The next webinar after that is an "**Introduction to WADA and anti-doping for athletes (in Spanish)**" and will be hosted by Adriana Escobar (Member of WADA AC), Francisco Leon (Senior Manager, Program Development and NADO/RADO Relations, WADA) and Maria Jose Pesce (Director, Latin America Office, WADA). This will be held on 30 April 2021.

5. Human Rights Impact Assessment – Discussion & Next Steps

Over the last few years there has been an increased acknowledgement of the importance of human rights within anti-doping, and as such the AC has held a number of discussions on what appropriate steps and responses could be utilized to ensure the discussion continues to evolve. In general, members see the benefit of analyzing and understanding where WADA is now and where does WADA want to be in the future. There has also been a large amount of work done on this topic within other organizations that should be considered. Lastly, education around this topic is a vital piece for the WADA AC, the WADA Executive and WADA's management to ensure the process is rolled out seamlessly and WADA should consider engaging external expertise.

The Committee suggested a letter be sent to WADA asking that the Agency consider undertaking 'An Initial Human Rights Assessment'.

6. Athlete Committee Strategic Planning

The committee discussed the steps for developing a strategic plan recognizing it would assist all members in better understanding where they are going and provide better purpose to their activities. The next steps and facilitation of such an activity are to be mapped out in the third quarter of 2021.

7. Play True Day Update

SSJ provided an update on Play True Day being celebrated on 9 April and the greater outreach being planned with the athlete community. WADA needs the WADA AC to lead this global campaign and is appreciative of their support and their further reach within the athlete community via social media.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in October of 2021. It has not yet been decided if it will be virtual or in-person as the current situation around the pandemic continues to be evaluated.