

Policy for WADA's Initial Application of the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, approved by WADA's Executive Committee on 15 November 2017

The enhanced World Anti-Doping Code (Code) Compliance Monitoring Program developed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is the most thorough review of anti-doping rules and programs to date. Its ultimate purpose is to ensure uniform compliance by Signatories with the requirements of the Code and the International Standards, and so to deliver a level playing field for athletes worldwide.

However:

- In reviewing the Code Compliance Questionnaires (CCQs) completed by Signatories in 2017, it has become evident that the majority of Signatories have a significant number of corrective actions to implement in order to achieve full Code compliance.
- The new International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories (ISCCS) is clear: "Signatories who are seeking in good faith to comply with the Code will be encouraged and supported to achieve and maintain full Code compliance. The desire is always to have Signatories address any compliance issues voluntarily. Having a Signatory declared non-compliant and Signatory Consequences imposed is the last resort, to be pursued only where the Signatory has failed, despite every encouragement, to take the necessary corrective actions within the required timelines." Further thereto, "the focus of WADA's compliance monitoring program is on dialogue and communication with Signatories, assisting them in their efforts to ensure full Code Compliance and providing them with guidance for the continuous improvement of their Anti-Doping Programs."
- WADA's human and financial resources to fully implement the Code Compliance Monitoring Program and to provide the necessary assistance and support to Signatories are currently limited. The contents of this document are based on the assumption that the budget for implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Program will increase for the period 2018-2021.

Given the above, WADA has decided to exercise the power given to it in the ISCCS to prioritize its compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts, by focusing on certain categories of Signatories, chosen based on objective factors identified in the ISCCS. Specifically, for the initial period of implementation of the new ISCCS, starting from 1 April 2018:

- WADA will prioritize its compliance monitoring and enforcement activities with International Federations (IFs) and National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) by categorizing them in three tiers, based on the criteria listed in ISCCS Article 8.2.2 and Article 8.2.4 and approved by the Compliance Review Committee (CRC). (WADA will keep that allocation under review and may change it from time to time based on objective factors and subject to approval of the CRC.)

- Within each tier, IFs and NADOs will be further prioritized based on the level of compliance of their existing anti-doping programs, which will be evaluated in light of their responses to the 2017 CCQ and other relevant information and data available to WADA.
- All IFs and NADOs in Tier 1 to Tier 3 will receive a Corrective Action Report (CAR), based on their completed CCQ, and/or following a WADA compliance audit (where applicable), or based on any non-conformity identified by WADA from any other source, so that they are clear what they need to do in order to bring their anti-doping programs into full compliance with the Code and the International Standards.
- However, during the first two years following the entry into force of the ISCCS, WADA will only initiate the follow-up procedures outlined in Section 9 of the ISCCS, which are a pre-condition to any formal assertion that a Signatory is non-compliant with the Code, in the following circumstances:
 - In respect of Tier 1 IFs and NADOs: if they do not correct Critical requirements within the three month deadline specified in the ISCCS or High Priority requirements within the six month timeline specified in the ISCCS.
 - In respect of Tier 2 IFs and NADOs: if they do not correct Critical requirements within the three month timeline specified in the ISCCS.
- Other non-conformities (i.e., non-conformities with Other requirements by Tier 1 Signatories, non-conformities with High Priority or Other requirements by Tier 2 Signatories, and non-conformities with Critical, High Priority or Other requirements by Tier 3 Signatories) that are not corrected within the timelines specified in the ISCCS will only be pursued by WADA in exceptional circumstances (e.g. in a case of obvious bad faith or lack of commitment by a Signatory), and only after providing formal notice thereof to the Signatory in question.
- For Major Event Organizations (MEOs), WADA will prioritize its compliance monitoring activities, and in particular the selection of its Independent Observer missions, based on a number of objective factors, which will include the criteria listed in ISCCS Article 8.2.2 as well as the global relevance of the event(s) held by the MEO.

This Policy is not a waiver of the requirement that Signatories comply with their obligations under the Code and the International Standards. Instead, it is expected that Signatories will use the flexibility provided by this Policy to build capacity so that they will be able to demonstrate full compliance with the Code and the International Standards following this initial two year period. For example, it is expected that Tier 3 Signatories will build capacity by prioritizing the implementation of their Corrective Actions during the two year period in conjunction with WADA's Regional Offices and (for those involved in a Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) program) with the RADO and WADA's NADO and RADO Relations team.

This Policy is a living document that will be kept under constant review to ensure it remains fit for purpose, and will be formally reviewed at the latest two years following the entry into force of the ISCCS. Any proposed change in the present Policy either before or at that time would be subject to WADA Executive Committee approval, and at least two months' advance notice of the change would be given to impacted Signatories prior to implementation.

On 23 January 2020 WADA's Executive Committee approved an extension of the validity of this policy until 31 December 2020, and on 11 November 2020 WADA's Executive Committee approved a further extension of the validity of this policy until 31 December 2021.