

Challenges for policy-making for gene doping in the sport context

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Structure of the presentation

- The context of international policy-making
- WADA, gene technology and international and national policy-making
 - Education, information and lobbying
 - Building alliances
- Impact of gene technology on the WAD Code and the work of WADA
 - Anticipating the next Code revision

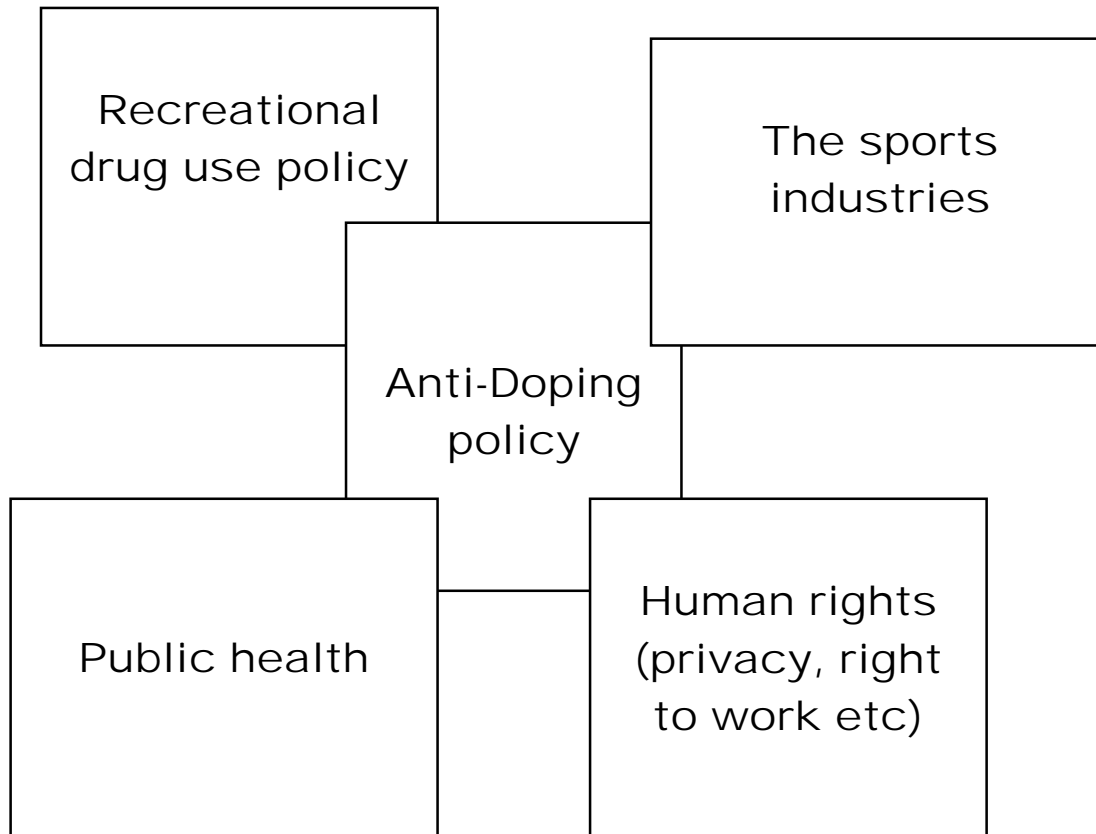
The context of international policy-making

- Major global issues generate international policy regimes:
 - which have governments, international governmental organisations and NGOs as members
 - which aim to campaign on an issue (e.g. human rights, environmental pollution and anti-doping in sport) and affect international and national policy
 - some regimes are formal (human rights, anti-doping in sport) and others are informal (anti-globalisation)
 - The regime for gene technology is in the process of formation

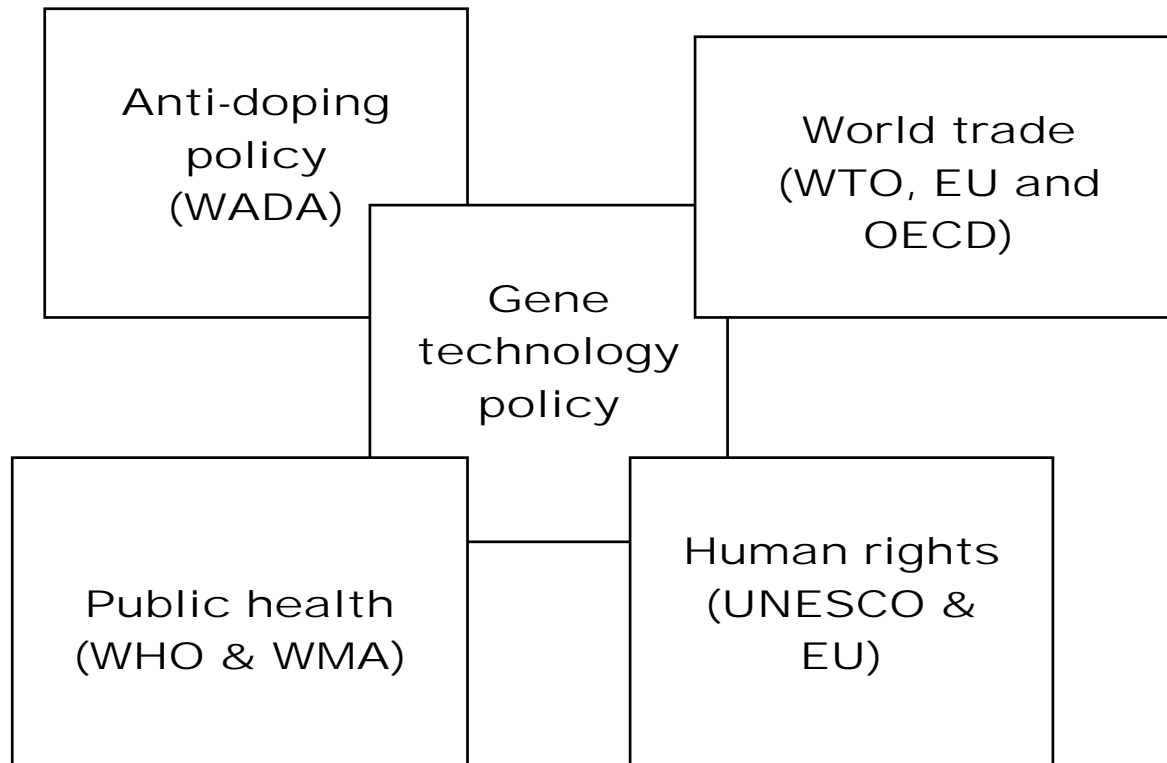
The context of international policy-making

- Regimes overlap - anti-doping with drugs/crime, medicine/pharmacy/health, rights/privacy & work ...
- Each regime seeks a position where other regimes adjust to its priorities
- Policy regimes compete for the attention of powerful international and national decision-makers

The context of international policy-making



The context of international policy-making



WADA and international policy-making for gene technology

- What are the issues?
- Who are the key decision-makers and what are their priorities?
- Where are the key decision-making arenas for gene technology?
- What does WADA want to achieve?
- Is WADA linked to these key decision-makers and decision-making centres?

What are the key issues?

- Politics is more important than science: emotion is as important, or more important, than evidence!
- Gene technology raises issues of:
 - national interest
 - industry development
 - profit
 - business regulation
 - protection of citizens
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Who are the key players and what are their priorities?

- **Governmental bodies** (European Union, World Health Organisation and activist governments including Australia, Sweden and US):
 - Set the boundaries of research; protect citizens; support gene tech industries ...?
- **Industry organisations** (not just pharmaceutical, but also others such as insurance ...):
 - Minimise regulation on research and exploitation; gain protection from competition, receive state subsidy ...?
- **Medical/public health organisations:**
 - Minimise regulation on research and exploitation, minimise patenting of gene tech advances ...?
- **Religious organisations:** :
 - Set the boundaries of research
- **Sport organisations:** :
 - ???

Where are the key decision-making arenas for gene technology?

- Key policy arenas for gene technology policy:
 - **Governmental**: European Commission/ European Medicines Agency, European Parliament, WHO, activist governments including Australia, Sweden and US
 - **Industry organisations**: for example Foundation for Biotechnology Awareness and Education
 - **Medical/scientific organisations**: World Medical Association & national medical associations

What are the current priorities/ activities of the key organisations?

- European Commission:
 - Implementation of the ‘Advanced therapies’ regulation (in consultation)
 - Safety in production and use of gene technologies
 - Legal protection for biotechnological inventions
 - Regulation of medicinal products derived from biotechnology (new clause in force in May 2008)
- Governments: Australia for example, (health and safety of public)

What does WADA want to achieve?

- Does it have (or need to have) an opinion on:
 - Stem cell research
 - Human/animal embryos
 - Genetic screening of the foetus
 - Confidentiality of genetic data
- What leverage does WADA have?
 - Information
 - Network
 - Expertise
- Progress with Stockholm Declaration, 2005?
- Can WADA make an impact on gene technology issues on its own?

Building alliances

- Is sport too small an issue to have an impact on decisions on gene technology?
- If it is then who are its potential allies?
 - Public health interests?
 - Law and order interests?
 - Human rights interests?
 - All/other?

Building alliances

- However, WADA needs governmental allies (e.g. individual governments, CE, EU and UNESCO)
- CE, EU and UNESCO place their support for anti-doping in broader social debates
 - CE ‘sport should play an important role in the **protection of health**, in **moral and physical education** and in promoting **international understanding**’ (preamble to CE Anti-Doping Convention)
 - EU – competence in area of **public health**
 - UNESCO ‘aware of the UN resolution ... concerning sport as a means of promoting **education, health, development and peace**’ (preamble to UNESCO Convention against doping in sport)
- As do many governments e.g. France, Norway and Sweden

Building alliances

- The strategy of the generalisation of interests
 - Sectional concerns (like anti-doping) aim to further their interests by linking their objectives to the promotion of the 'public good' or to other related interests
 - 'one has to phrase one's argument in impartial terms as if one were arguing for the public good and not for one's own self-interest'
 - Particularly common with 'new' problems
 - Aim is to build a broad supporting coalition

Building alliances

- What is the existing relationship between ‘anti-doping/sport’ interests and external interests?
- Are we seeing the generalisation of interests **by sport** to link with supportive external interests or the incorporation **of sport** by external interests (which is the most common) especially ‘law & order’, but possibly also public health?

Gene technology and the WAD Code: anticipating the next Code revision

- Possible uses/abuses of gene technology:
 - Gene manipulation by adult athletes
 - Gene manipulation of young people
 - Athlete analysis

Gene technology and the WAD Code: anticipating the next Code revision

- Specific issues:
 - Gene manipulation by adult athletes:
 - Sample collection; biopsy(?); cost
 - Temporary or lasting effect – sanctions
 - Gene manipulation of young people
 - Sample collection; biopsy(?); genetic profile ‘passport’
 - Temporary or lasting effect – sanctions

Gene technology and the WAD Code: anticipating the next Code revision

- Specific issues:
 - Athlete analysis:
 - The consequences of differential access to expensive science

Gene technology and the WAD Code: anticipating the next Code revision

- General issues:
 - Cost of controlling gene technology in elite sport
 - Maintaining unity and commitment within sport
 - Avoiding policy fatigue

Conclusions

- Is WADA passive (watching and monitoring) or active (lobbying)?
- Is the IOC sufficiently active on the issue of gene technology?
- Does WADA have a clear set of priorities on gene technology development and regulation?
- What are the cost projections for dealing with gene technology in sport?
- Should the next (3rd) version of the WAD Code set out a position on gene technology?
- Who are WADA's allies?