

Report to the 139th IOC Session

By World Anti-Doping Agency President, Witold Bańka

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Since my report to the 138th IOC Session held in July 2021, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – along with the rest of the anti-doping world – has continued to work hard to ensure a continuation of full testing capacity despite the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the sporting world.

On 14 September and 24 November 2021, WADA held meetings of its Executive Committee (ExCo) and, on 25 November, the Foundation Board (Board) also met. All these meetings adopted a hybrid format with some members joining in person and others by video conference. The meetings resulted in decisions outlined in the following media releases:

- [14 September 2021 ExCo meeting](#)
- [24-25 November 2021 ExCo and Board meetings](#)

What is outlined hereafter is a brief WADA update for IOC Members since I last reported.

1. GLOBAL TESTING IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE BEIJING GAMES

From the beginning of the pandemic, WADA and the global anti-doping community have been working together to maintain the integrity of the system in spite of COVID-19. The response of Anti-Doping Organizations was quick and effective to an evolving situation. At every stage, WADA has been providing [Guidance](#). And, at least initially, we applied a degree of flexibility as it related to compliance monitoring in order to recognize the challenges imposed by the pandemic on Anti-Doping Organizations.

The latest available figures below show that testing figures are being maintained at normal levels. This is despite additional restrictions put in place in many parts of the world to deal with the omicron variant of COVID-19. In fact, through 2021, out-of-competition testing remained at a level significantly greater than in 2019.

2021	In Competition	Out Of Competition	Total
January	4251	10136	14387
February	5855	11973	17828
March	7786	15322	23108
April	7708	14709	22417
May	9398	17244	26642
June	10416	19189	29605

July	8074	17451	25525
August	9229	13620	22849
September	10847	13400	24247
October	11307	13230	24537
November	9576	14700	24276
December	7821	10719	18540
Grand total	102268	171693	273961

2020	In Competition	Out Of Competition	Total
January	7742	12546	20288
February	11637	13622	25259
March	4339	6868	11207
April	9	569	578
May	113	2512	2625
June	972	6734	7706
July	2165	8916	11081
August	4748	9871	14619
September	6779	11920	18699
October	8015	13079	21094
November	5673	13963	19636
December	4584	10880	15464
Grand total	56776	111480	168256

2019	In Competition	Out Of Competition	Total
January	7551	9988	17539
February	11440	12379	23819
March	13794	13139	26933
April	12506	12713	25219

May	13455	13691	27146
June	13527	13377	26904
July	13151	14933	28084
August	13917	15443	29360
September	11623	15015	26638
October	11785	15112	26897
November	11204	15265	26469
December	8861	12012	20873
Grand total	142814	163067	305881

WADA wishes to thank the Anti-Doping Organizations and other stakeholders, such as the International Testing Agency (ITA), for their commitment, flexibility and determination. They are delivering a quality testing program in what remain very challenging circumstances.

In the build-up to the Games, WADA urged all Anti-Doping Organizations to make the most of the remaining time to ensure that all athletes bound for Beijing were tested and to implement the testing recommendations that they received from the Pre-Games Expert Group being led by the ITA.

WADA also reminded them that the IOC-funded pre-Olympic long-term storage program delivered by the ITA remains available to them, at no cost. This excellent initiative allows them to put samples away securely in a long-term storage facility for possible further analysis in the future, which has proven to be a very effective deterrent.

These Games will be important as a new testing method will be further implemented. Dried blood spot analysis is an exciting development for anti-doping. It carries several advantages over traditional forms and will be an important complement to those established methods of sample collection. Collecting just one spot of blood per sample will make things easier for doping control officers. It will be less invasive for athletes, easier to transport and easier to store, with possible additional benefits related to sample stability.

WADA has been leading a collaboration of Anti-Doping Organizations, including the IOC, to address all the technical challenges and adapt anti-doping rules to allow for the development of DBS analysis. This partnership builds on research conducted by several Anti-Doping Organizations and laboratories around the world.

Elements of DBS were in place for the Tokyo Games last year but the Beijing Games will be the first time it is routinely used across the testing program. We look forward to seeing how well dried blood spot works with the intention of it being introduced more comprehensively across all sports and countries.

We have also been working hard with the WADA-accredited laboratory here in Beijing to ensure it is ready for the challenge that awaits.

As we always do at the Games, WADA has an [Independent Observer team](#) present here in Beijing to monitor the anti-doping activities of the Olympic Games, which is being operated by the ITA on behalf of the IOC. The team will work in partnership with the ITA and the organizing committee to ensure the most effective anti-doping

program is delivered. In the same way, we will also have an Independent Observer team to monitor the anti-doping activities of the Paralympic Games, in partnership with the International Paralympic Committee.

The composition of the IO team for the 2022 Beijing Olympic Games is as follows:

- Hitesh Patel (United Kingdom), Rapporteur to the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport (Chair)
- Karine Henrie (Canada), Deputy Director, Testing, WADA (Vice-Chair)
- Stephen Bock (USA), Head of Legal and General Counsel, International Volleyball Federation (FIVB)
- Thierry Boghosian (USA), Senior Manager, Laboratory Accreditation, WADA
- Ying Cui (Canada), Manager, NADO/RADO Relations, WADA
- Chika Hirai (Japan), General Manager, International Relations, Japan Anti-Doping Agency (JADA)
- Vinicius Sardela (Brazil), Manager, Laboratory Operations, WADA
- Dr. Yuhan Tan (Belgium), Medical Doctor, Member of WADA Athlete Committee, Former international badminton player
- Alexis Webber (Switzerland), Head of Anti-Doping, International Football Federation (FIFA)

The IO team for the 2022 Beijing Paralympic Games will include the following members:

- Shafag Huseynli (Azerbaijan), CEO, Azerbaijan National Anti-Doping Agency (Chair)
- Ilaria Baudo (Italy), Senior Manager, Testing, WADA (Vice-Chair)
- Mike Earl (United Kingdom), General Manager, Anti-Doping, World Rugby
- Sameh Elray (Egypt), Manager, Africa Office, WADA
- Adriana Escobar (El Salvador), Member of WADA Athlete Committee, International rower

As was the case at Tokyo 2020, WADA's Outreach Program, which has been a long-standing fixture during the Games to raise anti-doping awareness among athletes and others, will not be present in Beijing in its usual format due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

2. PRE-BEIJING GAMES EDUCATION

As it relates to pre-Games education of athletes and their entourage at the Games, WADA has led the way in collaboration with the IOC, the ITA and the International Paralympic Committee. Our education programs, 'ADEL for Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022' and 'ADEL for Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022' have been aimed at athletes and coaches going to Beijing. They have been extremely well received with ADOs, National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees investing in educating their teams. Our Beijing education courses are available in a variety of languages – 15 different languages for the Olympic Games and three for the Paralympic Games – and at the time of writing, there have been more than 3,300 completions of the two modules with hundreds of learners still in progress, which represents a great response.

3. INVESTIGATIONS, INCLUDING RUSADA COMPLIANCE AND OPERATION LIMS

It has been a busy few months for WADA's independent Intelligence and Investigations Department. In October, it concluded three separate investigations and published summary reports. First, there was a review of the investigation carried out by the United States Anti-Doping Agency in relation to the Nike Oregon Project. Then was an investigation, known as 'Operation Echo', into allegations that in 2011, United Kingdom Anti-Doping allowed British Cycling to analyze samples from athletes in private, using a non-WADA accredited laboratory, for the purposes of screening for a prohibited substance. Finally, there was 'Operation Hercules' that looked into allegations that the National Anti-Doping Organization of Ukraine engaged in a range of practices that

contravened the rules. This included giving advance warning of sample collection to athletes, even allowing them to schedule a time that suited them. WADA is currently addressing this case from a compliance perspective.

Meanwhile, WADA continues to monitor the implementation of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decision 2020/O/6689 – the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) vs. the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) – which was published in full on [14 January 2021](#).

In addition, significant work is still being conducted by WADA in relation to the follow up of doping cases as part of the Agency's Operation LIMS related to the data and doping control samples retrieved by WADA from the former Moscow Laboratory. More generally, WADA has been doing everything in its power to protect the Beijing Games. Our Legal Affairs Department has been collaborating with the IOC and the ITA, and we have worked hard to ensure every pending case regarding any athlete intending to participate in Beijing has been processed. To that end, we have been comparing the long list of more than 8.500 athletes for Beijing with all available information.

Following on from my July 2021 report, WADA's internal RUSADA monitoring project team continues to monitor RUSADA's re-instatement conditions as set out in the Court of Arbitration for Sport award. The Agency is working with RUSADA to assess their progress towards achievement of those conditions. We have started a dialogue with the Russian authorities in the hope that going forward, Russia will maintain a strong anti-doping system. On [15 September 2021](#), I met with the Sports Minister for the Russian Federation, Oleg Matytsin, in Istanbul, Turkey, to discuss the requirements that must be fulfilled by RUSADA and the Russian authorities for RUSADA to be reinstated.

4. LEGAL AFFAIRS

Since July 2021, WADA's Legal Affairs Department has reviewed more than 1,000 decisions from ADOs that are Signatories to the Code. In that time, it has filed 17 appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and a CAS award has been rendered in five appeals involving WADA. WADA's appeal was upheld in all five cases. A settlement agreement was signed between the parties in four cases. Lastly, WADA withdrew its appeal in three cases. In one case, additional evidence was obtained. In another case, a further period of ineligibility was imposed by another Signatory against the athlete in question. And in the third case, a retroactive Therapeutic Use Exemption was granted to the athlete.

5. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

WADA continues to enforce its ISO9001-certified [Code Compliance Monitoring Program](#). In line with its Compliance Strategy, the Agency is currently preparing its Compliance Annual Report for 2021, which will be published in March, and will implement the findings from that report through its internal Compliance Annual Plan for 2022. During the pandemic, WADA has continued to monitor Code Signatories' anti-doping programs through audits and continuous monitoring. Since the last IOC Session in July 2021, WADA has conducted eight audits (four National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) and four International Federations (IFs)), five of which were conducted in person and three virtually. Each of these Signatories received a corrective action report and WADA is supporting them in the implementation of their corrective actions.

WADA has drafted the latest Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) for IFs and NADOs, which will be issued in a staggered approach to Signatories throughout 2022 and 2023, in line with our new Signatory Tier system. In addition, the Major Event Organization (MEO) CCQ has been updated and will be issued to three MEOs holding events in 2022.

The Agency continues to support Signatories in their adoption of anti-doping rules in line with the revised Code and International Standards which came to force on 1 January 2021. Recent months have proven to be a busy time in that area as some Anti-Doping Organizations have been working hard to ensure the revised Code is applied appropriately. During the first year of the pandemic, WADA's independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) endorsed more flexible measures with regard to compliance procedures, including freezing compliance procedures and deadlines. At its April 2021 meeting, the CRC re-opened all compliance procedures and a number of cases were discussed at its August meeting. In September, WADA's Executive Committee (ExCo) declared eight Anti-Doping Organizations non-compliant for issues related to non-conformities in their anti-doping programs or lack of implementation of the 2021 Code within their legal systems. These Anti-Doping Organizations are:

- Deaf International Basketball Federation (DIBF);
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- German Community of Belgium National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO);
- Indonesia NADO;
- International Gira Sports Federation (IGSF);
- Montenegro NADO;
- Romania NADO; and
- Thailand NADO.

DIBF was reinstated on 2 December and the NADOs of Thailand and Indonesia are currently engaging in the process of reinstatement, while IGSF was removed from the list of World Anti-Doping Code Signatory organizations. The NADOs from the German Community of Belgium, Romania and Montenegro were subsequently removed from the list of non-compliant ADOs, placed on a compliance 'watchlist' and given a deadline of 28 February 2022 to bring their rules into line with the 2021 Code. At the time of writing, one (from Montenegro) had been removed from the 'watchlist' after successfully addressing its non-conformities.

At the ExCo meeting of September, a further 10 NADOs were placed on the 'watchlist' and given a deadline of 14 January 2022 to implement a number of non-conformities:

- Brussels Community of Belgium;
- Flemish Community of Belgium;
- French Community of Belgium;
- Greece;
- Iran;
- Latvia;
- Netherlands;
- Portugal;
- Spain; and
- Uzbekistan

With assistance from WADA, all 10 fulfilled their obligations before the deadline and were removed from the 'watchlist'.

Compliance monitoring is a central pillar of WADA's mission. It is vital for the global program that all sports and all countries follow the same set of rules and implement compliant anti-doping programs. This harmonization means that athletes know what to expect from the anti-doping system, no matter where they are from or where they are competing.

WADA will continue to make every effort to avoid declarations of non-compliance. It remains a last resort. However, we have witnessed that non-compliance consequences do have the desired effect in engaging the relevant authorities to ensure Anti-Doping Organizations make the necessary improvements. It must also be emphasized that once a Signatory is non-compliant or placed on the watchlist, WADA continues to help the Signatory address its problem areas in order to reinstate it to full compliance as quickly as possible.

6. GOVERNANCE REFORM

Another significant achievement for WADA in recent months has been continued progress as it relates to governance reform. You may have seen the latest round of reforms, which were unanimously agreed by the Foundation Board on [25 November 2021](#) and will have far-reaching impact on the Agency's future. When implemented, there will be more independent voices around the table and increased representation for athletes and NADOs. We are very grateful to all stakeholders that participated in the consultation and, notably, to the members of the ExCo and Board for their willingness to embrace the whole process in a very constructive spirit. It was also clear during the whole process that WADA's DNA of an equal partnership between the Sport Movement and Public Authorities should not only remain unchanged but should be reinforced.

Of particular note, we had constructive discussions with the new White House Office of National Drug Control Policy representative on our Board and, in the weeks that followed the November Board meeting, we were pleased to receive the remainder of the U.S. Government's financial contributions for 2021. We view this as a renewed demonstration of support by our U.S. partner and we hope that, going forward, we can sustain this constructive and collaborative relationship with the U.S. Government.

7. PROHIBITED LIST

On [1 January 2022](#), the [2022 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods \(List\)](#) came into force. The List was approved by WADA's ExCo during its meeting of [14 September 2021](#) and was first published on [30 September 2021](#).

As always, this followed an extensive consultation process, which involved some of the most qualified experts in the fields of science and medicine from around the world. This annual process allows WADA to review the latest trends and scientific research to ensure that any new or existing substance or method that may meet the criteria for addition to the List are considered in a timely manner so as to protect athlete health and maintain a level playing field for all.

We have been encouraging athletes, their entourage and all stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the [Summary of Major Modifications and Explanatory Notes](#) to avoid inadvertent use of substances and methods that are prohibited in sport for 2022. Similarly, we have asked all Anti-Doping Organizations around the world to share the List and its related documents with those under their jurisdiction to highlight the important updates, in particular to the permitted usage of salbutamol and glucocorticoids in 2022.

8. BRAND REFRESH AND NEW WEBSITE

On [18 January 2022](#), WADA unveiled our refreshed brand via the launch of our new website.

Under the Be Visible priority of WADA's [2020-2024 Strategic Plan](#), we want to 'raise awareness and shape a proactive narrative that demonstrates the positive impact of doping-free sport and WADA's role'. This brand refresh is aimed at reflecting our desired positioning of 'Raising the Game', and the new website is intended to transform WADA's digital footprint in a way that is engaging for all stakeholders, particularly athletes.

The refreshed brand was endorsed by WADA's ExCo in November 2021 and is reinforced by a new visual identity, starting with a modernized logo that depicts a more open, engaging and impactful brand. It honors legacy elements of the logo we have had since our founding in 1999, such as a square that represents the rules and customs of the game and an equal sign that evokes fairness with a human touch.

Green remains our color and we have expanded our palette and design to reflect the various fields of play that athletes participate on worldwide. To capture our dedication to equal chances for all, the 'equal sign' inspires our visual approach, including as it relates to our tagline 'Play true', which is fun, human and adaptable, and depicts trust, consistency, impartiality and confidence. We believe that we have developed a more modern and human brand and we hope it will engage everyone within the anti-doping ecosystem to raise the game for athletes worldwide.

While our new brand and visual identity will roll out progressively over the coming weeks and months, we are pleased to launch our newly designed website, which is WADA's primary communications channel. Our main goal in launching this new website is to provide users with a more intuitive and user-friendly experience that clearly states who we are, what we stand for and what we are achieving together worldwide. The website features a refreshed look, improved navigation and a handful of features that will make the overall experience more impactful on desktop, mobile and tablet.

The refreshed brand and new website reflect external and internal stakeholder feedback, which was collected in 2020 and 2021 through surveys, interviews and user acceptance research.

9. WEBINARS AND SYMPOSIA

On 11 January, WADA regretfully announced that due to ongoing disruption and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was taken to postpone the 2022 Annual Symposium, which was to be held in a hybrid fashion (in-person/virtual) on 23-24 March 2022 at the SwissTech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland. It is now scheduled to be held on 11-12 June 2022 in the same fashion and at the same venue. More details will be communicated in the coming weeks.

The Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Symposium, which was to be held on 21-22 April 2022 in Incheon, South Korea, has been postponed to the second quarter of 2023. It is still to be hosted by the Korea Anti-Doping Agency (KADA).

As it relates to WADA's Global Education Conference, which is scheduled to be held on 20-22 September 2022 and be hosted by Sport Integrity Australia in Sydney, the date is currently maintained.