

**Research Title:** Doping knowledge, attitude, and ethical belief among Rwanda athlete support personnel

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**Tier:** 3

**Background:** The role of athlete support personnel (ASP) in anti doping efforts is of paramount importance considering the significant influence of the ASP in athlete decision to use or not the illegal substances. To function as role models, ASP must have adequate knowledge and ethically correct attitudes towards doping. In addition, the high profile cases of ASP being sanctioned for their role in athlete doping demonstrates that the obligations of ASP are taken seriously by anti doping organizations. Therefore, gauging the extent by which ASP are knowledgeable with regards to doping is an important step to set up educational programs aiming to promote doping-free sport by complying with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC).

**Aim:** The current study is set out to establish the doping knowledge, attitude and belief among athletes support personnel in Rwanda. Gathering this information will guide to design more efficient and sustainable doping education programs and the promotion of clean sports in Rwanda.

**Methods:** In collaboration with implicated national federations, Rwanda National Olympic and Sport Committee (RNOSC) will lead this study. We strongly believe that the findings from this study will be useful in formulation of doping policy and strategies in Rwanda. This study will be conducted among 784 ASP from 6 sport disciplines including 3 contact and 3 non contact sports. Quantitative data will be collected using international validated tools; however a pilot study will be conducted to match the tools with local context. The main respondents in this study will be athletes support personnel namely coaches, trainers, team managers, medical and paramedical personnel, team officials, officials in national federations and the ministry of Sport. Data will be analyzed using descriptive analysis of frequencies, median, modes, means and standard deviation. Inferential statistics will be used to test for associations and odds ration and differences based on participant's age, education, experience, club/carrier and their knowledge, attitude and belief.

Consent to participate in this study will be obtained prior to commencement. Participants will be informed of their voluntary participation, right to withdrawal at any time with no impact to them whatsoever and they will be ensured of the confidentiality. Ethical clearance will be sought from Ethical Review committee of Rwanda National Ethics committee.

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