

STEROIDAL ATHLETE BIOLOGICAL PASSPORT WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference

The WADA Steroidal Athlete Biological Passport Working Group (Steroidal ABP WG) is a specific Working Group¹ created by WADA Management.

These Terms of Reference (ToR) are approved by the WADA Director General, following consultation with the responsible Director in charge of the Group and the Chair of the WADA Health, Medical and Research (HM&R) Committee.

Purpose

To be responsible for providing expert advice, recommendations and guidance to WADA Management with regards to the steroidal module of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) program.

Objectives/Key Activities

- 1) To assist WADA in the development and refinement of the ABP, and more specifically the steroidal module, including updating the ABP Operating Guidelines and related Standards/Technical Documents.
- 2) To examine the performance of existing markers and assist in the identification and understanding of potential sources of variance and confounding factors in order to provide recommendations for the improved effectiveness and efficiency of the steroid module.
- 3) Provide guidance for research for the development of the ABP, in particular through the development of new biomarkers.
- 4) To monitor and examine trends in the use of the ABP by Anti-Doping Organizations (including, but not limited to, improving target testing, additional analyses and establishing analytical and non-analytical anti-doping rule violations) and to identify potential threats/risks to the ABP.
- 5) To assist WADA in the event of a review and/or appeal of an ABP case, upon request.
- 6) Monitor existing and future trends in the Steroidal ABP WG's fields of expertise having the

¹ WGs are created on an as-needed basis only, and generally with a defined mandate requiring deliverables within a set timeframe. Where the expected deliverables are not met, an extension of mandate is possible, however it is not expected that WGs continue indefinitely. If it is considered that their work should be ongoing in nature, whether WG should be elevated to an Expert Advisory Group would need to be determined.

potential to impact the anti-doping system and propose new ideas to WADA for consideration.

Reporting Structure

The Steroidal ABP WG reports to WADA Management and provides an annual report to the WADA HM&R Committee.

Membership/Composition

The composition of the Steroidal ABP WG shall not exceed a maximum of 8-10 members however an exception may be applied if deemed necessary.

The WADA Director General, following consultation with the responsible Director in charge of Steroidal ABP WG and the Chair of the WADA HM&R Committee will appoint members to the Steroidal ABP WG.

Members are selected on the basis of their relevant background and experience (e.g. expertise in the use of the ABP, the fields of laboratory steroid analysis, steroid doping and metabolism and/or clinical endocrinology, as they apply to steroid doping).

The membership of the Steroidal ABP WG is published on the WADA website.

If required, additional experts may be called upon on an ad-hoc basis for their contributions.

Chair/Rapporteur

The Steroidal ABP WG Chair² is selected based on his/her proven record and expertise in the use of the ABP, the fields of laboratory steroid analysis, steroid doping and metabolism, and/or clinical endocrinology, as they apply to steroid doping.

He/she shall act as the official reporter who is responsible for ensuring appropriate coordination with WADA Management, delivering the annual report to the Chair of the WADA HM&R Committee and for providing accurate and timely information on all relevant issues.

WADA Liaison

The WADA Science and Medicine Department, and in particular the Associate Director ABP, will serve as the primary liaison between WADA and the Steroidal ABP WG.

The Associate Director ABP will be an observer³ to the Steroidal ABP WG in the sense that he/she contributes to and brings expertise to support the work of the Steroidal ABP WG but does not have a voting position. Additional WADA Science and Medicine Department staff may also participate in Steroidal ABP WG meetings as WADA experts on particular subject matters and to provide general support to the group where required.

² There are occasions where WADA staff may chair a WG, e.g. when an external chair is not deemed to be practical.

³ Unless they are appointed as the Chair of the WG.

Meetings and Working Norms

The Steroidal ABP WG will generally meet yearly in person for a two-day meeting, or virtually via video or teleconference (as determined by WADA) as many times as is necessary to complete its mandate.

The Steroidal ABP WG normally operates on the basis of consensus and maintains as informal a manner as is possible or appropriate for the conduct of business. Consensus will be sought whenever possible. In the event of divergence of opinion or disagreement concerning recommendations, the absolute majority (determined by vote by hand) will rule. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the casting vote. There is presently no formal practice concerning a quorum. The Chair has the responsibility to determine if a quorum is present. Meeting notes will record any dissenting opinion on request.

The Chair may limit discussion of resurfacing issues by referring to previous recommendations or conclusions of previous discussions.

Meeting notes of the Steroidal ABP WG meetings, reports and correspondence relative to the group's work shall be retained at the WADA Headquarters.

Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Media

Upon their appointment and again annually, all Steroidal ABP WG members are required to sign a document, pursuant to which they undertake (i) to comply with the Code of Ethics adopted by the WADA Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (ii) to comply with the Conflict of Interest policy adopted by the Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (iii) to keep all matters related to WADA confidential; and (iv) to comply with the WADA Media Relations Policy issued by the Agency (as amended from time to time).

A) Code of Ethics

The purpose of the WADA Code of Ethics is to establish clear ethical standards over the activities of WADA Officials (as defined in Section 2 of the Code of Ethics) to allow WADA to achieve its mission and protect its core values. WADA and all its Officials undertake to foster a culture of ethics, loyalty, and integrity within their respective areas of competence.

B) Conflict of Interest

Steroidal ABP WG members will be bound by the WADA Conflict of Interest policy. They will be required to annually complete and sign a Statement of Absence of Conflict of Interest in accordance with the policy, and to update such statement if and as necessary during the year.

C) Confidentiality

All Steroidal ABP members are required to sign a Confidentiality Declaration upon appointment and again annually. This ensures all members reflect on the confidential nature of their WADA work and confirm their adherence to such confidentiality rules.

D) Communications and Media

All Steroidal ABP WG members must read and comply with WADA's Media Relations policy. If a member should receive a request for an interview in relation to their role in WADA, or WADA's work in the fight against doping in sport, they should first consult with the WADA Head of Media Relations or (if absent), with the WADA Communications Director.

Budget and Financial Support

WADA shall provide the necessary administrative and operational resources for meetings. WADA will cover certain expenses and compensate members for meetings in accordance with its applicable indemnity policy.

It is acknowledged that some experts go above and beyond, including providing extensive advice throughout the year, outside of annual meetings. WADA offers a further indemnity to experts for such work carried out. The specific indemnity details are outlined in the "Overview of WADA Working Groups" document provided to Members each year.

Effective Date

The Steroidal ABP WG originally came into effect in 2012. The mandate remains the same as initially drafted and/or approved. The ToR were however updated to reflect practical changes to the way in which WADA manages its Working Groups which were approved in November 2020 and came into effect on 1 January 2021. Administrative updates were made in January 2022, January 2023 and January 2024.

These ToR are published on the WADA website.