

STRATEGIC TESTING EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The WADA Strategic Testing Expert Advisory Group (STEAG) is a designated Expert Advisory Group of WADA Management¹.

These Terms of Reference (ToR) are approved by the WADA Director General, following consultation with the Director of Testing.

Purpose

The focus of this expert advisory group (EAG) will be to evaluate how the anti-doping community can continually improve the way in which it plans, collects and analyzes samples for the purpose of doping control to maximize both detection efficiency and deterrence. This includes, but is not limited to, ways to improve the strategies and tactics that Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) use to test athletes, including selecting the right athletes to be tested at the right time for the right prohibited substances and methods, sample collection equipment and technologies, enhancements to existing sample collection procedures, the way testing data is managed in the WADA Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS), as well as procedures to deal with disruptions to normal testing (e.g. infectious diseases and pandemic circumstances) and any other exceptional situations that relate to the collection and analysis of samples for the purpose of doping control.

In addition, this group will also monitor the implementation of the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA). The TDSSA continues to assist in supporting a more effective anti-doping system by ensuring that those sports and disciplines at risk of abuse of prohibited substances within the scope of the TDSSA have a minimum level of analysis applied by all ADOs that have testing jurisdiction over them. The TDSSA also mandates the implementation of the Hematological Module of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) program for athletes that are in a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) for certain at-risk sports and disciplines.

In summary, the STEAG will provide expert advice, recommendations and guidance to WADA, in particular to the Testing Department, regarding the review of the implementation and the further development of testing programs, as well as other related processes linked to the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) and the TDSSA, to enhance the overall effectiveness of testing programs.

¹ Expert Advisory Groups are bodies created to provide ongoing advice and assistance to WADA Standing Committees and/or WADA Management (who in turn report to the WADA Executive Committee), on issues requiring significant technical specialist expertise. Expert Advisory Groups may also assist with regular or ad hoc activities, as necessary.

Objectives/Key Activities

Test Planning and Sample Collection

- 1) Monitor and review the volume and distribution of sample collection and analyses being conducted globally, understand any barriers to sample collection and consider strategies to improve where necessary.
- 2) Review the quality of testing strategies used by ADOs and provide recommendations as to how the quality of testing can be further improved.
- 3) Review the types of sample collection equipment being used or in development and provide advice to WADA to pass onto sample collection equipment manufacturers or deliver recommendations for updates to relevant guidelines and standards.
- 4) Consider the impact that infectious diseases can have/have had on testing programs (with a focus on health, safety and program effectiveness) and potential enhancements to sample collection procedures to deal with such extraordinary situations whilst maintaining high quality and standards.
- 5) Discuss athlete-friendly and cost-effective ways to improve sample collection procedures through creativity and innovation while maintaining high quality and standards.
- 6) Provide guidance and assistance, where necessary, in the further development of Dried Blood Spot (DBS) as a sample type, and promote and monitor the implementation of DBS by ADOs.
- 7) Consider potential improvements to the way that anti-doping testing data is managed and reported in ADAMS.
- 8) Review and enhance the existing supporting documents/guidelines related to the ISTI and the TDSSA so that testing for the specific prohibited substances included in the TDSSA is conducted intelligently and maximizes the effective use of ADOs' resources. This includes the ongoing enhancement of WADA's existing Testing Guides, which contain testing strategies for the prohibited substances within the scope of the TDSSA, the Reporting Guide to Monitor Testing and the testing monitoring tools included in ADAMS Next Gen.

Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis

- 1) Monitor and review the level of implementation by ADOs of the set minimum levels of analysis contained within the TDSSA for the following prohibited substances:
 - a) Erythropoietin receptor agonists (ERAs)²;
 - b) Growth hormone (GH);
 - c) Growth hormone releasing factors including growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) and its analogues, growth hormone secretagogues (GHS) and growth hormone releasing peptides (GHRPs).

² The acronym 'ERAs' is used in this Technical Document to describe the substances analyzed according to the applicable WADA Technical Document for EPO in force.

- 2) Review feedback received from ADOs and laboratories regarding the implementation of the TDSSA and assess if any changes or improvements are required to the TDSSA, including minimum levels of analysis or the supporting documents.
- 3) Review applications received from ADOs that seek flexibility in the implementation of the minimum levels of analysis contained within the TDSSA, and make an informed decision based on information submitted by the ADO and any supporting reports provided by WADA.
- 4) Provide expert advice on how WADA should review the required information which ADOs must submit as part of their application when seeking flexibility in the implementation of the minimum level of analysis and on the criteria under which such applications will be assessed.
- 5) Consider whether any additional sports or disciplines should be added to the TDSSA Appendices and apply applicable minimum levels of analysis in consultation with the respective International Federation and based on sports already listed in the TDSSA with similar physiological and non-physiological requirements.
- 6) Consider whether any analyses for other prohibited substances (e.g. insulins) or methods (e.g. gene doping) should be added to the TDSSA and, if so, incorporate a minimum level of analysis for them.
- 7) Review any applicable information/studies provided or identified by ADOs, STEAG members or WADA relevant to the risk a sport/discipline has in relation to the specific prohibited substances/methods identified in the TDSSA or which may be added thereto from time to time which may assist the STEAG in reviewing the minimum levels of analysis.
- 8) Review statistical data to determine the levels of analysis being conducted in sports and disciplines by ADOs for the prohibited substances within the scope of the TDSSA.
- 9) Review laboratory capacity to analyze for the prohibited substances that are within the scope of the current TDSSA, if any new prohibited substances are being considered for addition to the TDSSA or if any prohibited substances within the scope of the TDSSA should be considered to become part of the standard analysis menu that laboratories are required to conduct.
- 10) Review and provide guidance on the implementation of the ABP modules in conjunction with WADA's ABP team including;
 - a) the mandatory requirement for all ADOs to implement the Hematological Module of the ABP for those sports and disciplines with a minimum level of analysis for ERAs of 30% or greater.
 - b) monitoring the further development of the endocrine module, its use by ADOs and its relationship to GH testing as well as the further development of the serum steroid module and its use by ADOs to improve target testing and/or detection of doping.

- 11) Consider whether additional guidance is necessary for sample retention and further analysis strategies within the scope of the TDSSA or ISTI and key advancements in laboratory analytical testing procedures that would warrant further analyses of samples.

Innovation

Monitor existing and future trends in the STEAG's fields of expertise having the potential to impact the anti-doping system and propose new ideas for WADA's internal Innovation Board consideration.

Reporting Structure

The STEAG reports to WADA Management.

The WADA Testing Department will support the STEAG with its activities by providing the relevant information and statistical data which it has access to, and assist the STEAG in assessing and providing recommendations for enhancements of existing testing strategies and sample collection procedures and/or the ISTI, TDSSA or other guidelines or supporting documents.

The STEAG will report to the Director of Testing, who will report the outcomes of the STEAG to the WADA Director General and the WADA Executive Committee.

Where necessary or requested, the STEAG will provide a report on matters pertinent to the Health, Medical and Research Committee.

Membership/Composition

The composition of the STEAG shall not exceed a maximum of 12 members, including the Chairperson.

The WADA Director General, following consultation with the Director of Testing, will appoint members to the STEAG.

Members are selected on the basis of their relevant background and experience (e.g. expertise in the areas of test planning, sample collection, or analytical science).

The membership of the STEAG is published on the WADA website.

If required, additional experts may be called upon on an ad-hoc basis to contribute to specific topics or matters.

Each member (including the Chair) serves a two-year term, renewable but with a 12-year term limit, unless a business case is presented by the responsible WADA Director in charge justifying that a specific expertise is needed and that therefore the Chair or member is to be renewed otherwise the work of the group will be detrimentally affected. The WADA Director General must support the exception.

Chair/Rapporteur

The STEAG Chair is selected based on his/her proven record and expertise.

He/she shall act as the official reporter³ who is responsible for ensuring appropriate coordination with WADA Management and for providing accurate and timely information on all relevant issues.

WADA Liaison

The WADA Testing Department, and in particular the Director of Testing, will serve as the primary liaison between WADA and the STEAG.

The Director of Testing will be an observer to the STEAG in the sense that he/she contributes to and brings expertise to support the work of the STEAG but does not have a voting position. Additional WADA Testing and Science & Medicine staff may also participate in STEAG meetings as WADA experts on particular subject matters and to provide general support, coordination and management to the group where required.

Meetings and Working Norms

The STEAG will meet in person, or virtually via video or teleconference (as determined by WADA), traditionally at least once a year.

The STEAG 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 STEAG 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 STEAG 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 WADA 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

³ The Chairperson/Rapporteur, in coordination with WADA Management, is responsible for producing a brief annual report to assess the extent to which the STEAG fulfilled its tasks over the preceding year.

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

STEAG 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 STEAG 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 STEAG 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 and the Director of Testing or (if absent), with the WADA Communications Director.

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 Expert Advisory Groups" document provided to Members each year.

Effective Date and Future Review of Terms of Reference (ToR)

These ToR came in effect on 1 January 2021. Administrative updates to the ToR were made in January 2023 and January 2024.

Whilst the ToR for all WADA EAGs are reviewed annually, the procedures for creating/supporting/managing the EAGs will be reviewed at least every three years to ensure they remain appropriate and applicable.

These ToR are published on the WADA website.