

Q&A: 2009 Code

While the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), approved in 2003 and effective January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2008, maintains its key principles and elements, several revisions were approved by the WADA Foundation Board for implementation by January 2009. The following provides responses to frequently asked questions on the process for making the revisions and what these revisions are.

Why did WADA decide to revise the World Anti-Doping Code (Code)?

The Code—the core document that provides the framework for harmonized anti-doping policies, rules, and regulations within sport organizations and among public authorities—has proven to be a very powerful and effective tool in the harmonization of anti-doping efforts worldwide since its coming into force on January 1, 2004. This has been demonstrated by the overwhelming support of governments and sports in adopting the Code, in addition to the growing body of jurisprudence from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) supporting the Code's tenets.

As outlined in Article 23.6, the Code was always intended to serve as a living document, evolving to meet needs.

To this end, WADA initiated a consultation process beginning in 2006 for a practical review of the Code's provisions and their fine-tuning to enhance anti-doping programs, building on the experience gained by the Agency and its stakeholders in the application of the Code.

At the same time, in cooperation with its stakeholders, WADA launched a review of the International Standards associated to improve all anti-doping protocols and processes.

How did the revisions occur?

The Code consultation process was similar to that used in the original drafting of the document between 2001 and 2003.

The Code consultation process began in April 2006, included three stages of consultation, and culminated at the Third World Conference on Doping in Sport, which took place in November, 2007. The revised Code was endorsed by delegates at the World Conference on November 17, 2007, and unanimously adopted by WADA's Foundation Board.



Throughout this process, WADA solicited and carefully considered stakeholders' recommendations on various matters resulting from several years' experience of operating under and implementing the Code.

All stakeholders were urged to consider their experiences in providing suggestions for any amendments. In view of the successful and harmonious operation to date, stakeholders were asked to look carefully at the areas which would benefit from changes, and reflect on the benefits to the global community of athletes arising from any suggested alteration.

Who could submit comments as part of the consultation process?

Anyone. All stakeholders were encouraged to send their suggestions. Comments received included feedback from athletes, governments, international organizations, national anti-doping organizations, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, international sports federations, national Olympic committees, and many other organizations and individuals. In addition, WADA initiated 40 individual meetings with and 70 presentations to various stakeholder groups.

Who oversaw this process?

The consultation process was managed by an expert project management team which was overseen by WADA's Executive Committee.

Who approved the changes to the Code?

WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board reviewed comments from stakeholders from each phase of the consultation process and, on November 17, 2007, the Foundation Board unanimously approved the revised Code.

When did the revised Code go in force?

Revisions to the Code took effect on January 1, 2009.

What major changes does the 2009 Code include?

Firmness & Fairness

Two general themes emerge—firmness and fairness—both targeted at strengthening the fight against doping in sport.



The Prohibited List is reviewed and updated annually by WADA through a year-long consultative process involving groups of international scientific and anti-doping experts and stakeholders' feedback.