







### What is the World Anti-Doping Code?

The Code is the first document to harmonize regulations regarding anti-doping in sport across all sports and all countries of the world. The Code provides a framework for anti-doping policies, rules and regulations for sport organizations and public authorities.

As part of an extensive and unprecedented consultation process, WADA solicited comments from its stakeholders at every step throughout the Code's development and has incorporated those suggestions into each new version of the document. More than 1000 delegates of sports organizations and governments gave their backing to the Code at the World Conference on Doping in Sport in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 2003. It entered into force on January 1st, 2004.

### What new rules or procedures has the Code put in place?

The Code clarifies the responsibilities of stakeholders and brings harmonization where rules or policies varied between different sports and countries. For example, the organizations that sign the Code have to accept the WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. The signatories must also put in place a process that allows athletes with documented medical conditions to request a therapeutic use exemption (TUE), which if granted allows the use of banned substances.

The Code includes articles that are mandatory, relating for example, to sanctions, and hearings. Some other articles such as those dealing with consequences to teams leave some latitude to the signatories.

The Code works in conjunction with the List of Prohibited Substances and three other International Standards aimed at bringing harmonization among anti-doping organizations: testing, laboratories, and therapeutic use exemptions. These Standards have also been the subject of lengthy consultation among WADA's stakeholders and are mandatory for all signatories of the Code. *(continued)*



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In addition, WADA has developed and will continue to develop models of best practice/guidelines. These models and guidelines provide state-of-the-art solutions to stakeholders in different areas of anti-doping but are not mandatory. Several sets of model rules/guidelines have already been created.

### How does the Code implementation process work?

Signatories must make sure that their own rules and policies are in compliance with the mandatory articles and other principles of the Code. All International Federations of Olympic sports, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, all National Olympic Committees, all National Paralympic Committees and many other sports organizations have implemented the Code prior to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. The updated list of organizations that have formally accepted the Code is available on WADA's website at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org).

Many governments cannot be legally bound by a document produced by a non-governmental organization such as WADA. As a result, they have signed the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport, which signals their intention to recognize the Code and the work of WADA. An international convention against doping in sport under the aegis of UNESCO, the United Nations organization responsible for education, science and culture, is being prepared and governments will formally recognize the Code through ratifying this document.

While the Copenhagen Declaration is a political document through which governments signal their intention to formally recognize and implement the Code (the updated list of governments that have signed the Declaration can be found at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)), the UNESCO Convention will be a legally binding document. The goal set by governments is to present the final text of the Convention at the UNESCO General Conference in the fall of 2005, which will allow governments time to sign and ratify the Convention and formally recognize the Code prior to the winter Olympic Games in Turin in 2006.



### What will happen if a sports organization or a government doesn't accept the Code?

WADA reports cases of non-acceptance to its stakeholders including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) who have jurisdiction to impose sanctions. The Olympic Charter has been amended to state that adoption of the Code by the Olympic movement is mandatory. Only sports that accept and implement the Code can be included and remain in the program of the Olympic Games.

WADA will also report non-compliance of governments before the deadline set prior to the 2006 winter Olympic Games. If a country does not ratify the International Convention against doping in sport, it may be subject to sanctions from the IOC and from other sports organizations, including losing the right to host Olympic Games.

### What is the situation of professional leagues and sports organizations outside the Olympic movement in relation to the Code?

Members of these leagues must comply with the Code when they take part in events or tournaments under the jurisdiction of organizations that have implemented it (e.g. National Basketball Association or National Hockey League players playing at the Olympic Games or at World Championships).

WADA has contacted some of these leagues and, with the support of governments and other sports organizations, hopes that all of them will accept and implement the Code in order to have one single standard for all athletes in all sports and in all countries.

# Code Q&As



## What can WADA do to apply the Code?

WADA closely monitors doping cases and now has the right to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport for cases under the jurisdiction of organizations that have implemented the Code.

WADA can also intervene in ensuring that TUEs are consistently granted. WADA's role in the TUE process is two-pronged: the Agency reserves the right to monitor and review any TUE granted by a federation or anti-doping agency; and athletes who requested a TUE and were denied can ask WADA to review that decision. If WADA determines that a denial of the TUE did not comply with the International Standard, the Agency can reverse the decision.

## What flexibility does the Code provide in terms of sanctions?

The norm stated in the Code is a two-year ineligibility sanction for a first anti-doping violation and lifetime ineligibility for a second offense. However, the Code provides flexibility for sanctions ranging from a warning to a life ban depending on various matters including: the type of the anti-doping violation, the circumstances of the individual case (level or absence of fault or negligence), the substance (or quantity found for certain substances) in case of the detection of a prohibited substance, and repetition of an anti-doping rule violation.

For example, the Code foresees these types of violations:

- Violations relating to the presence of a prohibited substance and/or its use; refusing or failing to submit to sample collection; tampering with doping control, for which sanctions range from a warning to life ban depending on the substance, the circumstances of the case, the repetition of the anti-doping violation.
- Violations relating to the failure to provide whereabouts information and missed tests by athletes responsible to submit to appropriate out-of-competition testing, for which sanctions range from a minimum of 3 months up to a maximum of 2 years.



- Violations relating to administration and trafficking of prohibited substances, for which sanctions will range from a minimum of 4 years to a lifetime ban.

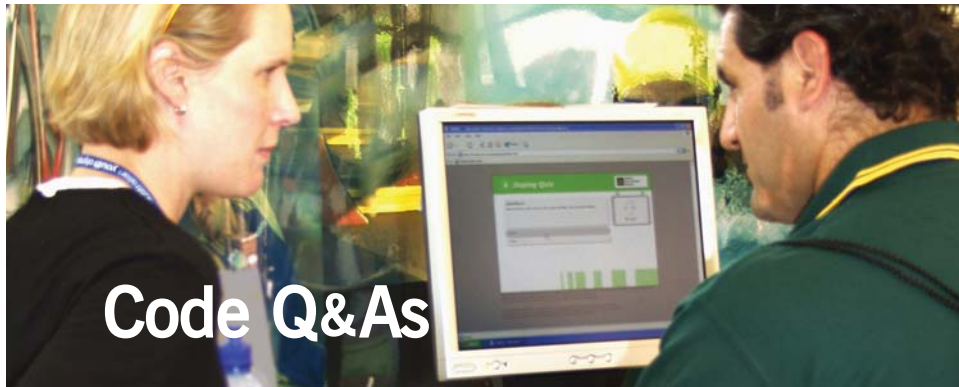
The sanction may be reduced if the athlete can establish that he or she did not know or suspect, and could not have reasonably known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he or she had used or been administered the prohibited substance or method. When a prohibited substance or its markers or metabolites is detected in an athlete's specimen, which is an anti-doping rule violation, the athlete must also prove to the tribunal how the prohibited substance entered his or her system to have the sanction reduced.

Furthermore, the Code also addresses violations involving certain specified substances included in the Prohibited List (for ex. ephedrine, cannabinoids, etc). These are substances which are particularly susceptible to unintentional anti-doping rules violations because of their general availability in medicinal products or which are less likely to be successfully abused as doping agents. Where an athlete can establish, again according to the relevant standard of proof, that the use of such a specified substance was not intended to enhance sport performance, the period of ineligibility will be reduced within the boundaries defined in the Code.

More details about sanctions can be found in the Code at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)

### What further responsibilities does the Code give to WADA?

In addition to stressing its role of coordination in the different areas of the fight against doping in sport and to giving the Agency the responsibility to monitor compliance, the Code gives WADA several new responsibilities. These include the accreditation of the laboratories in charge of the analysis of samples collected throughout the world; the preparation and review of the annual List of Prohibited Substances and Methods; and the implementation of ADAMS (Anti-Doping Administration and Management System), a computerized system that will serve as a central clearinghouse for doping control testing



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data and results for international-level athletes and national-level athletes that have been included in their national anti-doping organization's registered testing pool. This clearinghouse should be available later in 2005 and will facilitate coordinated test distribution planning and avoid unnecessary duplication in testing by the various anti-doping organizations.

Furthermore, WADA will continue its important work in terms of education, awareness and communications, of Independent Observers programs and of coordination and funding of research.

### Will there be changes in the Code in the next few years?

The Code is a living document and changes may occur in the future. Article 23.6 of the Code states that:

"WADA shall initiate proposed amendments to the Code and shall ensure a consultative process to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from athletes, signatories and governments on recommended amendments. Amendments to the Code shall, after appropriate consultation, be approved by a two-thirds majority of the WADA Foundation Board including a majority of both the public sector and Olympic Movement members casting vote. Amendments shall, unless provided otherwise, go into effect three months after such approval. Signatories shall implement any applicable amendment to the Code within one year of approval by the WADA Foundation Board."