

WADA Athlete Council

15 November 2023

Meeting Outcomes

Athlete Council Members	Athlete Council Members
Ryan Pini, Chair	Inaki Gomez
Gaby Ahrens, Vice-Chair	Jennifer Harss
Ivan Cosic	Dora Hegyi
Clare Egan	Humphrey Kayange
Adriana Escobar	Kristen Kit
Patrick O-Leary	Ella Sabljak
Yuhan Tan	Emma Terho
Maja Wloszczowska	Hong Zhang
Alessia Zecchini	
Apologies	
Jitske Visser	Olumide Oyedeji
Independent Experts (for specific items)	
Snežana Samardžić-Marković	Anna Thorstenson
WADA (some only for specific items)	
Stacy Spletzer-Jegen, Senior Manager, Athlete Engagement	Witold Banka, President
Karine Henrie, Head of Athlete Engagement	Yang Yang, Vice-President
Stuart Kemp, Chief Operating Officer	Olivier Niggli, Director General
Florence Lefebvre-Rangeon, Chief Operating Officer	Tim Ricketts, Director, Testing
Samantha Dubois, Manager, Governance	Aaron Walker, Deputy Director, Intelligence and Investigations
Audrey Taillefer, Head of the Strategic Management Office	Damien Larin, Head of Confidential Information Unit

WADA's Athlete Council (AC) held an in-person meeting on 15 November 2023 in Montreal, Canada. The key outcomes of the discussions are outlined below and have been submitted to WADA Management for further consideration.

Welcome and member updates

- WADA AC Chair, Ryan Pini welcomed the members to their second in-person meeting of 2023.
- The outcomes of the previous virtual AC meeting, which took place in October 2023, were circulated via email ahead of the meeting and approved as complete and final.
- Each AC member provided a brief update on their engagement activities, highlights of which included:
 - involvement in Independent Observer (IO) missions and delivery of engagement programs at several major events this year (e.g., Parapan American Games, Pan American Games, Asian Games and European Games);
 - attendance at several international conferences;
 - participation at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athlete Forum as well as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) International Athlete Forum; and
 - active contribution within several committees and/or groups such as the WADA Finance and Administration Committee, Initial Human Rights Impact Assessment working group, ITA Pre-Games Expert Group, WADA Education Committee, etc.

Terms of Reference Review

- The AC's Terms of Reference (ToRs) are reviewed at least annually. As such, an initial discussion took place and the AC agreed that some amendments are needed to ensure the ToRs remain accurate and fit for purpose.
- The AC proposed that a sub-group be formed to review initial feedback provided on the ToRs during the meeting and to gather additional comments. It was agreed that this sub-group would propose draft amendments for the AC to consider in the first quarter of 2024, with the objective that revised ToRs be presented for approval at the AC's next in-person meeting, to be held in March 2024. Once the AC agrees on the amendments, a final version will be presented to WADA's Foundation Board for approval (via circulatory vote) for them to come into force. This should occur before the AC Group 2 elections taking place in 2024.

Athlete Council Vacant Seat

- Regarding the current AC vacant seat which resulted from a period of ineligibility imposed on an AC member as a result of an anti-doping rule violation, the AC discussed and agreed that, based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the ToRs¹, the loss of position on the AC is permanent after the imposition of a period of ineligibility. Regarding the current AC vacant seat, it was agreed that WADA would communicate with the concerned person to inform them of this.
- Furthermore, and regarding holding an election to fill this vacant seat from Group 2 as per the ToRs, the AC considered the practical implications of such an election. After discussion, it was agreed that the tight

¹ The specific eligibility criteria referenced by the AC can be found on page 2 of the ToR: "If any period of ineligibility or provisional suspension is imposed on a member serving on the AC under the Code, the member automatically loses his/her position on the AC".

timelines and logistics needed to hold an 'additional election' in a short period of time would be impractical. As such, all AC members agreed that this seat would remain vacant until December 2024, considering the upcoming elections in 2024 for the entire Group 2 members and the fact that a new elected member would have been appointed for less than 12 months given the provisions in the ToRs.

Strategic Planning

- The AC received an update from WADA's Strategic Management Office regarding the development of its upcoming strategic plan. This included a discussion on the methodology involved, a reflection on the initial evaluation of the 2020 - 2024 Strategic Plan, comments on the evolution of the anti-doping ecosystem and a review of the high-level themes for consideration within the 2025 – 2029 Strategic Plan.
- It was discussed that much work remains to be done on WADA's strategic priority to "Be Athlete-Centered" and the AC expressed its support for the continued inclusion of this theme in the next Strategic Plan.
- Within this discussion AC members were encouraged to reflect on their long-term vision (i.e., 'where would the AC like to be in 2029') not only to inform WADA's Strategic Plan but also to consider the development of a specific AC strategic/action plan (to be aligned with WADA's Strategic Plan).
- The AC agreed that further discussions on a specific AC action plan should take place in 2024 and that this topic should be added to the AC's next in-person meeting agenda (i.e., March 2024).

Testing of Russian and Belarusian Athletes

- The AC was provided with an update regarding the initiatives in place to monitor the testing of Russian and Belarusian athletes now and in the lead-up to Paris 2024. WADA Director, Testing also provided an overview of testing numbers.
- The AC welcomed this update and noted the need for additional information around this topic to continue to be provided to the AC, as well as to athletes in general.

Current Affairs

- WADA President, Vice-President, and Director General joined the AC meeting and provided an overview of current affairs in anti-doping.
- The AC had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in dialogue with the President, Vice-President, and Director General.

Human Rights Impact Assessment

- The AC received a progress update on the status of the Initial Human Rights Impact Assessment by Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Independent Expert. She thanked AC members part of the advisory committee and invited them to share their stories.
- The AC reiterated their support for this project and welcomes further updates as available.

Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds

- The AC received a progress update on the work of the Ombuds program from Independent Ombuds Anna Thorstenson. She provided insight into the role of the Ombuds which included its terms of reference, duties, and scope.
- She highlighted the need for on-going athlete engagement and better promotion to ensure that athletes are aware of the service and start using it more.
- The AC reiterated their support for this important work and noted their wish to see the Ombuds program expand its reach and continue after this pilot project.

Intelligence and Investigations

- The AC was provided with an overview of WADA's Intelligence & Investigations 'Operation Refuge', an analysis and examination of doping amongst minors.
- One of the 'call for actions' of this examination is the need to reexamine how the anti-doping community can better support, educate and protect minor athletes as they navigate their sporting careers, the anti-doping system, and the trap of performance enhancing substances.
- The AC expressed its support for this project and welcomes the opportunity to review the full report once published.

2024 Events and Meeting Calendars

- The AC agreed to have its next in-person meeting on 14 March 2024 in Lausanne Switzerland, which coincides with WADA's Annual Symposium, to which all AC members are invited to participate. A second in-person meeting was proposed to be held in-person in December 2024, in conjunction with other WADA meetings.
- The AC also discussed the need to have additional virtual meetings during the year. Those will be scheduled as needed throughout 2024.