

WADA Athlete Council

14 March 2024

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
Patrick O-Leary	Kristen Kit
Yuhan Tan	Emma Terho
Maja Wloszczowska	Hong Zhang
	Alessia Zecchini
Apologies	
Adriana Escobar	Olumide Oyedeji
Ella Sabljak	Jitske Visser
Independent Expert	
Dr. Andrea Petroczi	
WADA (some only for specific items)	
Karine Henrie, Head of Athlete Engagement	Witold Banka, President
Stacy Spletzer-Jegen, Senior Manager, Athlete Engagement	Olivier Niggli, Director General
Samantha Dubois, Manager, Governance	Audrey Taillefer, Head of the Strategic Management Office
James Sclater, Senior Manager, Strategic Projects	

WADA's [Athlete Council](#) (AC) held an in-person meeting on 14 March 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland. The key outcomes of the discussions are outlined below and have been submitted to WADA Management.

Welcome and member updates

- WADA AC Chair, Ryan Pini welcomed the members to their first in-person meeting of 2024.
- The Chair reminded members that the outcomes of the previous in-person AC meeting, which took place in November 2023, were circulated via email in January 2024 and were approved as complete and final. As such, they were published on WADA's website in January 2024.
- The Chair thanked those that attended the WADA Annual Symposium and congratulated Ben Sandford on his Play True Award and for all the work he has done to support clean sport.
- The Chair provided a debrief on the Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting (held on 11 March 2024) and confirmed that the ExCo extended the current Ombuds' contract until 31 December 2024 and that the ExCo agreed to consider the long-term status of the Ombuds program at its September 2024 meeting. The AC welcomed this news and again, reiterated their support of this important initiative.
- The AC voiced their concern for the so-called "Enhanced Games" and expressed their wish to prepare a joint statement. The AC recognized that being proactive by issuing the statement below might draw more attention than is warranted on this event. As such, the following is the AC's statement in that regard, which the AC noted WADA could share externally, if and when appropriate:

During its 14 March 2024 meeting, the Athlete Council members expressed their support of WADA's statement regarding the 'Enhanced Games' and wish to voice their opposition to the so-called 'Enhanced Games', an event that would encourage the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes. The AC views these 'Enhanced Games' as a dangerous and reckless concept. As we have seen through history, performance-enhancing drugs have taken a terrible physical and mental toll on many athletes. This is unacceptable. Even worse, some have died. The beauty and popularity of sport is based on the ideal of clean and fair competition. These values must be protected. Athletes serve as role models and they advocate not only to protect the spirit of sport, but also to promote health and well-being to a current and future generation of athletes. As advocates of clean athletes, the AC hopes no athlete participates in these 'Enhanced Games'.

- The Chair provided a brief overview of the process and timelines proposed by WADA for the upcoming "Group 2" elections, which would take place during the third and last quarters of the year. WADA will be finalizing the timelines in the coming weeks and once ready, will circulate to the AC. Regarding these upcoming elections, an initial communication will be sent to all International Federations' Athlete Commissions during the second quarter of 2024.
- Each AC member provided a brief update on their engagement activities, highlights of which included:
 - an update on the engagement activities delivered at the Youth Olympic Games which were held in Gangwon Korea in January 2024 and the plan for the African Games in Ghana in March 2024;
 - the AC's support for WADA's Athlete Engagement program and the importance of having athletes involved in the delivery of this program;
 - attendance at WADA's Global Education Conference; and
 - active contributions within several committees and/or groups such as the Initial Human Rights Impact Assessment working group, ITA Pre-Games Expert Group, WADA Education Committee, and JADA Symposium.

Prevalence Survey

- AC member Patrick O’Leary, Chair of the Prevalence Working Group shared the plans for the prevalence survey project. He was accompanied by other working group members, namely James Sclater and Dr. Andrea Petroczi. The AC provided insight on ideas regarding promotion and distribution of the survey.

Code and International Standards

- Karine Henrie shared with the AC the process and timelines in place regarding the Code and International Standard update process with a focus on how to further engage the AC and other athlete groups to ensure the athlete perspective is considered when revisions are proposed.
- It was agreed that virtual calls with relevant drafting teams would be planned in the coming weeks and months to seek feedback from the AC. The possibility of delivering webinars to the athlete community to raise awareness around this process was discussed and it was agreed that this would be further explored in the coming weeks as well.
- A request for volunteer(s) was made to lead/collate AC feedback and ensure this is captured within “WADACONnect” (i.e., the online tool used to gather the anti-doping community’s comments) during the next consultation phase. AC member Clare Egan offered to lead the process for documenting the AC’s feedback and this was welcomed by all members.

Current Affairs

- WADA 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 and Director General.

Terms of Reference Review

- Following the AC’s last meeting (i.e., November 2023) where the Terms of Reference (ToR) were discussed and the AC agreed that some amendments were needed in order to ensure that the ToR remain accurate and fit for purpose, AC member Inaki Gomez volunteered to lead the review process.
- In collaboration with WADA, Inaki prepared a draft redline version of proposed amendments which were circulated to the AC ahead of the meeting. During the meeting, Inaki (with the support of Samantha Dubois) presented the proposed amendments to the AC and members provided verbal feedback.
- While some minor changes were proposed, the AC agreed in principle with the draft revised ToR. As such, Inaki asked for a formal motion to approve the proposed amendments and AC member Patrick O’Leary presented the motion to approve, it was seconded by AC member Emma Terho and then all AC members approved.
- It was agreed that once Inaki finalized the revised ToR further to the requested minor changes, they would then be provided to the AC Chair for final review before being circulated to the whole AC. As a final step, the ToR would be presented to WADA’s Foundation Board for formal approval (via circulatory vote) in April 2024.

Strategic Planning: Development of an AC Action Plan

- The AC received an update from Audrey Taillefer regarding the development of WADA’s next Strategic Plan (2025 – 2029) and the AC was invited to provide feedback on the key initiatives proposed.
- Led by Audrey, the AC had an in-depth discussion regarding its Action Plan (to focus on 2024/2025) and initial ideas were shared. It was agreed that a document collating these ideas and the proposed next steps would be prepared and shared with the AC. Volunteers to form a ‘sub-group’ to continue the work on the Action Plan were asked to express interest either during the meeting or by email following the meeting. No member expressed

immediate interest during the meeting (but as these outcomes were being prepared some members expressed interest via email).

- Audrey also provided an update on WADA's Annual Perception Survey, including initial results. The survey remains open until mid-August 2024 and the AC was invited to continue to promote it. A focus group will be formed at a later date to identify areas for improvement and potential solutions. Members of the AC will be invited to participate.

In Camera Session

- A brief in-camera session was held as a matter of protocol.

2024 Events and Meeting Calendars

- The AC agreed to have its next in-person meeting in December 2024 in Saudi Arabia, which coincides with WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board. Additional ad-hoc virtual calls will be planned in the coming months.
- The AC expressed its interest to identify an engagement initiative while in Saudi Arabia that would promote the development of sport. An initiative that would support the development of girls' and women's sport was raised as an example. Further discussions will be had on this.