

**REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE 138<sup>TH</sup> IOC SESSION BY WITOLD BAŃKA  
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**SESSION HELD: 20 JULY 2021**

Since my report to the 137<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in March 2021, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – along with the rest of the anti-doping world – has continued to work hard to ensure a return to full capacity despite the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the sporting world. On 20 and 21 May 2021 respectively, WADA held its Executive Committee (ExCo) and Foundation Board (Board) meetings by video conference, which resulted in decisions outlined in the following media releases:

- [21 May 2021: WADA Executive Committee approves Technical Document for innovative dried blood spot testing method](#)
- [8 June 2021: WADA Foundation Board approves new member of Executive Committee](#)  
(Based on circulatory votes further to May Board meeting)

What is outlined hereafter is a brief WADA update for IOC Members since I last reported.

## **1. GLOBAL TESTING IN THE LEAD UP TO THE TOKYO GAMES**

In February 2020, WADA launched a dedicated [COVID-19 Updates](#) section on WADA's website that it continues to update with relevant stakeholder guidance and documentation, including as it relates to global testing.

Specifically, on [6 May](#) and [16 June 2021](#), WADA announced that global testing figures were continuing to rise as activities of a growing number of Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) worldwide returned to normal despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The latest available figures show that 24,430 samples were collected in May 2021 by 152 ADOs, which was the highest number of samples collected since March 2020.

Despite restrictions that are still in place around the world, out-of-competition testing is now at a level greater than the same period in 2019. Specifically, in April 2021, 14,560 out-of-competition tests were carried out compared to 12,713 in April 2019. In May, the number went up to 16,149, compared to 13,691 for the same month in 2019 and was the highest number of out-of-competition samples collected over the past 29 months. In-competition testing figures for May 2021 were also the highest in the past 15 months with 8,281 samples collected from events and competitions. [See tables below.](#)

The increase in testing around the world represents a significant effort on the part of Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) and other stakeholders such as the International Testing Agency (ITA). WADA thanks them for their commitment, flexibility and determination to deliver a quality testing program in challenging circumstances. In the lead-in to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, WADA urged all ADOs to make the most of the remaining time to ensure that all athletes bound

for Tokyo were properly tested and to implement the testing recommendations they received from the Pre-Games Expert Group led by the ITA.

In these communications, WADA also reminded ADOs that the IOC-funded pre-Olympic long-term storage program delivered by the ITA was available to them, at no cost, so they could securely put samples away in a long-term storage facility for possible further analysis in the months and years to come. The storage and further analysis of samples has yielded considerable success in previous years and it is a requirement under the 2021 [International Standard for Testing and Investigations](#) that ADOs must have a written strategy for storage and further analysis as part of their testing programs.

In addition, WADA has been working hard to ensure that the WADA-accredited laboratory in Tokyo is ready for the challenge of the Games. The Agency will also have [Independent Observer](#) (IO) team present in Tokyo to monitor the anti-doping activities of the Olympic Games. The team will work in partnership with the IOC, the ITA and the organizing committee to ensure the most effective anti-doping program is delivered. Similarly, WADA will have an IO team monitoring the anti-doping activities of the Paralympic Games in partnership with the International Paralympic Committee. The IO Team is comprised of the following members:

- Dr. Francesca Rossi (Italy), Director of Testing, National Anti-Doping Agency of France (Chair);
- George Tsamis (Greece), Senior Manager, Standards and Harmonization, WADA (Vice-Chair);
- Dr. Osquel Barroso (Cuba), Senior Deputy Director, Laboratories, WADA;
- Gina Gill Herrera (Colombia), Manager, Athlete Biological Passport and Therapeutic Use Exemptions, National Anti-Doping Agency of Colombia;
- Kenny Lee (Republic of Korea), Manager, Asia and Oceania Office, WADA;
- Greg McKenna (UK), Head of Biathlon Integrity Unit, International Biathlon Union;
- Aya Nakitanda (Uganda), Medical Doctor and President, National Anti-Doping Agency of Uganda (former athlete); and
- Marissa Sunio (USA), Senior Manager, Legal Affairs, WADA.

## Number of samples collected (blood, urine and Athlete Biological Passport)

### 2019-2021 Comparison

Month	2021	2020	2019
January	14,280	20,288	17,539
February	17,731	25,259	23,819
March	23,017	11,207	26,933
April	22,099	578	25,219
May	24,430	2,625	27,146
June		7,706	26,904
July		11,081	28,084
August		14,619	29,360
September		18,699	26,638
October		21,094	26,897
November		19,636	26,469
December		15,464	20,873
Total		168,256	305,881

## Number of samples collected out of competition

### 2019-2021 Comparison

Month	2021	2020	2019
January	10,152	12,546	9,988
February	11,937	13,622	12,379
March	15,292	6,868	13,139
April	14,560	569	12,713
May	16,149	2,512	13,691
June		6,734	13,377
July		8,916	14,933
August		9,871	15,443
September		11,920	15,015
October		13,097	15,112
November		13,963	15,265
December		10,880	12,012
Total	68,090	111,498	163,067

## Number of Testing Authorities 2019-2021 Comparison

Month	2021	2020	2019
January	117	138	120
February	137	157	147
March	146	146	154
April	145	31	165
May	152	58	169
June		94	178
July		108	172
August		123	172
September		133	190
October		145	189
November		146	189
December		144	163
Total		119	167

## 2. PRE-TOKYO GAMES EDUCATION

In July 2020 and February 2021 respectively, WADA launched its '[ADEL for Tokyo Olympics](#)' and '[ADEL for Tokyo Paralympics](#)' courses as pre-Games education programs for athletes and coaches who are heading to the Tokyo Games. The courses are accessible on WADA's Anti-Doping Education and Learning (ADEL) platform under the Major Events Education catalog and are available in a variety of languages, thanks to the translation efforts of ADOs around the globe.

Since March 2021, WADA has added numerous new stakeholder resources to its Code Implementation Support Program (CISP), which is hosted on ADEL. Launched on [4 May 2020](#), CISP was developed to support Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) with their implementation of the [2021 World Anti-Doping Code \(Code\) and International Standards \(Standards\)](#) that entered into force on 1 January 2021. The resources on ADEL are providing technical and practical support to anti-doping practitioners as they develop and implement their anti-doping programs in line with the 2021 Code and Standards.

## 3. RUSADA COMPLIANCE AND OPERATION LIMS

WADA continues to monitor the implementation of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decision 2020/O/6689 – the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) vs. the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) – which was published in full on [14 January 2021](#). In addition, significant work is still being conducted by WADA in relation to the follow up of doping cases as part of the Agency's Operation LIMS related to the data and doping control samples retrieved by WADA from the former Moscow Laboratory.

In particular, WADA continues to provide support, when needed, to International Federations (IFs) to bring cases forward that may lead to anti-doping rule violations, to monitor IF decisions in relation to evidentiary packages provided to them by WADA, and to appeal decisions when the Agency does not consider them to be in line with the Code. In the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, WADA's Legal Affairs Department and independent Intelligence and Investigations Department have been focusing their energy to provide all

relevant information and support to respective IFs in order to prevent athletes or support personnel who were identified as part of Operation LIMS from participating in the Games.

WADA has also created an internal RUSADA monitoring project team to monitor RUSADA's reinstatement conditions as set out in the CAS award. The Agency is working with RUSADA to assess their progress towards achievement of those conditions.

#### **4. INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATIONS**

Thanks to funding being provided by a number of Governments of the world, as part of the IOC initiative, announced in 2019 by President Thomas Bach, that ensures any additional contribution by the public authorities will be matched by the IOC, the budget available to WADA's Intelligence & Investigations Department (I&I), as well as scientific research is growing. From an I&I perspective, the generous fund has already helped to establish a temporary Compliance Investigation Section to initiate or support any ADO compliance related investigations and an education project to initiate a three-year project on investigation capacity and capability building of ADOs around the world.

WADA I&I is currently engaged in a number of investigations around the world. In June 2021, WADA [welcomed the publication](#) by the ITA of a report related to its investigation into historical allegations of mishandling and impropriety by certain officials within the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), particularly in relation to the IWF anti-doping program.

WADA I&I has supported the ITA in its enquiries, including by sharing evidence and information from its own wide-ranging weightlifting probe, which has been ongoing since 2017. In October 2020, WADA I&I published the provisional findings of its investigation. This complex investigation, which has four main pillars, has been looking into claims of corruption within the IWF and allegations of an organized doping and a protection scheme operating in weightlifting. There are still some law enforcement investigations that are ongoing in relation to this series of operations and WADA I&I is supporting those efforts while also collaborating very closely with the ITA, to which the IWF has delegated the independent management of its anti-doping program, as the responsible agency to investigate these allegations. It is worth pointing out that the findings of WADA's I&I team triggered a law enforcement enquiry before the matter became public through the media.

WADA I&I has continued its cooperation with INTERPOL by organizing regional workshops bringing NADOs and law enforcement agencies together in order to strengthen their bilateral relationships. So far, we have covered Latin America and Europe with the intention being to extend this initiative into other regions, including Africa and Asia, in the coming months and years. Cooperation with law enforcement is key in the fight against doping and related crimes. To that end, WADA is glad to have signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) with the European Union for Law Enforcement (Europol) in February 2021 to strengthen and expand its operational activities, such as the successful '[Operation Viribus](#)', an investigation that led to the [arrest of hundreds of people and the seizure of 3.8 million doping substances](#) and counterfeit medicines, and was supported by WADA I&I.

#### **5. LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Since March 2021, WADA's Legal Affairs Department has reviewed more than 450 decisions from ADOs that are Signatories to the Code. In that time, it has filed 13 appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and a CAS award has been rendered in five appeals involving WADA. Among these five CAS awards, WADA's appeal was upheld in three cases including the cases of 400m runner [Salwa Eid Naser](#), and swimmer [Sun Yang](#). A settlement agreement was

signed between the parties in one case and WADA withdrew its appeal in one case after obtaining additional analytical evidence.

WADA's Legal Affairs Department has been collaborating with the IOC and ITA to protect the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure that no athlete currently suspended takes part. WADA's Legal Department has been comparing the long list of more than 30,000 athletes for Tokyo with the information available to WADA. WADA is also closely monitoring the situation of individual athletes in relation to the LIMS investigation.

## **6. DRIED BLOOD SPOT TESTING**

Since 2019, WADA has been collaborating with the IOC, ITA and the National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) of Australia, China, Japan, Switzerland and the USA, on the development of dried blood spot (DBS) testing, which has the potential to make a significant positive impact. Elements of DBS testing will be trialed at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games before it is rolled out for routine use at the Games in Beijing early next year.

The advantages of DBS include:

- Easy sample collection (e.g. finger or upper arm prick);
- Less invasive methods than current urine and blood collection and therefore, a better athlete experience;
- The test requires only a very small volume of blood;
- Less expensive collection and transport of samples;
- Less space needed to store samples; and
- Possible benefits with regards to sample stability.

At its May 2021 meeting, WADA's ExCo unanimously [approved](#) an important Technical Document (TD) on DBS testing. This TD harmonizes DBS testing by providing ADOs and WADA-accredited laboratories with specific requirements and procedures for DBS sample collection, transport, analysis and storage. The TD will come into effect on 1 September 2021 and WADA will assist ADOs and WADA-accredited laboratories around the world with the progressive implementation of this method to make sure that they are ready for its routine use at the Beijing 2022 Games and beyond.

## **7. COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

WADA continues to enforce its ISO9001-certified Code Compliance Monitoring Program. In line with its Compliance Strategy, the Agency published its Compliance Annual Report for 2020 in March 2021 and is implementing the findings from that report through its internal Compliance Annual Plan for 2021. During the pandemic, WADA continued to monitor Code Signatories' anti-doping programs through virtual audits and continuous monitoring. So far in 2021, WADA has conducted six virtual audits (four NADOs and two IFs). Thirteen Signatories received a correction action report resulting from the continuous monitoring program and WADA is supporting those Signatories in the implementation of their corrective actions.

The Agency continues to support Signatories in their adoption of anti-doping rules in line with the revised Code and International Standards which came to force on 1 January 2021. More than 20 Signatories still do not have anti-doping rules approved by WADA. During the pandemic, the Compliance Review Committee (CRC) endorsed more flexible measures with regard to compliance procedures, including freezing compliance procedures and deadlines. At its April 2021 meeting, the CRC re-opened all compliance procedures and will discuss a number of cases of potential non-compliance at its next meeting in August 2021.

WADA is currently drafting the next Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) for IFs and NADOs, which will be issued in a staggered approach to Signatories starting in early 2022. In addition, the Major Event Organization (MEO) CCQ is being updated and will be issued to a number of MEOs holding events in 2022.

## 8. KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Following on from a number of other similar partnerships in recent years, in June 2021, WADA [signed a memorandum of understanding](#) (MOU) with the major Japanese pharmaceutical company, Shionogi & Co. Ltd., which will ensure that the Agency is notified immediately of any new Shionogi compounds or substances in development that have the potential for sports-related doping abuse. This MOU is the latest commitment from the pharmaceutical industry to assist WADA in its efforts to protect clean sport.

Also in June, WADA [signed an MOU](#) with the Central European Anti-Doping Organization (CEADO) to collaborate on specific anti-doping program development activities, beginning with a project involving the Eastern Europe Regional Anti-Doping Organization (EERADO). CEADO is a partnership of eight National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia that work together with the main goal of supporting and strengthening the anti-doping system in the region. The MOU requires the two organizations to meet regularly and, as necessary, discuss areas of collaboration that are of a mutual interest. The EERADO project is of particular importance this year as this Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) is set to disband at the end of 2021 after 13 years of good work. The closure of EERADO comes as its member countries' NADOs are now in a position to operate independently, allowing WADA to redirect resources to other regions of the world where there is a greater need. This project will enable EERADO members to benefit from ongoing guidance and support as they further develop their national anti-doping programs.

Earlier in the year, WADA also signed MOUs with the [European Union Agency for Law Enforcement](#) (Europol), as mentioned in the I&I section above, and the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#).

## 9. WADA GOVERNANCE REFORMS

In May 2021, WADA's ExCo and Board received the first interim report from WADA's [Working Group on the Review of Governance Reforms](#), including the contributions received from stakeholders as part of the first phase of consultation. The Working Group was set up in November 2020 to monitor the effect of the [governance reforms](#) approved in 2018, as well as to consult with various stakeholders and propose additional and appropriate reforms going forward. The seven-person Working Group is composed of governance experts, includes two athletes and an independent Chair.

The Group is now embarking on the second part of its work, which includes further stakeholder consultation and the development of specific recommendations for discussion and potential approval by the ExCo and the Board at their November 2021 meetings as planned. However, the Group continues to face some scheduling challenges with many stakeholders currently unavailable.

## 10. WEBINARS AND SYMPOSIA

Since March 2021, WADA along with other anti-doping experts have delivered 18 webinars as part of its Code Implementation Support Program (CISP) series, the Spanish and African series and the Athlete series.

In addition, on 22-23 April, the Agency virtually hosted a Therapeutic Use Exemption ([TUE Symposium](#)), via two, two-hour sessions. The primary objective of the Symposium was to further harmonize the approach to TUEs, which ensure that athletes with legitimate medical conditions may participate in sport despite their need for a prohibited substance or method. The Symposium discussed elements of the [2021 International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions](#) that entered into effect on 1 January 2021 and included interactive discussions on medical cases, medico-legal issues, retroactive TUEs, and the challenges regarding global harmonization of practices.

## 11. LAUNCH OF ADAMS PAPERLESS MODULE

In May 2021, WADA [launched](#) 'DCO Central', a new doping control sample collection app for tablets that is also available for free from the Apple Store and Google Play. 'DCO Central' provides Doping Control Officers (DCOs) from ADOs and Sample Collection Agencies with a cost-free online and offline solution for secure and fast data collection as part of doping control sample collection, which is now entirely paperless and, most importantly, connected to WADA's Anti-Doping Administration Management System (ADAMS) to reduce manual data entry, while improving data accuracy and the speed and security of data exchange.

'DCO Central' is the third important module that has been released as part of the ADAMS rebuild known as the 'Next Gen' project, which was launched in 2017 and is aimed at optimizing support to the global anti-doping program and better serving athletes and anti-doping stakeholders.

The launch of DCO Central followed on the heels of the launches of '[Athlete Central](#)' in November 2019 and the '[Testing Center](#)' in January 2020. As is the case with 'Athlete Central' and the 'Testing Center', DCO Central prioritizes mobility, enhanced connectivity, reliability, performance and general usability, and was tested with stakeholders prior to its release.

## 12. ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In [February](#), WADA's Athlete Committee launched its 2021 athlete-led webinar series. This important outreach initiative, which enables interactive engagement by the Agency with athletes worldwide, provides useful and informative webinars for athletes, including a recent one entitled "2021 COVID-19 and Clean Sport Update" that attracted more than 1,000 athletes and other stakeholders.

In addition, in May, WADA and its Athlete Committee were delighted to be invited to take an active role in the [10<sup>th</sup> IOC Athlete Forum](#). Committee members managed five continental break-out sessions in the lead-up to the forum, during which they gathered feedback and ideas from fellow athletes that will be used to inform the Committee of various athlete views and perspectives on anti-doping. The Committee members also delivered two additional anti-doping sessions, led by Chair Ben Sandford, who updated athletes on WADA's activities as well as some of the key initiatives being carried out by the Committee.



### **13. PLAY TRUE DAY**

On 9 April 2021, WADA held its annual [Play True Day](#) campaign, which reached over 87 million people around the globe. Centered around the theme “What does Play True mean to you?”, the campaign once again saw athletes, NADOs and RADOs, IFs, governments, MEOs and other stakeholders from the global anti-doping community unite in celebration of the Play True message.

Since 2014, in April of every year, WADA and the anti-doping community worldwide have celebrated ‘Play True Day’ – a day that is dedicated to raising awareness among athletes, the sporting public and others about the importance of protecting clean sport.