

# Speech by WADA President, Witold Bańka to the Eighth Annual Anti-Doping Symposium, organized by the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission

Thursday, 27 January 2022

## **'Reporting Doping: See Something, Say Something'**

The Honorable Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, JADCO Chairman Mr. Alexander Williams, Deputy Chairman Dr. Peter Charles, Executive Director Mrs. June Spence-Jarrett, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about intelligence gathering – it is a topic that is now central to the global anti-doping program. I would like to congratulate you for deciding to host this symposium. It is so important that we talk about how we all can protect clean sport.

Jamaica has given so much to world of sport over the years. You have produced some of the greatest cricketers and sprinters of all time, from George Headley to Chris Gayle. And from Arthur Wint to Usain Bolt. But also in football, netball, basketball, rugby and many other sports, Jamaicans continue to thrill us all with their athleticism, passion and sense of fair play.

It this last value of fair play with which we concern ourselves most at WADA. Everything we do is designed to level the playing field for athletes... to make things fair... and to allow natural talent and hard work decide the results, not shortcuts or drugs. The burning questions are: How can we further protect the performances and legacies of the great Jamaican athletes? How can we prevent sportspeople from making bad decisions, for their sport and for their health? And how can we expose those who cheat the system?

As part of WADA's Strategic Plan for 2020-2024, we are constantly striving to do more as we are 'Leading Anti-Doping in a New Era'. This Plan was developed following feedback from key stakeholders within the anti-doping ecosystem, including athletes, who acknowledged how much WADA had achieved since its formation in 1999, but also identified a number of areas where WADA could improve or switch focus.

As the global anti-doping regulator, WADA is now in a completely different place than it was just six or seven years ago – thanks in large part to advances in intelligence and investigations, and also because we have significantly strengthened our education activities.

I will come on to intelligence and investigations in a moment. But this last point is very important. Effective values-based education is ensuring that athletes do the right thing when they see something they know is wrong. Anti-doping education is based on the principle that athletes start in sport clean and that the vast majority want to remain that way. When we are young and dreaming of winning an Olympic or Paralympic medal, we do not think about breaking the rules to do it. Instinctively, we know we want to win the right way. It is vitally important to protect and support the dreams of athletes as they strive to succeed in an ethical way. This will allow them to enjoy their achievements long after they have retired – without having to lie or make excuses for what they did or how they did it.

This is why the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code includes education in the prevention of intentional or unintentional doping, along with deterrence, detection, enforcement, and the rule of law. Education is a core component of any anti-doping program. It was reinforced on 1 January 2021 through the introduction of the first International Standard for Education. This important Standard sets out the requirements that Signatories to the World Anti-Doping Code need to meet as it relates to education.

Another great development for anti-doping education came in January of last year when we launched our new and improved Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform, known as ADEL. Via the new ADEL platform, WADA provides education and learning opportunities for the anti-doping community worldwide. I urge you all to make the most of this useful tool.

An important element of anti-doping education is ensuring that athletes and others are aware that if they witness wrongdoing – whether that is by athletes, coaches, doctors, administrators or anyone else involved in the anti-doping system – they can speak up as whistleblowers. The vast majority of successful investigations begin with tips from people sharing information with the authorities.

Those authorities, in many of these cases, are at WADA. Our independent Intelligence and Investigations Department was founded in 2016, in the wake of the Russian doping crisis that rocked the world of sport. Since then, the department has grown to a staff of 15 and includes an Investigations Unit, Confidential Information Unit and Compliance Investigations Section.

WADA I&I works closely with law enforcement agencies around the world as well as various stakeholders within Anti-Doping Organizations. Indeed, our I&I department has an agreement with INTERPOL, the World Customs Organisation, UNODC and as the latest addition with Europol. Together, we share intelligence on doping cases or situations where performance-enhancing drugs are being moved around the world. Through this collaboration we are all made stronger.

Apart from the well-known case in Russia, WADA I&I has led a range of major anti-doping investigations including into the Romanian Laboratory, the International Weightlifting Federation, the International Biathlon Union, the National Anti-Doping Organization of Romania, Ukraine, Kenyan athletics, and many more.

At the center of these investigations has been information sourced from whistleblowers or informants. These are the unseen heroes of anti-doping. Their contribution – often in very difficult circumstances – cannot be overstated. We know that it takes great courage to come forward – particularly in cases where criminal gangs or even entire governments are implicated. We acknowledge the tremendous value that whistleblowers bring to clean sport – they often take a great personal risk when they choose to come forward. But we also know that

the athlete community and the anti-doping system are grateful for their efforts. They are making a real difference for the integrity of sport.

At WADA, we are continually improving the service and support we provide to sources. In the first instance, this is done through our Confidential Information Unit, who run the Confidential Source and Intelligence Program. The unit is staffed by intelligence experts with extensive experience in confidential source handling. They are the first interaction a potential whistleblower has with WADA and it is crucial that they receive proper support and guidance at that initial phase... and right the way through.

The Confidential Information Unit has developed a Process designed to support confidential sources throughout the information gathering, investigation, and post-investigation process.

The best way for potential whistleblowers to pass on information to WADA is through 'Speak Up!', our online global reporting platform. 'Speak Up!' was created for anyone wanting to report and provide information and evidence of doping misconduct – that includes athletes, coaches, officials, members of the public, anyone. Since it was established in 2017, WADA has received more than 1,000 'Speak Up!' reports. These reports have directly led to major WADA investigations and resulted in hundreds of follow-up investigations by Anti-Doping Organizations.

Once a confidential source is on board, the most important thing is trust. The entire confidential source program is built on trust and two-way communication. We work with confidential sources to obtain impactful results without sacrificing their security or anonymity. We will never reveal the identity of our confidential sources. Their security is our number-one priority. We evaluate each relationship to ensure that working with WADA is the right decision for both parties. For us, success is when a WADA whistleblower can continue to live a "normal" life knowing they have made a major contribution in the fight against doping – and no one ever needs to know. Their identity remains confidential.

WADA whistleblower information impacts every aspect of the anti-doping system, from intelligence-led testing to identifying new performance-enhancing drugs, to exposing non-compliance violations in Anti-Doping Organizations, and much more. The insider intelligence we receive challenges the anti-doping community. Based on this information, we have responded and made significant changes to how we do things. Doping is always evolving. And so must we.

Because of limited resources and other factors WADA initiates a relatively small number of major investigations every year. But even if WADA doesn't initiate its own investigation into all 'Speak Up!' reports, they are always answered. Everything is carefully assessed and, where appropriate, the intelligence is distributed to our partners within the anti-doping community. In this way, WADA sends between 50 and 100 intelligence disclosures to Anti-Doping Organizations every year. Under the terms of the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, these organizations are responsible for thoroughly investigating these intelligence disclosures.

That means Anti-Doping Organizations, including the Jamaican Anti-Doping Commission, must embrace the process. For confidential source information to have a real impact, it is imperative that you continually develop your I&I capabilities. That is why it is so encouraging that JADCO is holding an event like this where we can fully explore the implications of a truly effective intelligence and investigations policy. WADA stands ready to help. We are committed to working with ADOs to develop their I&I capabilities. We are invested in building global intelligence and investigative networks. As part of these efforts, WADA is launching a major I&I capacity-building project. You will hear more about that in the coming months.

In conclusion, we are very proud of our I&I Department, Confidential Source Program and 'Speak Up!' platform. Under the stewardship of WADA's Director of Intelligence and Investigations, Gunter Younger, the department is now a world leader in the area of sports investigation, anti-corruption and intelligence-gathering. The intelligence we produce is helping to catch cheats and is holding individuals and organizations to account for their misconducts. Every day, we are inspired by the bravery and sacrifice of whistleblowers. As a result, we are determined to make constant improvements to the overall system.

So, if you witness wrongdoing in anti-doping, at any level, please come forward with that information. If you know someone who has evidence you think would help us in the protection of sport, encourage and support that person to approach us. In short, if you see something, say something!. You can rest easy in the knowledge that our team will treat all approaches with respect, with integrity and with the utmost confidence. Together we can level the playing field and protect the dreams of athletes who want to wear the black, green and gold, and represent Jamaica on the world stage, with the same pride that so many great names have done before.

Thank you for inviting me to this important forum.