

Montreal, 21 June 2019

Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations

Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) Expert Group Meeting – 21-22 May 2019 Montreal, Canada

Dear Colleagues,

The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) TDSSA Expert Group (EG) met in Montreal on 21 – 22 May 2019 and discussed the following main topics:

- Stakeholder feedback received following the consultation process to revise the TDSSA (version 4), which was launched in March 2019;
- Implementation of the TDSSA Minimum Levels of Analysis (MLAs) by Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) as part of WADA's Continuous Monitoring Program and based on the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories' (ISCCS') prioritization policy;
- The review of the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS) data representing the four-year period from 2015 to 2018 regarding the level of TDSSA application by ADOs; and
- The mandatory implementation of the haematological module of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) for the sports/disciplines with an Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) MLA of 30% or greater, which came into effect on 1 January 2019.

Stakeholder feedback from the consultation process

The stakeholder consultation process was launched on 21 March 2019 and closed on 26 April 2019. Overall, 47 comments were received from 15 stakeholders (11 National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), 3 International Federations (IFs) and the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations (iNADO)). In addition, the EG received relevant feedback from WADA's Laboratory Expert Group, whose role is to oversee the management of the accreditation and re-accreditation of anti-doping laboratories around the world.

The main areas of feedback are summarized below:

- A request by ADOs for greater flexibility in the implementation of the TDSSA for comprehensive and compliant doping control programs;
- An easier way for ADOs to monitor their implementation of the TDSSA; and
- A streamlined process for the application for a reduction in MLAs.

The EG and WADA sincerely thank all stakeholders that took the opportunity to provide their feedback. All comments were taken into consideration and discussed thoroughly before the EG made their recommendations, which are detailed in this summary.

Review of the implementation of the TDSSA MLAs as part of WADA's Continuous Monitoring Program

The implementation of the TDSSA was reviewed through WADA's Continuous Monitoring Program. Such review was based on WADA's prioritization policy and the outcomes of such monitoring were presented at the EG meeting. The EG acknowledged once again the collaborative effort of ADOs to implement the TDSSA requirements in full and to incorporate them into their risk assessments and Test Distribution Plans (TDPs). The majority of Tier 1 and Tier 2¹ NADOs and IFs, where applicable, are implementing or have a plan in place for 2019 to implement the requirements of the TDSSA.

Implementing the TDSSA is considered a Critical requirement under the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories (ISCCS). Out of 154 ADOs monitored for their 2018 activities, 54% are fully compliant with the TDSSA requirements, 25% are in the process of meeting the requirements and 21% are not in line with the TDSSA requirements.

Any ADOs with TDSSA implementation issues have been contacted and were given the opportunity to respond to their shortfalls. Where deemed necessary, relevant corrective actions were raised. The next monitoring exercise is planned for August – September 2019, which will review the implementation of the TDSSA in the first part of 2019.

ADAMS data for the four-year period 2015 - 2018

A summary of core TDSSA figures are outlined below for the four-year period from 2015 to 2018.

Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs)

	# of samples² analyzed	# of Sports	# of TAs	AAFs	# of blood ABP samples
2018	51,643	116	227	77	31,260
2017	48,853	116	220	85	29,130
2016	46,710	108	212	67	28,177
2015	36,218	94	183	46	25,012

Growth Hormone (GH)

	# of samples analyzed	# of Sports	# of TAs	AAFs
2018	23,985	99	138	2
2017	20,482	90	124	0
2016	17,538	68	111	6
2015	13,264	74	103	4

¹ Classification according to the ISCCS Prioritization Policy.

² Urine and blood (serum) samples

Growth Hormone Releasing Factors (GHRFs)

	# of samples analyzed	# of Sports	# of TAs	AAFs
2018	53,960	120	187	21
2017	57,869	119	218	19
2016	42,730	111	207	15
2015	21,654	88	145	14

The main outcomes of the meeting and recommendations are outlined below:

1. The revised TDSSA will include amended objectives.

The EG acknowledged that following four years of implementation, the current objectives of the TDSSA were met. These include the following:

- There has been an increase (significant in some instances) in Testing Authorities (TAs) and sports/disciplines receiving additional analyses, ensuring that athletes are held to the same level of analysis for substances within the scope of the TDSSA globally;
- ADOs are held accountable by implementing the required MLAs in the respective sports/disciplines and there are now sufficient mechanisms in place to monitor such implementation through WADA's Audit and Continuous Monitoring Programs; and
- Laboratory capacity has been enhanced and is supporting the detection of all TDSSA substances.

Therefore, the EG recommended the revision of its existing objectives with the aim to reflect the scope of the TDSSA moving forward.

2. All 5% MLAs are made optional for ESAs, GHRFs and GH analyses, and ADOs will be able to round up or down to the nearest whole number based on the decimal number.

In order to provide greater flexibility within the framework of the TDSSA, and to enable more resources to be focused on higher risk sports/disciplines, the EG made a number of preliminary proposals that were marked up within the TDSSA document for review. Following positive feedback from all the stakeholders that commented during the consultation process, the EG is recommending the following two changes:

- a) All 5% MLAs are proposed to be made optional for ESAs, GHRFs and GH analyses; and
- b) The current calculation method for MLA percentages to planned test numbers by sport/discipline requires an ADO to round up to the nearest whole number regardless of the decimal number. It is proposed that ADOs be able to round up or down to the nearest whole number based on the decimal number (E.g.: 1.4 or below = round down; 1.5 and above = round up).

3. The application for a TDSSA reduction will be replaced by an application for automatic flexibility in implementing the TDSSA.

Following the request of a number of stakeholders to increase the flexibility in the implementation of the TDSSA and to simplify the application for a TDSSA reduction, the EG is recommending the following changes:

- a) The Application for reduction (TDSSA Supporting Document A) will be replaced by the Application for automatic flexibility in implementing the TDSSA;
- b) ADOs will have the possibility to apply online through a new module that will be created in the Code Compliance Centre (CCC) database;
- c) Following a self-assessment of their testing program against set criteria, and the upload of relevant documents such as the ADO's risk assessment and TDP, ADOs will be able to qualify for a reduction of the MLA requirements, up to 50%, for the sports/disciplines for which they wish to apply such reduction;
- d) This reduction will be granted automatically if the criteria are met;
- e) WADA maintains its right, following a review of an ADO's testing program, to request further information from the ADO to justify the reduction or may withdraw such automatically-granted reduction if the self-assessment was incorrectly applied.

The application for flexibility will provide the necessary flexibility for ADOs that are already implementing intelligent testing programs.

The EG is also recommending that once this online database is ready, ADOs with existing, approved, applications will be requested to re-apply.

4. Implementation of the TDSSA by Major Event Organizations.

As MEOs have a small window of jurisdiction around their major event and the majority of their testing is conducted in-competition. MEOs will also have the opportunity to apply for flexibility in implementing the TDSSA. The criteria for assessment will consider the MEO's anti-doping needs and capacity.

5. No change in the postponement of the mandatory implementation of the GH MLAs for all sports/disciplines until the endocrine module of the ABP is ready for implementation.

The EG received an update from the WADA Science Department on the developments of the endocrine module of the ABP. Based on the information provided, the EG agreed to continue its 2018 decision to postpone the mandatory implementation of the GH MLAs for all sports/disciplines until the endocrine module of the ABP has progressed further.

During the period of postponement:

- ADOs are strongly encouraged to continue their best efforts to conduct GH testing by prioritizing the higher risk sports/disciplines listed in the TDSSA;
- ADOs are strongly encouraged to store serum samples for future analysis and/or re-analysis when further technological advancements for GH analysis are available; and
- ADOs will not be held accountable under WADA's Compliance Monitoring Program for any failure to meet the relevant GH MLA(s).

WADA and the EG will continue to monitor the implementation of GH testing within ADOs' testing programs globally and review the GH position at its next TDSSA meeting in 2020.

6. Prohibited Substances included within the scope of the TDSSA in 2020.

No new categories of specific analyses are proposed to be added to the TDSSA in 2020.

However, the following categories of substances/analytical detection methods were considered for inclusion in the future:

- a) Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (IRMS) analysis (to be requested based on risk/intelligence to complement the automatic analysis through the steroid module of the ABP);
- b) Hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) activating agents; and
- c) Steroid esters (serum/plasma).

The EG will gather more information from the WADA Laboratory Expert Group and more analytical data from ADAMS before recommending the inclusion of any of the above substances/analytical detection methods in the TDSSA. The possibility of such inclusion will be discussed at the next EG meeting in 2020.

The EG will also ask the Laboratory Expert Group to explore, with the anti-doping laboratories, the possibility of including the analysis of small GHRFs (GHRPs/GHS) in the standard urine analytical menu. The result of such feasibility study will be discussed at the next EG meeting in 2020.

The EG encourages closer communication between ADOs and laboratories to determine when appropriate requests for analyses, which are not part of standard urine analytical menus or TDSSA analyses menus and which are based on laboratory capability, can be performed on samples either during urine and blood collections or through a targeted further analysis of long-term stored samples.

7. TDSSA Monitoring tool.

The EG received an update from the WADA ADAMS Team on the latest developments in the upcoming launch of the Testing Center in ADAMS Next Gen. The Testing Center will include a TDSSA monitoring feature where ADOs will be able to review instantly their compliance with the TDSSA requirements. This feature was made available internally on 11 June 2019 and subject to any further developments required, it will first be launched to a selected number of ADOs, with the general release to all ADOs to follow shortly thereafter.

8. TDSSA v5 – next steps.

The revised TDSSA v5, with all the proposed amendments, will be submitted for approval at the next WADA Executive Committee meeting on 23 September 2019. Upon approval, the final TDSSA v5 will be circulated to all stakeholders in the beginning of October 2019 and will come into effect on 1 January 2020.

9. Next TDSSA EG meeting.

In order to be in a better position to monitor and review the implementation of the above proposed changes and have sufficient TDSSA testing data in ADAMS, the next EG meeting is planned to take place in the second part of 2020.

10. Availability of TDSSA analyses at WADA-accredited Laboratories.

A list of WADA-accredited laboratories and the types of TDSSA analyses they can currently provide (as of 31 May 2019) can be found in the Annex of this summary.

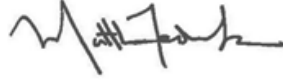
We hope you find the above update on the TDSSA informative. Should you have any comments or questions regarding the above or the implementation of the TDSSA, please contact WADA at tdssa@wada-ama.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to clean sport.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Ricketts
Director, Standards and Harmonization



Matt Fedoruk
Chair of the TDSSA Expert Group

Annex 1: TDSSA analysis per WADA-accredited Laboratory (as of 31 May 2019)

Laboratory	ESAs			GH		GHRFs	
	Urine	Serum	Plasma	Isoforms	Biomarkers	GHRPs/GHS	GHRH
Ankara, Turkey	*	*		*	*	*	
Athens, Greece	*	*		*		*	
Bangkok, Thailand	*	*	*	*		*	
Barcelona, Spain	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Beijing, China	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Bloemfontein, SA	*	*	*	*		*	
Bucharest, Romania	*	*	*	*		*	
Cologne, Germany	*	*		*	*1	*	*
New Delhi, India	*	*		*		*	
Doha, Qatar	*	*	*	*		*	
Dresden, Germany	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Ghent, Belgium	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Havana, Cuba	*	*		*		*	
Helsinki, Finland ²	*	*		*		*	
Lausanne, Switzerland	*	*	*	*	*	*	
London, UK	*	*	*	*	**	*	
Los Angeles, USA	*			*	*	*	
Madrid, Spain	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Montreal, Canada	*	*	*	*	**	*	
Oslo, Norway	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Paris, France	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	*	*	*	*	**	*	*
Rome, Italy	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Seibersdorf, Austria	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Seoul, Korea	*	*	*	*	**	*	*
Stockholm, Sweden	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Sydney, Australia	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Mexico City, Mexico	*	*		*		*	*
Tokyo, Japan	*	*		*	*	*	
Salt Lake City, USA	*	*	*	*	**	*	*
Warsaw, Poland	*	*	*	*	*	*	
** Only these laboratories can conduct confirmation of the GH Biomarkers method							
¹ Only IGF-I by LC-MS							
² Self-suspended laboratory							