Declaration of non-compliance of the Gabon National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO)

Relevant Consequences and Impact requiring action by stakeholders

On 11 April 2023, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) issued an all-stakeholder communication confirming that the Gabon NADO was declared non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) with immediate effect.

While WADA will monitor the implementation of the consequences imposed on this NADO, this communication aims to draw your attention to the fact that under Code Article 24.1.9, other Signatories to the Code must recognize and implement these consequences in full. Signatories should be aware that these consequences are not the same as for other cases of non-compliance (e.g. the Court of Arbitration for Sport decision in the case of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency).

Please refer to the following for more information on the relevant consequences and their potential impact on your organization.

As recommended by WADA’s independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) and approved by the Agency’s Executive Committee (ExCo) on 17 November 2022, the consequences applied to this NADO, in accordance with Article 11 and Annex B.3.1 of the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories (ISCCS), are the following:

1. The Signatory loses its WADA privileges until reinstatement (ISCCS Annex. B.3.1(a)). This includes:
   a. The Signatory’s representatives are ineligible to hold any WADA office or any position as a member of any WADA board or committee or other body (including but not limited to membership of WADA’s Foundation Board, ExCo, Standing Committees, and any other committee);
   b. The Signatory is ineligible to host any event hosted or organized or co-hosted or co-organized by WADA;
   c. The Signatory is ineligible to participate in any WADA Independent Observer Program, WADA Outreach Program or other WADA activities; and
   d. The Signatory will not receive any WADA funding (either directly or indirectly) related to the development of specific activities or participation in specific programs.

**Guidance Note:** WADA will monitor and implement this set of consequences.
2. The Signatory’s representatives shall be ineligible to sit as members of the boards or committees or other bodies of any Code Signatory (or its members) or association of Signatories for a period of one year from the date of the formal notice or until the Signatory is reinstated, whichever is longer [ISCCS Annex B.3.1 (d)].

**Guidance Note:** Signatories and related associations (e.g., Regional Anti-Doping Organizations, Alliance of Independent recognized Members of Sport (AIMS), Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), International University Sports Federation (FISU)) are asked to ensure immediately that any relevant NADO or government representatives, as defined in the Code, that are current members of any relevant board, committee or body, are removed from that position for the relevant period. If a Signatory or related association is unsure of how to apply this consequence, please contact us at compliance@wada-ama.org.

3. The Signatory may not be awarded the right to host regional, continental or world championships, as well as other events organized by Major Event Organizations, until reinstatement (ISCCS Annex B.3.1(e.1)).

**Guidance Note:** Signatories cannot award the right to host inter alia regional, continental or world championships to Gabon during its period of non-compliance. Events already allocated to the Signatory may take place. This does not apply to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In addition, to the extent that an event organized by a Major Event Organization that is not a Signatory is within a Signatory’s sphere of responsibility, that Signatory has the obligation to enforce this consequence in respect of that event. If a Signatory is unsure of how to apply this consequence, please contact us at compliance@wada-ama.org.

4. The country flag will not be flown at regional, continental or world championships, as well as other events organized by Major Event Organizations (including the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games) until reinstatement (ISCCS Annex B.3.1(e.2) and B.3.1(e.3)).

**Guidance Note:** This consequence shall be limited to official display of flags by the event organizer in the venue/arena/stadium where e.g. a regional, continental or world championships is taking place, whether those displays are for the duration of the event or for a specific part of the event such as medal, opening or closing ceremonies or other protocol elements.

In addition, to the extent that an event organized by a Major Event Organization that is not a Signatory is within a Signatory’s sphere of responsibility, that Signatory has the obligation to enforce this consequence in respect of that event. If a Signatory is unsure of how to apply this consequence, please contact us at compliance@wada-ama.org.