

WADA Athlete Council

25 Sept 2025

Meeting Outcomes

Athlete Council Members	
Ryan Pini, Chair	Inaki Gomez
Gaby Ahrens, Vice-Chair	Mona Brorsson
Toby Cunliffe-Steel	Ivan Ćosić
Adriana Escobar	Jenny Harss
Dora Hegyi	Humphrey Kayange
Elisabeth Vathje (Maier)	Patrick O-Leary
Yujiao Tan	Ella Sabljak
Cyrille Tchatchet II	Emma Terho
Maja Wloszczowska	Hong Zhang
Apologies	
Yuhan Tan	Olumide Oyedeji
WADA Staff	
Karine Henrie, Director, Athlete Engagement	Logan Harris, Coordinator, Athlete Engagement
Stacy Spletzer-Jegen, Senior Manager, Athlete Engagement	

WADA's [Athlete Council](#) (AC) held a virtual meeting on 25 September 2025. The key outcomes of the discussions are outlined below.

Welcome and updates

Ryan Pini, Chair, welcomed the Athlete Council Members to this virtual meeting and introduced Logan Harris who has started as the Coordinator on the Athlete Engagement Team at WADA. Logan will be helping to coordinate the WADA AC amongst other key athlete centered projects. Logan introduced himself to the AC including his own sport background.

Ryan went on to mention the draft agenda was sent out prior to the meeting and no changes were offered. He then provided a range of updates and decisions from the recent Executive Committee meeting held on 11 September including his interventions. He included key information around the Athlete-Centered Consultation outcomes from the Code and International Standard changes. He thanked the drafting teams for their collaborative efforts and ensuring the athlete voice was embedded. He also thanked the WADA AC and all other athletes that were involved in this monumental project. The final approval will take place at the World Conference in Busan, Korea this December. He went on to discuss the Athletes' Anti-Doping Rights Act and its rationale. Next step will be to re-convene the sub-group to further discuss, finalize and approve the document from the AC.

Working Group and Standing Committee update

Ryan reminded members that their Working Group/Standing Committee reports are to be uploaded into SharePoint which helps to update the group on activities and events happening throughout the year. The aim for this is to ensure the AC stays informed while also supporting the AC's decision-making processes.

The AC provided updates on several WADA Working Groups and Standing Committees where AC members are members, including:

- Working Group on Contaminations: Toby Cunliffe-Steel
 - o Toby went thru a PPT that gave an overview on the mandate of the group, its composition, scheduled meeting dates and the group's intention that feedback from the Athlete Centered Consultation and Unintentional Doping Survey would be incorporated.
 - o Toby mentioned that the athlete role and voice will be one area of in-depth focus, and he will involve the AC on how contamination can be addressed.
- Working Group on the Operational Independence of NADOs: Elisabeth Vathje (Maier)
 - o Elisabeth provided the group with an overview of the six meetings this working group has had to date, including how they are making their work 'fit for purpose'.
 - o Her questions to the group included: How can we improve trust in the anti-doping system with NADOS? Is this perception accurate? How can we improve athlete perception as a whole?
 - o Their next meeting is on 1 October and will focus on the steps to start a guide on operational independence. More feedback will continue to be considered as their mandate was extended to March 2026.
- Dora Heygi then gave an update on the July meeting of the Education Committee and Ryan Pini gave an update on the recent Finance and Administration Committee meeting to the group.

AC Action Plan Update

A final progress report for the 2024-2025 Action Plan is to be provided at the AC's next in-person meeting in December. A summary of the plan is below:

- Goal #1: Increase athlete community participation in the Code and International Standard Update Process
 - o A specific Athlete-Centered consultation was developed and opened from 17 April to 30 May 2025
 - o 611 athletes, including 29 athlete commissions, participated in the consultation with responses provided to each drafting team.
- Goal #2: Facilitate and enable the development of anti-doping related athlete commissions, councils, and/or committees and/or the inclusion of athlete representatives within existing structures
 - o Currently developing a mapping exercise of existing councils, commissions, and/or committees

- Goal #3: Improve and strengthen communication with the athlete community, and with established athlete commissions, councils, and/or committees
 - Athlete Council participated in four international and continental Athlete Forums in 2025 (ANOCA in April, IOC in June, IPC in June, OCA in September)
 - Upcoming participation at the EOC Athlete Forum is planned, November 13-14, 2025.
- Goal #4: Improve Athlete Council working processes and onboarding
 - Onboarding plan and presentation for new AC members implemented in January/February 2025

The Action Plan will continue to be reviewed, and work will begin on its next version (Athlete Council Action Plan 2026-2029) at the AC's next in-person meeting in December in Busan, Korea.

Athlete Anti-Doping Experience – Logan / Karine

Logan and Karine provided an overview on the new 'Athlete Anti-Doping Experience' project which aims to optimize the athlete anti-doping experience, making it more human, inclusive, and accessible – while reinforcing trust and protecting dignity.

Athlete feedback will be crucial to ensure this project's success and is starting with a workshop with AC members. AC members were informed that an invitation to a workshop would be sent for the week of 6 October 2025.

Next meetings & Concluding Remarks – Ryan and all

Stacy and Karine provided updates on the upcoming World Conference and thanked the AC for their time and commitment which includes traveling to Busan, Korea for this major event. A number of members will be included in the [World Conference](#) agenda. The AC will meet on 1 December, as well as attend the World Conference. All members will be invited to observe the Foundation Board meeting. For those AC members not attending the Executive Committee Meeting on 2 December in Busan, an athlete engagement activity will be planned to meet with a local school or sports program in Korea.

Ryan then opened the floor for other business, final comments and feedback from members for discussion. No comments were received. He reminded the group that AC documents are on SharePoint and he encouraged members to review them there. He thanked all members that continue to represent the Council at different events, forums and meetings.

The meeting was then adjourned.