

# Q&A – 2023 ADRV Report

## 1. WHAT IS AN ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION (ADRV)?

When an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel commits a doping offence, it is known as an ADRV. Certain consequences or sanctions apply to the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who commits an ADRV.

## 2. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ADRVs?

There are various types of ADRVs which are defined in **Article 2** of the World Anti-Doping Code ([Code](#)). The 2023 ADRV Report is based on the types of ADRVs listed in the 2021 Code which are as follows:

- **Article 2.1** – Presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an Athlete's sample
- **Article 2.2** – Use or attempted use by an Athlete of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method
- **Article 2.3** – Evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an Athlete
- **Article 2.4** – Whereabouts failures (any combination of three missed tests and/or filing failures within a 12-month period by an Athlete in a *Registered Testing Pool*)
- **Article 2.5** – Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control by an Athlete or other Person
- **Article 2.6** – Possession of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method by an Athlete or other Person
- **Article 2.7** – Trafficking or attempted trafficking in any prohibited substance or prohibited method by an Athlete or other Person
- **Article 2.8** – Administration or attempted administration by an Athlete or other Person to any Athlete in-competition of any prohibited substance or prohibited method or administration or attempted administration to any Athlete out-of-competition of any prohibited substance or any prohibited method that is prohibited out-of-competition.
- **Article 2.9** – Complicity or attempted Complicity by an Athlete or other Person
- **Article 2.10** – Prohibited Association by an Athlete or other Person
- **Article 2.11** – Acts by an Athlete or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities

## 3. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ANALYTICAL ADRV AND A NON-ANALYTICAL ADRV?

An **Analytical ADRV** refers to a violation of Code Article 2.1 and is based on an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) (otherwise known as a positive result), which indicates the presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolite(s) or of marker(s) of the use of a prohibited substance in a urine and/or blood sample collected from an Athlete and analyzed by a WADA-accredited Laboratory.

A **Non-Analytical ADRV** is a case in which an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel (coach, trainer, manager, agent, medical staff, parent, etc.) commits another type of ADRV that does not (typically) involve the detection of a prohibited substance or prohibited method in a urine or blood sample from Athletes, as outlined in Code Articles 2.2 to 2.11. Athlete Biological Passport cases are considered as Non-Analytical cases pursuant to Code Article 2.2.

## 4. WHAT FIGURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE 2023 ADRV REPORT?

The 2023 ADRVs Report consists of four main categories:

- An **Introduction** and an **Executive Summary** which give an overview and highlight the key observations of the 2023 ADRV report.
- **Sections 1 and 2** present the results management outcomes (including ADRVs) of all AAFs detected by WADA-accredited Laboratories for samples collected from Athletes in- and out-of-competition and reported into ADAMS in 2023. They are presented by Sport, Discipline (Section 1) and Testing Authority (Section 2).
- **Section 3** indicates the total number of Analytical ADRVs in 2023. The data are presented by Sport and Nationality. The information is further broken down into: (1) sample type (urine or blood), (2) type of test (in- or out-of-competition), and (3) Athlete gender.
- **Section 4** includes ADRVs that resulted from Non-Analytical findings involving Athletes (presented by sport and nationality) and Athlete Support Personnel (presented by nationality).
- The reasoned decision explaining the outcome of the case.
- The Athlete's identification information or any other relevant information about the case.

## 5. WHERE DOES THE DATA FOR THIS REPORT COME FROM?

The data on urine and blood samples analyzed and the resulting are taken from the samples submitted by WADA-accredited Laboratories directly into the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System ([ADAMS](#)), WADA's centralized online database.

Aggregated data on the outcomes of AAFs, as well as all the data relating to non-analytical findings (case decisions) were compiled by WADA based on decisions provided by Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs).

## 6. WHAT PERIOD DOES THE ADRV REPORT COVER?

The AAFs featured in the 2023 ADRV Report correspond to the analysis of samples collected between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.

The ADRVs that resulted from non-analytical ADRVs refer to cases that were concluded in 2023. These figures may include violations that were *initially* pursued prior to 2021 and may not include violations that occurred in 2023 yet as they were not closed in the same year.

## 7. HOW SHOULD THE ADRV REPORT BE INTERPRETED?

This Report offers the most comprehensive set of global statistics on doping offences in 2023 broken down by sport, testing authority and nationality. The Report provides the outcomes of cases reported as AAFs and includes those that resulted in an ADRV being asserted (subject to any cases that remain pending). The Report also includes Non-Analytical ADRVs.

The data in the Report are provided by Code Signatories and reviewed by WADA. Further, in accordance with the requirements of the 2021 Code (Article 14.4), it is WADA's mandate to report the data. It should be noted that any interpretation of the data should be undertaken with caution as many contributing factors must be taken

into account when attempting to interpret the data regarding sports, testing and results management authorities and nationalities. This caution applies to this Report as well as to the Testing Figures Report.

WADA is committed to further enhancing the statistical reports by providing the anti-doping community with more transparent and accurate data of the testing and investigation activities worldwide.

## **8. WHY IS THERE SUCH A LARGE GAP BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF ADRVS FOR IN-COMPETITION AS OPPOSED TO OUT-OF-COMPETITION ADRVS?**

The In-Competition menu contains more drug classes and therefore more Prohibited Substances subject to detection compared to the Out-of-Competition menu. Subsequently, more ADRVs are recorded from In-Competition than from Out-of-Competition.

## **9. WHY ARE THERE STILL AAF CASES PENDING FROM 2023?**

Cases classified as pending are those cases where the Results Management Authority (RMA) has not yet provided all the documentation necessary to allow WADA to validate the case decision. Examples of missing documentation include:

- The reasoned decision explaining the outcome of the case.
- The Athlete's identification information or any other relevant information about the case.

Several cases may also be pending due to the complexity of the case. Consequently, disciplinary proceedings may still be ongoing.

## **10. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CASES THAT ARE STILL PENDING?**

It is the responsibility of the RMA to manage the test results and to render a decision for all AAF cases. In most cases, the RMA is also the Testing Authority (TA), which is the organization that authorized the collection of the sample.

In a small number of cases, the TA is not the RMA and therefore is not responsible for the outcome of a pending case. Another organization such as an International Federation (IF) or National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) may be the RMA and is therefore responsible for rendering a decision in a particular case.

WADA continues to follow up with the relevant RMAs to remind them to complete their outstanding results management procedures as soon as possible and to provide WADA with the final, reasoned decision. Timely completion of results management processes is a requirement for maintaining compliance with the Code. Not pursuing results management for a potential doping case or a failure to provide the final written decision to WADA and the applicable NADO or IF may result in the matter being raised with WADA's independent Compliance Review Committee, which is responsible for making recommendations of non-compliance to WADA's Executive Committee.

## 11. IS THERE A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME IN WHICH CASES SHOULD BE FINALIZED BY THE RESULTS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY?

The Code requires that cases are dealt with in a timely, fair and impartial manner. Sufficient time must be provided for each party to prepare and present their case to the appointed disciplinary body. As outlined in the [Results Management International Standard](#): Irrespective of the type of Anti-Doping Rule Violation involved, and save for cases involving complex issues or delays not in the control of the Anti-Doping Organization (e.g., delays attributable to the Athlete or other Person), Anti-Doping Organizations should be able to conclude Results Management (including the Hearing Process at first instance) within six (6) months from the notification as per **Article 5**.

Some cases are more complex than others and may therefore require additional time. Also, cases may be appealed after the first instance hearing, which then takes additional time for the case to be finalized and for a written decision to be published and submitted to WADA.

## 12. WHY ARE THE DETAILS OF THE SANCTIONS (FOR EXAMPLE THE PERIODS OF INELIGIBILITY) NOT INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT?

Every individual case is different and is assessed by the relevant RMA based on the specific facts and circumstances. Publishing the sanction details for every single case without the reasoning and context behind the decision could lead to misinterpretation of the information.

Request for further details about a specific case should be directed to the applicable ADO with results management authority.

## 13. IS THERE A REQUIREMENT FOR ANTI-DOPING ORGANIZATIONS TO PUBLISH ALL ADRVS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION?

Yes, ADOs (subject to very limited exceptions) are mandated under the Code to publish all ADRVs from their doping control activities (**Articles 10.15 and 14.3.2**). Furthermore, all ADOs must notify WADA and the applicable IF and/or NADO of the decision in all cases, including Non-Analytical cases and any investigations conducted (**Article 14.2**). A failure to do so could result in non-compliance with the Code.

## 14. DOES WADA REVIEW EVERY CASE DECISION IT RECEIVES?

Yes, WADA reviews every single decision provided to its Legal Affairs Department by RMAs and has the right to appeal any decision deemed to be non-compliant with the Code to either the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) or national level reviewing bodies.

## **15. IN THE NON-ANALYTICAL ADRV SECTION, WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENCE IN THE NUMBER OF VIOLATION CASES AND THE NUMBER BY TYPE OF VIOLATIONS?**

In certain cases, the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel may have been charged with more than one Non-Analytical ADRV. For example, an Athlete can be charged with **Article 2.6** (possession), **Article 2.7** (trafficking) and **Article 2.8** (administration) ADRVs. Such cases are calculated as single occurrences for each type of violation. However, all relate to only one Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel.

## **16. IN THE NON-ANALYTICAL ADRV SECTION, WHY ARE THE ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL CASES NOT CLASSIFIED BY SPORT?**

The Code defines the term “Athlete Support Personnel” as “any coach, trainer, manager, agent, and team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other Person working with, treating or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports Competition”. As such, an Athlete Support Personnel can be involved in more than one sport.