

DL/MU WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference

The WADA Decision Limits/Measurement Uncertainty (DL/MU) Working Group (DL/MU WG) is a specific Working Group¹ created by the WADA Science & Medicine Department at the request of the WADA Laboratory Expert Advisory Group (Lab EAG).

These Terms of Reference (ToR) are approved by the WADA Director General, following consultation with the Senior Associate Director of Science & Medicine, Laboratories.

Purpose

To be responsible for providing expert advice, recommendations, and guidance to WADA Management, and to the Lab EAG with respect to the review of the Technical Document on Decision Limits (TD DL).

The DL/MU WG will continue its current mandate, initiated in 2025, over the January to March 2026 period. It will finalize the review of the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) TD2027DL, which will be submitted for approval by the WADA Executive Committee with an effective date of 1 January 2027. The necessary meeting timelines will be framed with this in mind.

There may be future work for this WG, and it will be evaluated at the end of this current period.

Objectives/Key Activities

- 1) Finalize the review of the TD2027DL.
- 2) Participate as external experts in laboratory assessments, focusing on the evaluation of laboratory estimation of MU and performance of quantitative procedures.
- 3) Provide expert opinion on scientific and technical issues related testing for threshold substances, including the provision of feedback on laboratory corrective actions (CARs) associated with EQAS or routine quantitative procedure performance or resulting from laboratory on-site assessments in a timely fashion.

Reporting Structure

The DL/MU WG reports to WADA Management and the Lab EAG.

Membership/Composition

¹ WGs are created on an as-needed basis only, and generally with a defined mandate requiring deliverables within a set timeframe. Where the expected deliverables are not met, an extension of mandate is possible, however it is not expected that WGs continue indefinitely. If it is considered that their work should be ongoing in nature, whether WG should be elevated to an Expert Advisory Group would need to be determined.

The composition of the DL/MU WG shall not exceed a maximum of four members; however, an exception may be applied if deemed necessary.

The WADA Director General, following consultation with the Senior Associate Director of Science & Medicine (Laboratories) and the Chair of the WADA Lab EAG will appoint members to the DL/MU WG.

Members are selected on the basis of their relevant background and experience (e.g., expertise in the areas of statistics, metrology, quantitative method development, validation and application to anti-doping analysis).

The Membership of the DL/MU WG is published on the WADA website.

If required, additional experts may be called upon on an ad-hoc basis for their contributions.

Member terms² reflect the current mandate of the DL/MU WG, i.e., until 31 March 2026. If the work of the DL/MU WG is not completed within the originally planned timeframe, and is extended, the composition and terms of members are reviewed to ensure their relevance remains.

Chair/Rapporteur

The DL/MU WG Chair³ is selected based on their proven record and expertise in the areas of statistics, metrology, quantitative method development, validation and application to anti-doping analysis. When possible, the Chair will be also a member of the Lab EAG.

The DL/MU WG Chair shall act as the official reporter who is responsible for ensuring appropriate coordination with WADA Management and the Lab EAG for providing accurate and timely information on all relevant issues.

WADA Liaison

The WADA Science & Medicine Department, and in particular the Senior Associate Director of Science & Medicine (Laboratories), will serve as the primary liaison between WADA and the DL/MU WG.

The Senior Associate Director of Science & Medicine (Laboratories) will be an observer⁴ to the DL/MU WG in the sense that he contributes to and brings expertise to support the work of the DL/MU WG but does not have a voting position. Additional WADA Science Department staff may also participate in DL/MU WG meetings as WADA experts on particular subject matters and to provide general support to the group where required.

Meetings and Working Norms

The DL/MU WG will meet virtually via video or teleconference (as determined by WADA) as many times as is necessary to complete its mandate.

² Should the member come from a WADA-accredited laboratory whose accreditation is revoked during their term, the member's term on the DL/MU WG will cease immediately. If the Laboratory is suspended or under an Analytical Testing Restriction, subject to WADA's discretion, the member may continue on the WG.

³ There are occasions where WADA staff may chair a WG, e.g. when an external chair is not deemed to be practical.

⁴ Unless they are appointed as the Chair of the WG.

The DL/MU WG normally operates based on consensus and maintains as informal a manner as is possible or appropriate for the conduct of business. Consensus will be sought whenever possible. In the event of divergence of opinion or disagreement concerning recommendations, the absolute majority (determined by vote by hand) will rule. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the casting vote. There is presently no formal practice concerning a quorum. The Chair has the responsibility to determine if a quorum is present. Meeting notes will record any dissenting opinion on request.

The Chair may limit discussion of resurfacing issues by referring to previous recommendations or conclusions of previous discussions.

Meeting notes of the DL/MU WG meetings, reports and correspondence relative to the group's work shall be retained at the WADA Headquarters.

Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Media

Upon their appointment and again annually, all DL/MU WG members are required to sign a document pursuant to which they undertake (i) to comply with the Code of Ethics adopted by the WADA Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (ii) to comply with the Conflict of Interest policy adopted by the Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (iii) to keep all matters related to WADA confidential; and (iv) to comply with the WADA Media Relations Policy issued by the Agency (as amended from time to time).

A) Code of Ethics

The purpose of the WADA Code of Ethics is to establish clear ethical standards over the activities of WADA Officials (as defined in Section 2 of the Code of Ethics) to allow WADA to achieve its mission and protect its core values. WADA and all its Officials undertake to foster a culture of ethics, loyalty, and integrity within their respective areas of competence.

B) Conflict of Interest

DL/MU WG members will be bound by the WADA Conflict-of-Interest policy. They will be required to annually complete and sign a Statement of Absence of Conflict of Interest in accordance with the policy, and to update such statement if and as necessary during the year.

C) Confidentiality

All DL/MU WG members are required to sign a Confidentiality Declaration upon appointment (and again annually). This ensures all members reflect on the confidential nature of their WADA work and confirm their adherence to such confidentiality rules.

D) Communications and Media

All DL/MU WG members must read and comply with WADA's Media Relations policy. If a member should receive a request for an interview in relation to their role in WADA or WADA's work in the fight against doping in sport they should first consult with the WADA Head of Media Relations or (if absent), with the WADA Communications Director.

Budget and Financial Support

WADA has budgeted for the DL/MU WG in 2026. Should an extension of the mandate be required, additional budget will need to be approved prior to final confirmation of the group continuing.

WADA shall provide the necessary administrative and operational resources for meetings. WADA will cover certain expenses and will compensate members for meetings in accordance with its applicable indemnity policy.

It is acknowledged that some experts go above and beyond, including providing extensive advice throughout the year, outside of annual meetings. WADA offers a further indemnity to experts for such work carried out. The specific indemnity details are outlined in the "Overview of WADA Working Groups" document provided to Members each year.

Effective Date

These ToRs first came in effect in January 2025. They were updated in January 2026 to reflect the extension of the DL/MU WG's mandate until 31 March 2026.

These ToR are published on the WADA website.