

**ATHLETE SESSION OF WADA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM  
13-14 March 2019  
*WADA Athlete Committee Statement***

The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Athlete Committee (AC) hosted a dedicated forum for athletes and athlete representatives in conjunction with this year's annual WADA Symposium held on 13-14 March in Lausanne, Switzerland. Close to 70 athletes and athlete representatives from the global sport community came together for two days of dynamic, interactive panel discussions, informative presentations and breakout sessions. Topics included the Anti-Doping Charter of Athletes' Rights; Governance and Athlete Representation within WADA; ADAMS Next Gen; Sport, Athletes and Human Rights; proposed revisions to the World Anti-Doping Code of particular interest to athletes; and a presentation on athlete engagement by members of the Japan Anti-Doping Agency Athlete Committee.

The 1.5-day session provided a valuable opportunity for consultation and feedback through break-out sessions with participants on two projects the WADA AC is currently progressing: the Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights, and governance and athlete representation within WADA. All comments and feedback from the sessions over the two days will help to guide the way forward for a stronger athlete-centred anti-doping movement. A brief summary of outcomes from those sessions are as follows:

- 1) The *Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights* session and consultation included strong athlete support for the Charter, and additional detailed recommendations for the Charter to include further rights in relation to sample collection, data protection and whistleblower protections. The Charter working group, which is made up of current and former WADA AC members, will be amending the Charter and incorporating this feedback in the coming weeks before circulation for further consultation with athletes ahead of discussions at the May WADA Executive Committee meeting.
- 2) The *Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights* discussion also highlighted strong support for implementation of a WADA Ombudsperson's office overseen by the WADA Athlete Committee for the purpose of informational support and counsel to athletes, addressing concerns, and delivery of recommendations regarding athlete rights and issues. Discussions around this role included scope, function, confidentiality and levels of trust athletes would need to use the Ombudsperson.
- 3) Lastly, the session on *Governance and Representation* included unequivocal support for the right to increased athlete representation on WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Boards, as well as feedback and input on an enhanced model of athlete representation within WADA.