

**WADA ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEETING
15 March 2019
Lausanne, Switzerland**

Meeting Summary

The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Athlete Committee (AC) convened its first in-person meeting of the year in Lausanne, Switzerland on 15 March 2019. Prior to the meeting, the Committee attended the annual WADA Symposium where the WADA AC held its first Athlete Session, a 1.5-day session hosted by the AC exclusively for athletes and athlete representatives. In addition to the members of the WADA AC, approximately 65 athletes and athlete representatives from various sports and countries attended the Forum. A summary of the Athlete Session has been published separately.

Attendees:

- Beckie Scott (Chair), Victoria Aggar, Jeongho Hong, Petr Koukal, Adam Pengilly, Ben Sandford, Seung Min Ryu, Emma Terho, Chiel Warners, Li Na, Kady Kanoute, Petr Koukal.
- WADA Staff: Frederic Donze, Stacy Spletzer-Jegen

Regrets:

- Greta Neimanas, Richard Schmidt, Hayley Wickenheiser, Danka Bartekova, Kirsty Coventry

Meeting summary and outcomes

1. WADA Symposium Athlete Session

The WADA AC acknowledges and thanks the speakers, presenters, athletes and athlete representatives who participated in the WADA AC led Athlete Session during the 2019 Annual WADA symposium in Lausanne.

Over the course of 1.5 days, over 65 athletes and representatives from various sports and countries took part in information sessions, panel discussions and break-out groups with the purpose of engaging with the broader athlete community and informing the work of the WADA AC going forward.

2. Governance and other matters:

2.1 The WADA AC strongly supports the right to increased athlete representation with full voting status at the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board. The WADA AC has established

a Working Group (WG) to analyze and propose an enhanced model of athlete representation within WADA. The WG has held several meetings and is in the process of developing this model with the objective of submitting a first draft proposal to the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board for discussion at their May 2019 Board meetings in Montreal.

2.2 The WADA AC encourages the formal development and implementation of an Ombudsperson, overseen by the WADA AC, within WADA. This role would be for the purpose of informational support and counsel to athletes, addressing concerns, and delivery of recommendations regarding athletes' rights and issues.

2.3 The WADA AC strongly encourages all Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) to implement quality athlete representation within their governance and structures. The WADA AC believes that the athlete voice is a valuable asset and benefit to ADOs and should therefore be included and supported.

2.4 As part of the WADA AC's 2019-20 core objectives, the WADA AC will continue to participate and contribute to the WADA governance reform and will advocate for a strengthened athlete voice within the anti-doping movement.

3. The Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights

The WADA AC continues to engage the broader athlete community as part of its development of the Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights. The intention is for the Charter to be linked to and referenced in the revised World Anti-Doping Code. Feedback from the on-line consultation and 2019 Athlete Session will be used to continue to refine and revise the Charter.

4. Anti-Doping Legislation

The WADA Athlete Committee followed closely the events of the 2019 FIS World Nordic Ski Championships in Seefeld, Austria and strongly condemns the doping activities of the involved athletes, coaches and medical personnel.

The WADA Athlete Committee supports the efforts of countries who have, through legislation, strengthened the fight against doping and equipped authorities to investigate and gather intelligence on networks involved in doping.

5. Harmonization and Legal Representation

The WADA AC has received communication from athletes and athlete groups stating their concern with the lack of harmonization and inequality of treatment for athletes who find themselves in a situation with a potential ADRV. This disparity ranges from elements such as widely varying costs associated with obtaining information from individual labs, to the high – unaffordable for some – costs of adequate legal representation once legal proceedings begin.

The WADA AC will be analyzing and researching this further so as to take an informed position of advocacy on this issue.

6. WADA AC Strategic Direction and Objectives

The Strategic Direction and Core Objectives of the WADA AC was reviewed and revised by the Committee to establish new goals and update objectives for 2019-2020.

The WADA AC acknowledges and appreciates the importance of creating a platform and environment to inform, engage and interact with the broader athlete community. In 2019-20 the WADA AC will undertake the following initiatives aimed at strengthening athlete engagement and the fight against doping in sport:

- Enhanced and improved communication processes and engagement with the broader athlete community.
- Development of a proposal and preliminary plan for a second Global Athlete Forum (2020).

6. Next WADA AC meetings:

WADA Athlete Committee Meeting – 28-29 August 2019, Lima, Peru **during the Para Pan-American Games*

World Conference on Doping in Sport - November 2019, Katowice, Poland (TBC)