



# ATHLETE COMMITTEE

## Terms of Reference

*The WADA Athlete Committee is constituted under Article 11 of the Constitutive Instrument of Foundation of the World Anti-Doping Agency as a designated standing Committee of the organization<sup>1</sup>.*

### **Role**

**To serve as the voice of clean athletes, encouraging integrity and fairness for sport and athletes.**

### **Purpose**

To represent the views and rights of clean athletes worldwide while providing insight and oversight into athletes' roles and responsibilities, as they relate to anti-doping.

### **Objectives/Key Activities**

- 1) Generate support and promote a global voice for clean athletes on anti-doping issues;
- 2) Continually solicit and share athlete feedback on WADA programs and activities;
- 3) Review, evaluate and provide guidance on educational programs and materials;

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### **<sup>1</sup> Note (December 2018):**

WADA's Foundation Board approved a set of governance reforms in November 2018 at its meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. In order to put into effect these recommendations, it can be anticipated that there will be some changes to the way in which our Committees and Groups are governed moving forward. We do not expect these to have considerable impact in 2019, however WADA Management will be taking steps to transition towards changes for 2020, and these will be communicated during the year as appropriate.

The [full list of recommendations](#) is available on WADA's website, however there are three specific recommendations which were approved relating to the Athlete Committee and which are outlined below:

- #13. That not all Standing Committees are to be treated as identical – there are three common ones (Education, Finance and Health, Medical, Research). The CRC and Athlete Committee are different.
- #14. That the status of the Athlete Committee is currently more that of an expert body than that of a representational one.
- #16. That the process for selecting Standing Committee Chairs should include the Nominations Committee vetting candidates and presenting to the Executive Committee, for approval, the candidates which have fulfilled the vetting criteria. The Nominations Committee would not actively search for candidates, but could put forward names should they become known. With respect to the Athlete Committee Chair, the candidate should be proposed by the Athlete Committee members, and then for the rest of the process, the first sentence (above) would apply.

- 4) Provide insight to and feedback on the World Anti-Doping Program including the Code, testing standards, ADAMS etc.
- 5) Act as ambassadors and spokespersons for WADA and clean sport;
- 6) Actively uphold Play True sport and promote WADA's Outreach activities;
- 7) Assist in reviewing and recommending effective ways to reach athletes and their entourage.

### **Reporting Structure**

Working in close co-operation with WADA Management, the Athlete Committee, through its Chairperson, reports to the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the WADA Executive Committee for a term of three years. The term can be extended for further periods of three years.

*Note: The previous requirement (from 1999 to 2016) that "the Committee Chairperson will be a Foundation Board or an Executive Committee member, or a former Board or Executive Committee Member who has ceased to be a Board or an Executive Committee Member within the last three years" was removed from the WADA Statutes in November 2016 following a decision by the Foundation Board.*

### **Membership/Composition**

The Athlete Committee Chairperson and the WADA President, following consultation with the WADA Director General, will appoint persons to the Committee.

Members shall be selected on the basis of:

- Experience – Athletes (current/retired), Coaches/athlete entourages, etc.;
- Proven interest/commitment to clean sport;
- Sport discipline (including able/disabled sports and winter/summer sports);
- Geographical region;
- Gender; and
- Government and/or sports movement recommendations.

Members are appointed for a maximum term of three years, at the end of which they are eligible for reappointment. The term begins on the date of appointment, generally at the beginning of a calendar year.

Every year the membership of the Committee will be reviewed by the Chairperson, in consultation with the WADA Director General and the Chair of the Foundation Board. Rotation of Committee members will be carried out in a manner that ensures continuity of Committee experience and expertise, generally one third per year.

Nominated observers (non-voting) may also be invited to attend meetings on an ad-hoc or regular basis.

### **Outside Experts**

The Athlete Committee, in consultation with and upon approval of WADA Management, may seek assistance from outside experts from time to time.

### **Working Norms**

The Committee will normally operate on the basis of consensus and maintain as informal a manner as is possible or appropriate for the conduct of Committee 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 Chairperson has the casting vote. There is presently no formal practice concerning a quorum. The Chairperson has the responsibility to determine if a quorum is present. Minutes will record any dissenting opinion on request.

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

Committee members will be bound by the Conflict of Interest policy adopted by the WADA Executive Committee in May 2011, and in this light, every year will be required to complete and sign a Statement of Independence and Interest in accordance with the current policy.

*\*It is anticipated that there will be changes to the Agency's Conflict of Interest policy in 2019 due to the governance reforms approved by the Foundation Board in November 2018. Members will be asked to complete new documentation at the appropriate time.*

### **Confidentiality**

All Committee members are required to sign a confidentiality agreement upon appointment.

### **Communications and Media**

All members must read and agree to comply with WADA's Media Relations policy (as attached). 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 consult first with the WADA Media Relations Senior Manager or (if absent), with the WADA Communications Director.

### **Funding Support**

WADA shall provide the necessary administration and operational resources for Committee meetings.

### **Meetings**

The Committee will meet in person, as required, up to a maximum of two (2) times per year. WADA will look for opportunities to hold such meetings around major sporting events or other meetings, such as the Olympic Games or International Athlete Forums. Informal meetings can also be held around WADA's Foundation Board or Executive Committee meetings with some members as appropriate. Additional meetings may be held via teleconference.

Minutes of the Committee meetings, reports and correspondence relative to the Committee shall be recorded and retained at the WADA headquarters.