

## **Compliance to the World Anti-Doping Program: A Status Evaluation of National Sport Organizations in Hong Kong**

The World-Anti-Doping Program (Program) provides all information required to implement a harmonized anti-doping program. The World Anti-Doping Code (Code) is the fundamental and universal document upon which the Program is based. With the Code in place over 2 years, many sport organizations and sport professionals, especially those involved in high-level competitions, should be familiar with and practising the widely accepted rules and regulations in doping control. The same may not be true for those who are not involved in that calibre of competition. Included in this group would be coaches and administrators of National Sports Organizations (NSOs) that have never produced athletes capable of achieving qualifying standards that warrant them a place in high-level competitions. Even among NSOs with experience in high-level competitions, their second-tier or third-tier athletes might not have the same exposure as their elite counterparts.

Given that NSOs play a significant role in communicating anti-doping information to their athletes and their role in implementing anti-doping policies, rules and regulations, the need to evaluate NSOs' compliance to the Program is important. However, study in this area is absent from the literature. Therefore, the purpose of the present study is to examine the extent of compliance to the Program among NSOs in Hong Kong. Specifically, we aim to assess the status of Hong Kong NSOs in implementing anti-doping functions and elements constraining their full compliance.

Being organizations, NSOs' compliance and non-compliance to the Program could be treated as the adoption and non-adoption of a management practice. The Transtheoretical Model (TTM) has been successfully applied to analyze change in the status of family service agencies. The TTM comprises of a number of theoretical constructs related to change, namely stages of change, decisional balance, and process of change. The same model will be used in this study to examine the temporal ordering of events in changing an established pattern (the status of NSOs in implementing anti-doping functions) and an opportunity to understand mechanisms that mediate intentional change (constraints of NSOs in implementing anti-doping functions).

Findings from the study will contribute to a better understanding of the compliance of Hong Kong NSOs on the Program and the underlying contributing factors. Information obtained could be profitably used to help the policy makers to identify interventions to help the NSOs to take actions and contribute to WADA's anti-doping efforts. Although the study will only involve NSOs in Hong Kong, the knowledge gained could probably be applied to countries with similar anti-doping experience.