

Project Tsarkov (Russia)

Dr. Petr Tsarkov*, Federal State Budgetary Institution, Federal science center for physical culture & Sport

Legitimacy perceptions of the anti-doping system held by Russian athletes, athlete support personnel, and university students in sport disciplines

The Sport Drug Control Model developed by Donovan et al. (2002) provides a framework to examine athletes' attitudes towards doping. One of the system components is the perception of the anti-doping system's legitimacy. Tyler (1990) offers a three-dimensional framework for analyzing athletes' legitimacy perceptions of anti-doping testing regimes consisting of distributive justice, procedural justice, and interactional justice. The framework assesses whether athletes perceive the anti-doping testing regime as proper, just, and appropriate (Tyler, 1990). Woolway et al. (2020) Tyler's framework distinguished two types of perceived legitimacy: normative legitimacy ('doing what is right') and procedural legitimacy ('doing it in the right way').

The proposed research project would draw on the conceptual frameworks mentioned above to empirically examine perceptions of legitimacy of the anti-doping system held by Russian athletes, athlete support personnel, and university students in the field of sport. The proposed research project would utilize a sequential mixed methods design. The study would draw on quantitative and qualitative data obtained through surveys, focus groups, and interviews. The use of different methods and data sources would help achieve greater accuracy in answering the research questions.

First, we plan to conduct a quantitative survey of legitimacy perceptions of the anti-doping system held by Russian athletes, athlete support personnel, and students pursuing higher education in the field of sport, many of whom will become professional athletes and coaching staff in Russia. To gauge legitimacy perceptions, we plan to use the survey questionnaire specified in WADA's Research Package for ADOs (Questionnaire Module A2). Recruitment would be based on the river sampling technique. The estimated number of survey respondents is 500 people.

Second, we plan to conduct semi-structured interviews and focus groups to understand how legitimacy perceptions impact the experience of the anti-doping system. We plan to involve athletes, athlete support personnel, and students who are studying theory and methodology of sport. The research project would involve students studying at the universities in the capital (the Russian State University of Physical Education, Sport, Youth, and Tourism) and in the regions (the Volgograd State Academy of Physical Culture). Interviewees and focus group participants would be selected through purposive sampling. The estimated number of interview and focus group participants is 50 people.

It is crucial to study the social background of doping in sport. Examining stakeholders' perceptions of legitimacy of the anti-doping system helps understand the differences between those who choose clean sport and those who resort to doping. Woolway et al. (2020, p. 2) contend that "the perceived legitimacy of anti-doping organisations and their rules is one still relatively underdeveloped area in antidoping research." The goal of this research is to empirically examine legitimacy perceptions of the

anti-doping system held by Russian athletes, athlete support personnel and university students in the field of sport and its impact on clean sport.

*Principal Investigator was replaced due to the departure of original PI, Dr. Anna Devenish.