



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach  
President

**5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Doping in Sport**  
**Katowice, 5 November 2019**

---

It is all about the athletes. To be more precise: it is all about the clean athletes.

These words which I used at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Doping in Sport in Johannesburg 2013, are still true today.

This is why I would like to congratulate the incoming President of WADA, Witold Banka, and the incoming Vice-President, Yang Yang. Both of you are former athletes, which sends a great signal as we renew our commitment to the clean athletes. You are bringing a new energy and fresh determination to WADA and we are looking forward to joining hands with you.



As we welcome the new leadership, I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing President, Sir Craig Reedie.

Dear Craig, you had to lead WADA through some of the most difficult periods of the organisation. Nobody here in the room envied you for this. With all your diplomatic skills, your good sense of humour and your openness, you managed to navigate the rough waters and finally steadied the ship. I am sure in this respect, I speak not only on behalf of the Olympic Movement, but for everybody here today by saying, thank you very much Sir Craig.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WADA, we celebrate the spirit of equal partnership and cooperation between the stakeholders of WADA. It is this cooperation between government authorities and the sports movement that is at the heart of WADA.



It is the foundation of the global anti-doping framework of today. We have put in place a successful system of prevention, testing and sanctioning.

Of course, over the course of the last 20 years, we have had our differences. But throughout all this time, it was our shared responsibility that has prevailed over the differences.

Since the last World Conference in Johannesburg, the IOC has delivered on its commitments. Just to give you a few examples:

We have drastically enhanced the anti-doping programme before and during the Olympic Games.



To increase the deterrence factor, we extended the storage time of samples and the subsequent reanalysis using new testing methods as they became available.

The IOC Athletes' Commission has developed the Olympic Medal Reallocation Principles, so that those athletes, who had been denied medals by the cheats, are receiving their medals in a way that recognises their achievements. These principles have been received very positively by the clean athletes.

We supported the development of innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods with a 10 million US dollar fund, as one of the first major decisions of my presidency.



Based on the progress with regards to anti-doping research, which has been made thanks to the joint efforts with the governments and WADA, we can look confidently to the future.

In this respect, one of the promising collective research projects is the Dried Blood Spot method. This DBS method could very well revolutionise the anti-doping fight, since it will allow for fast, simple and cost-effective collection of samples that can be easily and cheaply transported and stored. Reflecting the spirit of all stakeholders joining forces, this is very much a collaborative project between WADA, the IOC, the International Testing Agency, as well as several National Anti-Doping Organisations, including the United States, China, Japan, Switzerland and Australia.



In a meeting between these partners, it was agreed that the DBS method should be implemented no later than at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 but that some aspects of DBS testing could be used as early as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Another area of innovative research that benefited from our joint investment is in the area of gene testing. With research on genetic sequencing progressing well, this new approach could be a ground-breaking method to detect blood doping, weeks or even months after it took place. If approved by WADA, such new gene testing could be used already at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

These new methods will again strengthen deterrence. We want the cheats to never feel safe, anytime or anywhere.



Since we met last time in Johannesburg, the IOC has taken some more important initiatives. One of the major milestones was the initiation of the International Testing Agency by the Olympic Summit in 2015. The creation of the ITA was made possible by start-up funding of 30 million US dollars from the IOC. The overarching goal of the ITA is to make anti-doping testing independent from sports organisations. In today's world, where perception is unfortunately so often becoming reality, it is more important than ever to avoid even the perception of a conflict of interest.

Making testing independent from sport organisations and national interests is therefore a vital step and greatly supports the credibility of the anti-doping system.



For its part, the IOC has already taken the necessary steps to prevent such conflicts of interest. Since the Olympic Games Rio 2016, we have started to make both testing and sanctioning at Olympic Games independent from the IOC. Now testing during the Games as well as the coordination of the pre-Games testing is handled by ITA. Sanctioning is done by the newly created CAS Anti-Doping Division. This is a clear separation of powers.

In this respect, it is very encouraging that 41 International Federations have already established partnerships with the ITA.

This is a promising start, but to safeguard the long-term credibility of sport, we need to go even further. This is why we call on all International Federations to follow our lead and fully delegate their entire testing programmes to the ITA and sanctioning to





the CAS Anti-Doping Division. This is fully in line with the spirit of the new “WADA International Standard on Results Management” which is to be adopted this week.

Creating an international level playing field for all athletes is an overriding priority for the global anti-doping community. To achieve this, the work starts at home. That means that there must be a level playing field for all athletes on a national level as well. In this context, we would like to encourage WADA to look into this matter and to make it part of their compliance monitoring.

This is to ensure that also on the national level, all elite athletes, irrespective of the sports organisation, college, university, commercial entity or professional league they belong to, are all subject to the World Anti-Doping Code and their respective



NADO. The same principle of a level playing field for national and international athletes must apply to any kind of legislation or rules in any country. There can be no different standards. There must be the same WADA standard for everybody.

The IOC has also delivered on its commitment to strengthen its support to WADA by making proposals on improving its governance. In this respect, promoting athletes' representation is a major focus of the IOC.

At the outset, let us set the record straight regarding athletes' representation in WADA: the fact is that the athletes already have representation in the WADA Executive and Foundation Boards. The IOC made this representation of athletes possible by giving up seats of the sports movement in favour of democratically elected athletes' representatives.



The IOC fully supports the incoming WADA President as a former athlete and put forward an Olympic champion as WADA Vice-President.

Taken together with the existing athletes' representation on the WADA decision-making bodies, this puts the athletes in the driver's seat of WADA. The IOC continues to fully support this positive development.

The elected members of the IOC Athletes' Commission enjoy full legitimacy through the democratic election by all the Olympic athletes during the Olympic Games. They are the ones who can speak on behalf of those who elected them – the athletes.



This democratic principle also obliges them after their election, to stay in contact, consult and cooperate with their constituency, which consists of all Olympic athletes from all sports and all parts of the Olympic Movement. In this way, they represent a truly global athletes' voice, representing all sports, all NOCs, big and small, whether from the North or South, from East or West.

A great example of this democratic decision-making process was the creation of the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, for which the IOC Athletes' Commission consulted with more than 4,200 athletes from 190 NOCs and over 120 disciplines.

Another example of democracy was the biggest ever International Athletes' Forum, which was



attended by 350 athletes' representatives from 185 NOCs and 50 IFs. This is democracy in action.

We have also increased our financial support to WADA. Together with the governments, we have approved a 47 per cent cumulative budget increase from about 30 million US dollar in 2017 to about 44 million US dollars in 2022.

But this fight against doping includes many more stakeholders, as we see assembled here in this room. Altogether, the overall contribution of sport alone to the fight against doping is estimated at 260 million US dollars during the four years of an Olympiad.

If we look back at the last six years, we have achieved significant progress: we have strengthened deterrence. We have improved anti-



doping research. We have made testing and sanctioning independent from sport organisations and national interests. We have strengthened WADA organisationally and financially.

But is this sufficient? No, this progress does not make us complacent. On the contrary, we just take it as the foundation to build on for the future.

Shaping the future always includes learning the lessons from the past. For the IOC, in the fight against doping, there is one issue that stands out in this respect.

Whether it was the systemic manipulation of the anti-doping system in Russia, or the investigations around “Operation Aderlass”, or the most recent allegations against a coach of the former Nike Oregon Project – all these cases, as different as



they are, highlight the urgent need to focus much more on the athletes' entourage.

The athlete is not the only culprit.

The athlete is supported and sometimes even driven to or forced into doping by a secretive network which may include coaches, agents, dealers, managers, officials from government or sport organisations, doctors, physiotherapists or others.

Sport organisations have the tools to identify and sanction the doped athletes. However, sport organisations do not have sufficient tools to identify and sanction in a deterrent way the athletes' entourage. This is where we need the full support of the government authorities. They have the necessary authority and tools to take action.



We need zero-tolerance for everybody: athletes and entourage.

This means that for each doping case, we have to identify everybody who is implicated. We cannot just sanction the athlete and let the others go. This is a question of credibility and justice.

To achieve this, we need to strengthen the investigative powers of WADA and we must apply much more robust and deterrent sanctions for the entourage. This can only happen with the full support of the governments.

The WADA Intelligence and Investigative Unit has made great progress since its creation in 2016 and I would like to congratulate them on this. The challenges of doping have unfortunately become





even more complex. In view of this, the Olympic and sports movement and the government authorities should discuss how to strengthen the WADA Intelligence and Investigative Unit.

In this respect, we invite the governments to look for concrete ways to facilitate the cooperation between this unit, the ITA and the respective national government authorities.

When it comes to sanctioning the entourage, the power of the sport organisations is extremely limited. What sport organisations can do and have tried to do, not always successfully, has proven to be very limited and did not have the necessary deterrent effect.

When, for example, the IOC is identifying a doctor implicated in a doping case, the only thing we can do is to send the doctor home from the Olympic



Games and maybe exclude him from future editions of the Games. But after the doctor goes back home, in most cases, he can just continue with his nefarious business without any consequences.

This is not acceptable. This is the wrong signal. This needs to be changed.

This is why we encourage the governments to look for effective ways within their respective national legal systems to severely punish people who are part of the entourage. The aim should be that such a doctor involved in a doping case would not only lose accreditation for sporting events, but also have his medical license suspended, at the very least.

To further illustrate the limitations of sport organisations in this respect, I would like to give you an example from the manipulation of the anti-doping system during the Olympic Winter Games Sochi



2014. The IOC excluded the then Russian Minister of Sport for life from all future Olympic Games.

But we had to learn from CAS that this government official could not be considered subject to the jurisdiction of the IOC.

I give you these examples to illustrate the urgent need for the engagement of the governments.

In this respect, it was disappointing to hear that the proposed “Guidelines and framework on consequences for the UNESCO Convention on Anti-Doping in Sport” was rejected last week. This is a missed opportunity for government authorities to fill this void and to step up to their responsibility to sanction everybody who is implicated in a doping case in a robust and deterrent way – and not only the athletes. We urge the UNESCO member states to re-consider this question as soon as possible.



If we are committed to our goal, which is to protect the clean athletes, we must identify and sanction all those who are implicated.

In this context, as far as the entourage is concerned, implication for the entourage cannot only be interpreted as active support but must also cover negligence and even organisational or political responsibility. Implicated people and the organisations they represent must be sanctioned in a robust and deterrent way. They have to take responsibility for their wrongdoing.

We cannot hold innocent others responsible for their wrongdoing. This is why we could not agree more with the most recent declaration of the chair of the IAAF Integrity Unit and former Secretary-General of



WADA who said: “There cannot be guilt by association.”

This approach is a must for the credibility of the anti-doping system.

By putting the focus more on the entourage, by holding everybody implicated in a doping case accountable in a robust and deterrent way, and by close cooperation between all anti-doping stakeholders, we can take a major step forward to strengthen justice and credibility for the protection of the clean athletes and to drain the doping swamp.

These and all the challenges in the protection of the clean athletes can only be addressed in a relationship of mutual trust between governments and the sporting movement. Therefore, I extend my hand to the governments for such a trustful partnership.



Six years ago, I announced a 10 million US dollar commitment by the IOC for the better protection of the clean athletes. We have delivered on this. Today, on behalf of the IOC, I make another pledge of up to 10 million US dollars for the following action plan:

- 1)The IOC is initiating a global long-term storage and re-analysis programme, also for samples collected during the pre-Games testing period. This means that also these samples should be stored for up to ten years, as the IOC already does for the samples taken during the Olympic Games. We encourage the IFs and NADOs to take the necessary measures regarding these pre-Games samples because they are under their authority. This would greatly add to the deterrence factor in



particular when combined with the new testing methods mentioned earlier.

To make this step possible, the IOC is ready to finance the necessary storage facilities for the IFs and NADOs for the tens of thousands of samples collected during the pre-Games testing period. Based on our experience with the storage, this represents a commitment by the IOC of about 5 million US dollars.

2)The IOC will ask the ITA to already collect the appropriate samples to be analysed by the new genetic sequencing method as early as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, regardless of whether this testing method is already fully validated or not. In the latter case, the IOC would analyse these samples after the full validation of this new testing method. This will add to the fact that the pre-Games testing programme for the



Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be the most extensive programme ever, aimed to maximise both detection and deterrence. This pre-Games testing programme bundles the efforts of the IFs, NADOs, NOCs, WADA, ITA and the IOC, reflecting the spirit of partnership between all stakeholders in the fight against doping. I would like to thank all these partners who are contributing to this effort to keep the cheats away from the Olympic Games.

3) We can build on the success of the last research programme, to bring some of these projects to full fruition. For this purpose, the IOC commits another 2.5 million US dollars. If the governments would like to match this amount, we would be pleased to transfer these 2.5 million US dollars from the budget of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission to the WADA research budget.





4) With regards to strengthening the investigative powers of the WADA Intelligence and Investigative Unit, we invite the governments to a discussion on how we can do so. For such a joint programme, the IOC would then commit another 2.5 million US dollars for the next Olympiad.

I invite all of you here today to join hands so that together we can accomplish the mission of WADA and together we can send a strong signal from Katowice to the athletes of the world, and to the general public: a signal of determination, a signal of cooperation, a signal of credibility.

For this mission, even at the end of this long speech, I still do not find better words than to say: It is all about the athletes. To be more precise: it is all about the clean athletes.