

SUMMARY ACTIVITY REPORT

J u l y 2 0 2 1

138th IOC SESSION

ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020

PRE-GAMES ACTIVITIES

Coordinated by the ITA, the pre-Games program is a collaborative effort between the ITA, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Summer Olympic Federations (IFs), and National/Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs/RADOs) to ensure that testing gaps are detected and addressed ahead of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is supporting this work which began in 2019 when the ITA Pre-Games Expert Group consisting of a pool of specialists from International Federations (IFs) – representing both team and individual sports – and National and Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs/RADOs) representing all five world continents was formed.

The group is responsible for reviewing available information on athletes who are likely to compete in the Games. It performs a risk assessment and shares testing recommendations with other anti-doping organisations (ADOs) to ensure that effective testing is conducted globally through a coordinated effort.

In December 2020, after updating the pre-Games risk assessment and re-calibrating its efforts after the postponement of Tokyo 2020, the group issued around 26'000 testing recommendations. This high number of recommendations is due to the fact that all 33 participating sports underwent review, and that they were issued more than six months prior to the event when the pool of potentially participating athletes had not been finalised. The review of all participating sports and the early issuing of the recommendations make this the most extensive pre-Games anti-doping program ever implemented for an edition of the Olympic Games. For comparison, the 1'500 pre-Games recommendations for 7 at-risk disciplines for the last Summer Olympics in Rio were issued one month prior to the event.

PRE-GAMES INITIATIVES: OVERVIEW



The ITA Pre-Games Expert Group monitored the worldwide implementation of the recommendations on a dedicated platform specifically created by the ITA on which all ADOs can share information about

qualifications and the tests they had planned. This first phase of ITA's anti-doping program was completed with a testing implementation rate of 80% on qualified athletes that were recommended for doping controls through the risk assessment by the Expert Group.

Furthermore, as the IOC and the ITA have secured an extended testing jurisdiction for the IOC allowing for additional testing to take place two months ahead of Tokyo 2020, the ITA is currently also directly filling potential testing gaps through doping controls on its own initiative.

PRE-GAMES LONG-TERM STORAGE AND RE-ANALYSIS PROGRAM

Within the scope of the pre-Games activities for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the ITA has, financed through an IOC special fund, rolled out a large-scale long-term storage and re-analysis program, including the establishment of a highly secured Centralised Long-Term Storage Facility (CLTSF). Under this program, all anti-doping organisations can store for 10 years – free of charge – all samples they collect on athletes going to Tokyo. The CLTSF is fully operational since December 2020. Organisations storing their samples in it retain ownership and authority over them and can request re-analysis at any time. The ITA proposes to their partners the development of Long-Term Storage policies, sample storage in the CLTSF and the management of re-analysis programs in order to reinforce their efforts to protect their athletes and the integrity of their competitions. As per July 2021, 28 IFs and 10 NADOs have signed or are about to sign to have their samples stored within the framework of the Pre-Games Long-Term-Storage program.

ON-SITE ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM

During Games-time, the ITA will be present with a team of 24 experts from its MEO, testing, legal and science departments with support from organisational, IT and communication functions. Next to their core responsibilities, ITA staff will be present in the field to coordinate and troubleshoot where needed the sample collection operations delivered by the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee.

ITA's test distributions plan foresees the collection of approximately 5'000 in- and out-of-competition urine and blood samples during Games-time. The ITA legal team is prepared to prosecute any Adverse Analytical Findings or other Anti-Doping Rule Violations and notify the concerned athletes and NOCs swiftly and to process any resulting cases in front of CAS Anti-Doping Division.

Due to the travel restrictions in connection with Covid-19 and the related quarantine measures, the international anti-doping work force put in place by Tokyo 2020 is encountering difficulties to enter and move around in Japan. The ITA is adapting its program to these circumstances and foresees the implementation of doping controls with reduced doping control personnel. Regarding out-of-competition testing during Games-time, the ITA team is adapting to the fact that athletes will not all be geographically centralised in the Athlete's Village and that their stay in Japan will be shortened. The ITA is preparing to conduct an increased number of out-of-competition tests that are spread out beyond the Village. This heightens the complexity regarding travels and transportation for Doping Control Officers on-site. Due to the shorter presence time of athletes in Tokyo some of these tests are alternatively conducted in their home country before they leave for the Games.

As the WADA-accredited laboratory in Tokyo faces the same type of challenges, it might not be able to receive, as planned, the originally expected additional support from international experts. This might have an effect on the volume of analyses that the laboratory can perform within a certain time frame.

DRIED BLOOD SPOT (DBS) METHOD

Since October 2019, the DBS Steering Committee composed of WADA, IOC, ITA, the USA and Chinese Anti-doping Agencies has coordinated two Working Groups (Collection & Transport and Analysis & Storage). On top of supporting some important research projects, one of its tasks was to draft the Technical Document called "DRIED BLOOD SPOTS (DBS) FOR DOPING CONTROL: Requirements and Procedures for Collection, Transport, Analysis and Storage". This document has circulated this year among all stakeholders and was presented at the WADA Executive Committee in May this year. It is set to enter into effect in September 2021, which would mean that DBS testing could be implemented at the Winter Olympics Beijing 2022 if all logistical and analytical requirements are met.

During the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 this summer, some important pre-analytical and analytical steps needed for DBS analysis will be followed based on recommendations coming from both working groups and various WADA-accredited laboratories.

GENE DOPING

The ITA will analyse samples of athletes selected on the basis of its multi-factorial risk assessment for gene doping analysis during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

SOCHI 2014 RE-ANALYSIS PROGRAM

In December 2020, the ITA launched an extensive re-analysis program for samples collected during the Winter Olympics Sochi 2014. Following the serious issues of manipulation of the doping control process, the IOC already re-examined hundreds of samples from participating Russian athletes in 2016. The ITA set out to further re-analyse 1'217 samples of over 1'100 athletes from 51 countries across 7 sports. With over 99% of the further analysis of these samples completed, the ITA will soon finalise the project well ahead of the Winter Olympics Beijing 2022. The resulting findings will be shared with the IOC as soon as all further analysis has been completed.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the world was shaken by the COVID 19 pandemic in early 2020, the ITA's priorities were to ensure the safety of athletes and doping control personnel on the one hand, and to maintain anti-doping programs for our partners as far as the situation allowed. Adopting a flexible approach, we monitored the ever-changing world situation and adjusted our activities accordingly depending on the respective safety and hygiene regulations and travel restrictions. This allowed us to ensure that tests that needed to be temporarily postponed were rescheduled to the next available opportunity.

Additional challenges were triggered by the many changes to the IFs competition calendars and qualification events that were cancelled or changed locations under extremely tight deadlines causing significant work for the ITA Testing Department.

Despite these constraints, the ITA upheld over 90 per cent of the Out-of-Competition tests that were scheduled for our partners in the beginning of the year. In total, the ITA implemented throughout 2020 5'640 out-of-competition tests and 1'108 in-competition tests.

Other ITA activities in the areas of risk assessment, intelligence & investigations, Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) administration, Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) management, results management continued without interruption.

ITA FOUNDATION BOARD: MORE STRUCTURAL INDEPENDENCE

In 2020, the ITA Foundation Board implemented structural changes for increased independence as two new independent Board Members were officially welcomed following their vetting and approval by WADA's Executive Committee. The ITA is therefore extremely pleased to welcome to its Board two Olympians and exceptional personalities, namely Ms Chantal Brunner (Olympian in athletics; 1996 and 2000 Olympics) from New Zealand, and Dr Roger Jackson (Olympian in rowing; 1964, 1968, 1972 Olympics) from Canada. They will join the two other independent members and three representatives of the sport movement that make up the seven-member Board of the ITA, together with a WADA representative holding a permanent non-voting position.

THE ITA BOARD



Dr Valérie Fourneyron 
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

A medical doctor specialised in sport medicine and traumatology, Mrs. Fourneyron, holder of the Order of Merit (the highest distinction bestowed by the French Republic), is a former French Minister for Youth & Sport, Mayor of the City of Rouen, parliamentary and European representative in the Executive Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency. She has been unanimously appointed as Chair of the Board of the International Testing Agency (ITA) in September 2017.



Mr Sébastien Gillet
WADA NON-VOTING OBSERVER

Director, European Office and International Federations Relations at World Anti-Doping Agency



Ms Kirsty Coventry 

Former Olympic swimmer, Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation in the Cabinet of Zimbabwe



Dr Roger Jackson 

former Olympic gold medalist in rowing, former Chair of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), former professor at the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Calgary



Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti 

President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)



Ms Chantal Brunner 

Former Olympic long jumper, solicitor in international corporate & commercial law, Chair of the New Zealand Olympic Committee Athlete's Commission







Prof. Peijie Chen 

MD & PhD, Professor of Exercise Physiology, President of Shanghai University of Sport



Prof. Dr Uğur Erdener 

Member of the International Olympic Committee and President of the National Olympic Committee of Turkey

 INDEPENDENT BOARD MEMBER
 REPRESENTING ATHLETES
 REPRESENTING THE IOC
 REPRESENTING INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS



Since retiring from elite level international athletics, Ms Brunner has built a successful legal career and has maintained an ongoing involvement in sport in support of athlete-centred programs. She chairs in

a consultative capacity the Olympians' Commission of the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC), among other international engagements to promote athletes' rights, and is a former Panel Member of the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand.

Dr Roger Jackson has championed clean sport for decades, including promoting anti-doping, as President of the Canadian Olympic Association but more importantly through his role as Chair of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) and his contributions to the Olympic Solidarity publications on ethics in sport. For over two decades he was professor of the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Calgary.

NEW PARTNERS

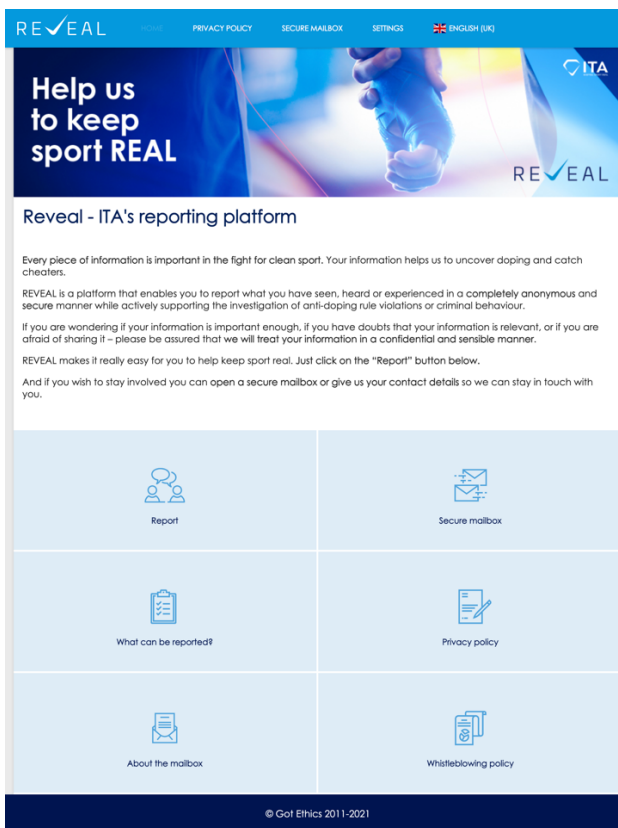
Next to the abovementioned partnership with the UCI, the ITA has welcomed the European Olympic Committees (EOC) as a new major events partner and will implement the entire anti-doping program for future editions of the European Games and the Summer and Winter European Youth Olympic Festivals.

In March 2021, World Rowing delegated its entire anti-doping program to the ITA on the basis of a four-year contract that includes the handling of results management for the federation. In the last half of 2020, both the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the World Squash Federation (WSF) also partnered with the ITA for a full management of clean sport programs as of January 2021.

As of July 2021, the ITA is currently managing anti-doping operations for over 50 IF and MEO partners.

REVEAL: ESTABLISHMENT OF ITA'S OWN WHISTLEBLOWING PLATFORM

Tips about doping offences reported by confidential human sources are recognized as a key component to any intelligence-led anti-doping program. In an effort to provide an additional opportunity for informants to speak out next to already existing whistleblowing channels, the ITA established its own whistleblowing platform called REVEAL.



The solution was developed by the ITA with the support of an expert agency and in close consultation with athletes, former whistle-blowers, law enforcement and academic experts in the area of whistleblowing. A very strong feature of the solution is the ability for any source to open a secure mailbox and stay in contact completely anonymously or confidentially with ITA's Intelligence & Investigations team. The platform launched on 1 February 2021 and has already provided ITA's intelligence & investigations unit with pertinent information.

IDCO TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In July 2020, the ITA launched the International Doping Control Officer (IDCO) Training & Certification Program. The ITA IDCO Training Program offers athletes of the world the guarantee that wherever they are tested and whatever sport they compete in, the doping controls they are subject to are conducted safely, respectfully and with trained professionals in a harmonious manner. ITA Certified IDCOs have become trusted experts in the professional, operational and World Anti-Doping Code compliance aspects required to deliver out-of-competition and in-competition testing programs at international sporting events.



Doping Control Officers from Antidoping Switzerland and the NADO San Marino during their IDCO face-to-face training day in Lausanne.

Since its launch, the program has received broad acceptance from NADOs and Sample Collection Agencies (SCAs) from all over the world who wished for their DCOs to receive this advanced training. So far, over 500 IDCOs from 58 participating organisations have graduated, with more than 250 additional DCOs to be trained until the end of 2021. All Doping Control Station Managers for Tokyo 2020 underwent the training and are certified IDCOs, and 120 DCOs from the Chinese Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) will go through the IDCO program ahead of the Winter Olympic Games Beijing 2022.

ITA REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION (IWF)

In June 2021, the ITA concluded an eight-month long investigation into Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) following a series of allegations of misconduct by the IWF, providing an overview of the findings of the investigation into approximately 146 unresolved cases over the 2009-2019 period. A report containing the details of the investigation and its findings was issued publicly. The report notably uncovers mishandling and impropriety on the part of certain IWF Officials in relation to its anti-doping program. As a consequence of these discoveries, the ITA has – among other follow-up actions – asserted ADRVs against the former IWF President, an IWF Board Member and the President of the European Weightlifting Confederation. Following their notifications of sanction, the latter two still active Officials have stepped aside from their current positions within the structure of the IWF until the disciplinary process is finalised. Of the abovementioned unresolved cases, 29 unsanctioned doping violations remain impossible to prosecute due to the respective statute of limitation and/or the destruction of evidence.

Next to the IWF report, the ITA has referred the IWF Member Federations of Vietnam, Colombia and Romania to be sanctioned by the IWF National Federation Independent Sanction Panel, which would potentially lead to their exclusion from participating in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

NADO PARTNERSHIPS

In order to foster exchanges and harmonise anti-doping efforts around the world, the ITA has focused since its inception on entering collaborations with National Anti-Doping Agencies (NADOs). These partnerships, over 20 to date, help align national and international anti-doping program and, therefore, ensure efficient global anti-doping operations for the benefit of all athletes. The ITA will continue to encourage NADOs and RADOs to enter cooperation agreements with the ITA in order to promote this aligned and intelligence-led approach. In order to achieve establishing this wide network of collaborations, the ITA will create a specific dedicated role within its structure.

COMPLIANCE SUPPORT FOR THE SPORT COMMUNITY

2020 was a year of preparation for the revised World Anti-Doping Code coming into force in January 2021. The ITA Compliance Unit worked closely with many of the ITA's partners to ensure that their anti-doping rules were aligned with the new Code. In collaboration with the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), we supported over 60 federations and Major Event Organisers to align their rules with the incoming 2021 Code.

EDUCATION

In order to continue ITA's efforts to educate athletes in a time when face-to-face events are not possible or recommended, it developed a series of clean sport webinars for its partners and made available as well to the larger global sport community. The success and positive feedback of this first webinar series inspired the ITA to continue delivering monthly webinars throughout 2021. Thanks as well to the securing of a sponsor, the ITA is able to deliver these webinars free of charge and with simultaneous translation in 5 languages to ensure that as many athletes and athlete support personnel can access this education. Since the beginning of the series, over 10'000 athletes, athlete support personnel and IF staff have participated in the webinars and received relevant clean sport information from experts and first hand experiences from presenting athletes.



Screenshot of ITA's webinar on nutrition and supplements.

Following the initial success of the public webinar series, the ITA initiated an inter-IF collaboration with seven of its partners (AIBA, FIA, FITEQ, IWF, WBSC, WSF and WR) coming together to offer their sport communities a comprehensive online course covering all anti-doping topics as per the WADA International Standard for Education and World Anti-Doping Code. Over 3'360 attendees from 138 countries followed the five courses the ITA produced. A second edition of the IF webinar series with more International Federations will kick off mid-September 2021.

With the introduction of the 2021 WADA International Standard for Education and with it the obligation for Code Signatories to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate Education Programs, the ITA has also supported many of its partners by developing and implementing their Education Plans. Finally, the ITA developed and trained a group of ITA Education Ambassadors - this network of qualified and competent educators allows us to deliver anti-doping education programs around the globe - both virtual and event-based.

ISO CERTIFICATIONS

In order to make sure that the data we process on behalf of our partners is handled with the utmost security and confidentiality, the ITA successfully attained the ISO 27001 certification on information security management in 2020. We are currently in the process of attaining two more ISO certifications on quality management and anti-bribery controls.

CUSTOM IT SOLUTIONS

The ITA has implemented a series of new IT Tools to make anti-doping operations even more secure and effective for the organisation and its partners and to automatise specific tasks in order to process higher testing volumes in a shorter amount of time. The central system, PASS (Protecting Athletes & Sport System), custom developed for ITA, is covering the digital processing of our anti-doping testing

operations and is being used by the entire team as well as by partner organisations like IFs, NADOs and Sample Collection Agencies.

As part of its paperless strategy, the ITA has also implemented the ComPASS (Collection Management for PASS) mobile application that is used by the Doping Control Officers in their interaction with athletes. The app automatically sends the information to the ITA servers and, when needed, to the accredited laboratories.

During the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 the ITA will be implementing for the first time, together with the NOCs and the Organising Committees, the Rooming application for quick and efficient management of athlete whereabouts and the helpdesk application ADCOM in order to establish a swift and centralised process for troubleshooting.

On top of these systems, the ITA developed the Dashboard application that provides ITA partners with dynamic, real time reporting for an operational detailed and high-level view of their anti-doping programs.



The ITA Dashboards: a new, dynamic way of reporting on anti-doping programs.