

# 2024 Annual Symposium Preliminary Program

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## Day 1 12 March 2024

### 09:00 – 10:00 Plenary Sessions

– **09:00 – 09:15 Session 1: Welcome (Hybrid format)**

This session will give an overview of WADA's 2024 Annual Symposium, including its objectives.

– **09:15 – 10:00 Session 2: Opening Remarks by WADA President and Director General (Hybrid format)**

This session will include a keynote speech by WADA President, Witold Bańka, and an update on WADA's strategic priorities by WADA Director General, Olivier Niggli.

### 10:00 – 10:45 Networking break

### 10:45 – 12:15 Plenary Sessions

– **10:45 – 11:15 Session 3: A keynote speech by European Commission Vice-President (Hybrid format)**

The European Commission has long been an important partner of WADA and key to helping strengthen the global anti-doping system in areas such as anti-doping education and awareness building; scientific and social science research; and intelligence and investigations. During this session, European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas will reflect on this partnership and look forward to future opportunities for collaboration.

– **11:15 – 12:15 Session 4: European Intelligence & Investigations' Capability and Capacity Building Project (Hybrid format)**

In 2022, WADA won a European Union grant to strengthen intelligence and investigations capability and capacity of National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) and Law Enforcement in 48 European countries. This session will reflect on the achievements to date, including some exceptional results.

### 12:15 – 13:45 Networking lunch

## 13:45 – 15:00 Concurrent Sessions

### – **Session 5: Benchmarking in the ADO community (Hybrid format)**

While there are strict rules in the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) and International Standards regarding the implementation of programs, it is sometimes unclear to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) where their performance 'should' be or what is 'sufficient', e.g., in terms of resources and number of tests. With the use of data analytics, WADA has started to analyze ranges within which ADOs are performing in accordance with their obligations, enabling the creation of benchmarking tools. This can allow ADOs to assess themselves relative to others, and to have a realistic view of what they should be striving to achieve with program delivery. This session will discuss the process of coming up with these benchmarks, their utility, and their pitfalls.

### – **Workshop 1: Blood doping: trends and perspectives**

This session tackles the question of whether anti-doping measures can impact athlete behavior by examining blood doping data over the past decade. The effects of evolving detection methods, testing frequency, and effective use of the Athlete Biological Passport will be discussed to highlight potential opportunities for further refinement of testing strategies.

### – **Workshop 2: Moot Court**

This session will simulate a court hearing of an anti-doping case, which will involve cross-examination and closing arguments.

### – **Ask the Experts session 1A**

Experts and WADA staff members will be available to answer any questions you may have on the following topics: education, testing (including dried blood spot), Human Rights, and Code compliance.

## 15:00 – 15:30 Networking break

## 15:30 – 16:45 Concurrent Sessions

### – **Session 6: NADO operational independence – lessons learnt and looking ahead to the 2027 Code (Hybrid format)**

NADO operational independence is one of the concepts being considered as part of the 2027 Code update process. During the 2021 Code revision process, there was a consensus among the anti-doping community that this requirement should be further bolstered, which resulted in stronger wording in the 2021 Code.

NADOs have now had an opportunity to implement this requirement, which remains a very relevant topic of discussion by NADOs and other stakeholders. WADA has also had a chance to implement the compliance monitoring process related to this requirement and has identified some challenges/limitations.

In light of the 2027 Code update process, this session will discuss the need or lack thereof to further strengthen the operational independence requirement; whether the Guide for NADO Operational Independence is sufficient; and how to address the issue of National Federation involvement in testing and/or results management that is under the responsibility of NADOs.

– **Workshop 3: How to navigate whereabouts**

The increasing number of whereabouts failures, and therefore Anti-Doping Rule Violations under article 2.4 of the Code, is a key trend in results management around the world. This session will provide stakeholders with a review of whereabouts filing requirements, including tips from the athlete and ADO testing perspective, and strategies to prosecute whereabouts cases.

– **Ask the Experts session 1B**

Experts and WADA staff members will be available to answer any questions you may have on the following topics: education, testing (including dried blood spot), Human Rights, and Code compliance.

– **I&I Symposium – session 1: Operational impact of the EU I&I Capability and Capacity Building Project with award**

One of the objectives of the EU project was to encourage NADOs and Law Enforcement to initiate joint operations tackling performance-enhancing drug manufacturing, trafficking and doping. To date, more than 20 operations have been initiated. During this session we will introduce the best ones and present awards.

## 17:00 – 18:30 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

WADA was established on 10 November 1999 to lead the global collaborative mission for doping-free sport. This gala will gather Symposium attendees and other invited guests to celebrate WADA's 25th anniversary, the accomplishments of the global anti-doping community and some of its key contributors.

## 18:30 – 21:00 Cocktail

## Day 2 13 March 2024

### 09:00 – 10:00 Plenary Session

- **Session 9: WADA’s partnerships with international organizations (Hybrid format)**

Over the years, WADA has developed strategic partnerships with selected international organizations with which we exchange privileged information to improve anti-doping work and anchor our anti-doping activities in global societal themes (e.g., drugs of abuse in society and risks to public health, emerging drugs, falsified drugs); and/or, to enhance anti-doping research, develop education programs, etc.

This session will discuss the benefits of establishing such partnerships, tips for identifying and developing partnerships, and ways to ensure they deliver on set objectives.

- **I&I Symposium – session 2: Sustainability of the EU I&I Capability and Capacity Building Project concept**

Due to the success of the EU I&I project, in partnership with INTERPOL, we have decided to roll the concept out globally and to create a Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN). In this session, you will learn more about this concept and other interesting topics, such as guidelines for a legal framework; the use of handheld devices to detect doping substances; and perspectives on why NADOs should invest more in I&I.

### 10:00 – 10:45 Networking break

### 10:45 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

- **Session 10: Our education ambition – advancing global policy while enriching regional delivery (Hybrid format)**

In this session, education experts from each of WADA’s regions will present on the evolution of anti-doping education policies and programs in their region since the launch of the International Standard for Education (ISE) in 2021. They will share highlights from the 2024 Global Education Conference and the associated ‘Regional Conversations’ — discussions that will have been organized to raise awareness with decision makers on the need for greater investment in, and prioritization of, education. In addition, the experts will facilitate discussions on the emerging themes from the ISE and Code update process.

- **Workshop 5: Implementing the World Anti-Doping Code through national legislation**

In light of the recent increase in countries developing national legislation, which in many cases has led to compliance issues and NADOs being declared non-compliant, this session will provide practical guidance on preventing and mitigating compliance issues linked to legislation.

- **Workshop 6: Dried Blood Spot testing: navigating the present and charting the future**

Since the launch of DBS, there has been considerable interest from ADOs to integrate this new matrix into their testing programs. ADOs have requested further guidance on how to incorporate DBS collection into their TDPs as well as information regarding which prohibited substances can be detected; which labs can analyze DBS; which sample collection equipment to use; and what it would mean for their testing budgets to implement DBS. This session will provide ADOs with the following: decision-making tools for establishing a DBS testing program; guidance on how to maximize the effectiveness of DBS collections; and information regarding the latest analytical methods, current DBS research and the future of DBS.

- **Session 11: Collaboration between NADOs and IFs, particularly in the lead-up to Major Events (Hybrid format)**

NADOs and International Federations (IFs) need to work hand in hand to ensure athletes are tested consistently to maintain a level playing field. This is particularly crucial in the lead-up to Major Events. This session will discuss best practices for collaboration between NADOs and IFs and for pre-Games coordination, particularly as it relates to testing.

- **Ask the Experts session 2A**

Experts and WADA staff members will be available to answer any questions you may have on the following topics: the Athlete Biological Passport, data analytics, results management, and privacy.

12:00 – 13:45 Networking lunch

13:45 – 14:45 Concurrent Sessions

- **Session 12: Human Rights and anti-doping: preliminary observations of WADA's Senior Independent Expert (Hybrid format)**

In this session, WADA's Senior Independent Expert, Snežana Samardžić-Marković, will present her preliminary observations of the Agency's Initial Human Rights Impact Assessment concerning the intersection between Human Rights and anti-doping. Specifically, the session will highlight existing protections as well as possible measures that ADOs can take to minimize and mitigate the impacts of anti-doping policy and programs on the rights of athletes, including their right to a level playing field.

- **Workshop 7: Prevalence of doping in sport: developing and implementing a doping prevalence index**

The session will present WADA's Prevalence Program by introducing strategies to assess prevalence of doping in sport, specifically among elite athlete groups. ADOs will gain practical information and tools to help them evaluate the effectiveness of their anti-doping programs and improve the strategies and tactics employed to test athletes. Finally, there will be a call to action for IFs and NADOs to participate in the program.

– **Session 13: Testing for beginners (Hybrid format)**

This session is a workshop that is aimed at new testing administrators of Tier 2 or Tier 3 NADOs and IFs. It will provide a high-level overview of the important steps and processes required to develop and implement an effective testing program as well as outline the support resources that are available to assist ADOs.

– **Ask the Experts session 2B**

Experts and WADA staff members will be available to answer any questions you may have on the following topics: the Athlete Biological Passport, data analytics, results management, and privacy.

15:00 – 15:30 Networking break

15:30 – 16:45 Plenary Sessions

– **15:30 – 16:15 Session 14: Imagining the future of anti-doping research and the role of Artificial Intelligence within it (Hybrid format)**

The samples and data collected in the context of doping control represent a valuable resource. With the increased sophistication of doping practices, it is essential that researchers and innovators have access to enough samples and data to develop new tools in the fight against doping in sport. Meanwhile, human dignity and trust are paramount to the ethical conduct of research and the potential integration of Artificial Intelligence therein. This session will feature a panel of multidisciplinary experts of science, ethics and law broaching important questions that will shape the future of anti-doping research and development.

– **16:15 – 16:45 Session 15: Symposium wrap-up (Hybrid format)**

This session will summarize the key takeaways of the Symposium.

**\*\* END OF THE SYMPOSIUM \*\***