

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is the international independent organization created in 1999 to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against doping in sport in all its forms.

Composed and funded equally by the sports movement and governments of the world, WADA created the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), which has harmonised the anti-doping policies used by all sports and all countries.

WHAT IS DOPING AND WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Doping is one of the most important and difficult problems confronting sports today. It threatens the health of an athlete health, threatens the integrity of sport, and provides negative role model to the young people that look up to sports stars.

HOW THE WORLD OF SPORT HAS UNITED TO FIGHT DOPING

The 1998 Tour de France doping scandal brought dialogue between sport and Governments to a head. The scandal, and subsequent conversations that followed, formed the groundwork for the establishment of WADA, the World Anti-Doping Association. WADA exists to harmonise and marshal the global fight against doping in sport: it could be thought of as sports global anti-doping police force.

The establishment of a unified force was necessary as, prior to this, financial resources were scarce, the development of doping sanctions and testing was not unified (and thus inconsistent), it was extremely difficult to know just what banned substances and procedures were being used in different sports, and the testing was open to charges of bias and subjectivity (as federations tested their own athletes). WADA has successfully solved these problems and allowed greater impartiality in the testing process.



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HIGH PROFILE BRITISH DOPING CASES

There are many cases of doping in sport, including Britain. Here are two examples, one of an athlete who was banned from his sport for doping and another of an athlete who was banned for failing to take part in a doping test.

Dwain Chambers

Dwain Chambers has been acknowledged as the fastest sprinter in Europe but, having served a two-year ban from 2003 after testing positive for the steroid THG, is banned for life from competing at the Olympic Games by the British Olympic Association.

Christine Ohuruogu

Christine Ohuruogu received a one-year ban for missing three drugs tests. Under British Olympic Association (BOA) rules, this meant that she was ineligible to compete in any future Olympic event – a huge blow to any athlete. However, following an appeal hearing on 30 December 2007, the Appeals Panel unanimously agreed that this ban should be overturned. Ohuruogu went on to win Gold in the women's 400m final at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

HOW DOES WADA OPERATE?

Since 2003, all major sports organisations have now adopted WADA's World Anti-Doping Code, which stipulates which substances are banned in competition.

WADA FUNDING

WADA's funding is sourced equally from the Olympic Movement and governments of the world. The Olympic Movement has a policy of making payments to WADA only when Governments make their payments, matching dollar for dollar contributions.

DOPING AT LONDON 2012

Police could raid competitors' rooms at the London 2012 athletes' village to search for performance enhancing drugs, under a new law being proposed by British Olympic Association chairman Lord Moynihan. This

would extend the power of the police to search for performance enhancing drugs as well as illegal substances. Moynihan views the move to give police such extra powers as a "necessary" weapon to clamp down on drugs suppliers and cheats in the run-up to the London 2012 Games.



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HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DOPING?

WADA Anti-Doping Quiz

<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Education-Awareness/Anti-Doping-Quiz/>

START THE DISCUSSION

- ❖ Are all substances banned by WADA illegal?
- ❖ Some academics argue that doping is so widespread, it would be better to allow doping to occur so that it can at least be monitored and level the playing field. How do you feel about this argument?

- ❖ Do you feel that some sports have a greater problem with doping than others?
- ❖ Consider current issues and concerns with the way that doping measures and tests are carried out.

FIND OUT MORE

WADA Official Website

<http://www.wada-ama.org>

WADA's Priorities At A Glance

http://www.wada-ama.org/Documents/About_WADA/Strategy/WADA_AtAGlance_200901_EN.pdf

WADA Magazine: 'Stay True'. Download .pdf version:

http://www.wada-ama.org/Documents/Events/WADA_in_Vancouver/WADA_Play_True_Vancouver2010_EN.pdf

CREDITS

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