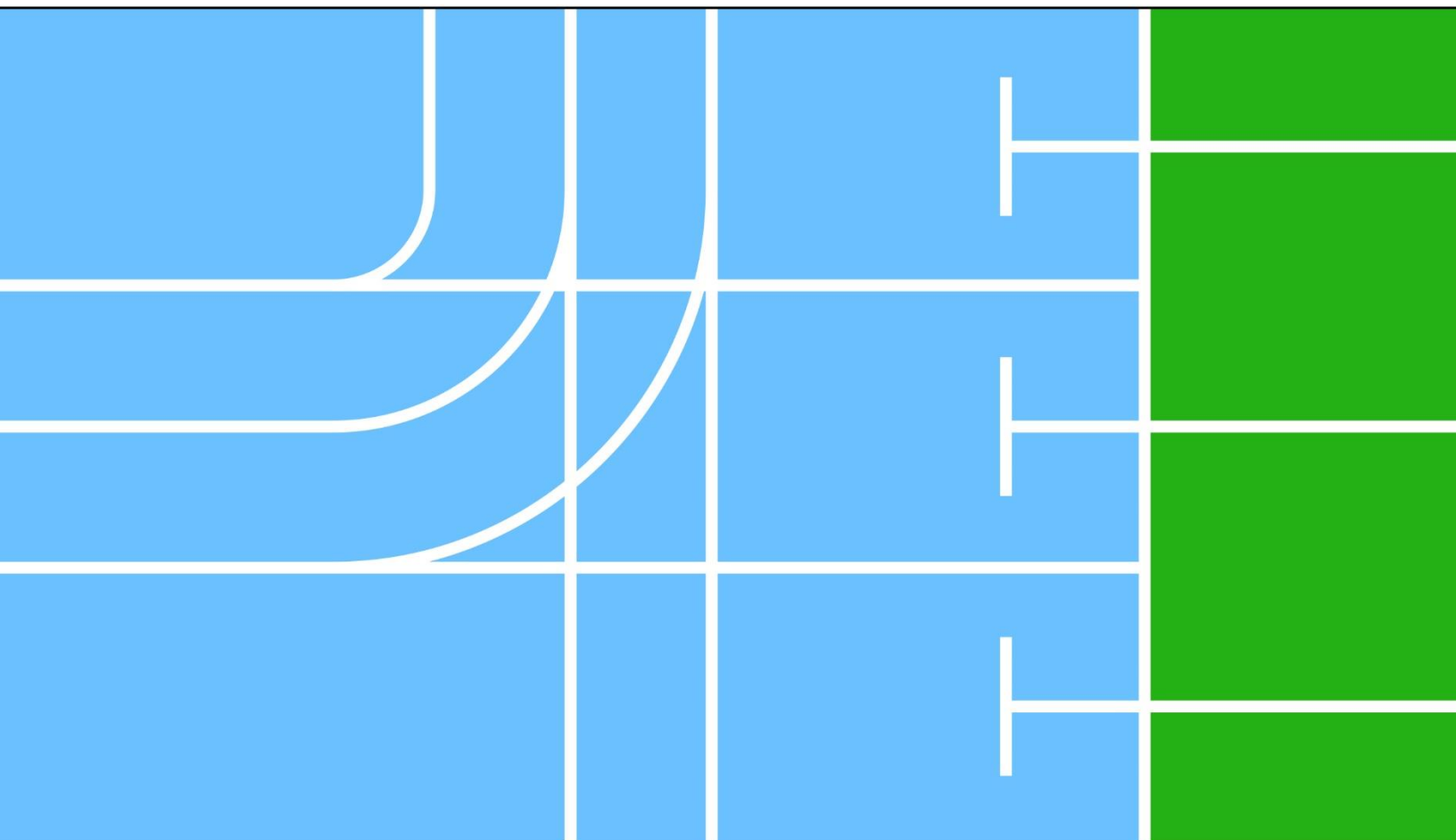




World Anti-Doping Code

International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations



International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations

The World Anti-Doping Code *International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations* is a mandatory *International Standard* developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. It was developed in consultation with *Signatories*, public authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

The *International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations* was first adopted and approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Executive Committee at the Sixth World Conference on Doping in Sport in Busan on 5 December 2025 and is effective as of 1 January 2027.

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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION, CODE PROVISIONS, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.0 Introduction and Scope

The *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations is a mandatory *International Standard* developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. It was developed in consultation with the *Signatories*, public authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

The *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations was first adopted and approved by the WADA Executive Committee at the World Anti-Doping Conference in Busan on 5 December 2025 and is effective as of 1 January 2027.

The *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations sets out the core responsibilities of *Anti-Doping Organizations* regarding collecting, receiving, storing, and assessing Raw Information, using Anti-Doping Intelligence, and conducting investigations into possible anti-doping rule violations, non-compliance of *Signatories* and WADA-accredited laboratories, and other activities that may facilitate doping.

2.0 Code Provisions

The following articles in the 2027 *Code* are directly relevant to the *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations; they can be obtained by referring to the *Code* itself:

–		<i>Code</i> Article 2 <i>Anti-Doping Rule</i>
–	Violations	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 3 <i>Proof of Doping</i>
–		<i>Code</i> Article 5 <i>Testing</i> and
–	Investigations	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 8 <i>Results</i>
–	<i>Management: Right to a Fair Hearing and Notice of Hearing Decision</i>	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 10 <i>Sanctions on</i>
–	Individuals	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 12 <i>Sanctions by</i>
–	<i>Signatories</i> Against Other Sporting Bodies	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 13 <i>Results</i>
–	<i>Management: Appeals</i>	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 14 <i>Confidentiality</i>
–	and Reporting	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 20 <i>Additional</i>
–	Roles and Responsibilities of <i>Signatories</i> and WADA	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 21 <i>Additional</i>
–	Roles and Responsibilities of <i>Athletes</i> and Other <i>Persons</i>	
–		<i>Code</i> Article 23 <i>Acceptance</i>
–	and Implementation	

3.0 Definitions and Interpretation

3.1 Defined terms from the 2027 Code that are used in the *International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations*

Adverse Analytical Finding: A report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory that, consistent with the *International Standard for Laboratories*, establishes in a *Sample* the presence of a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* or evidence of the *Use of a Prohibited Method*.

Anti-Doping Activities: Anti-doping *Education* and information, test distribution planning, maintenance of a *Registered Testing Pool*, managing *Athlete Biological Passports*, conducting *Testing*, organizing analysis of *Samples*, gathering of Anti-Doping Intelligence and conduct of investigations, processing of [TUE/Therapeutic Use Exemption](#) applications, *Results Management*, monitoring and enforcing compliance with any *Consequences* imposed, anti-doping research, *Quality Assurance*, and all other activities related to anti-doping as set out in the *Code* and/or the *International Standards*. Processes aimed at improving existing *Anti-Doping Activities*, such as processes to identify trends and better inform allocation of anti-doping resources, are considered an Anti-Doping Activity.

Anti-Doping Organization: WADA or a *Signatory* that is responsible for adopting rules for initiating, implementing, or enforcing any part of the *Doping Control* process. This includes, for example, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, other *Major Event Organizations* that conduct *Testing* at their *Events*, International Federations, and *National Anti-Doping Organizations*.

Attempt: Purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of an anti-doping rule violation. Provided, however, there shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on an *Attempt* to commit a violation if the *Person* renounces the *Attempt* prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the *Attempt*.

Athlete: Any *Person* who competes in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Federation) or the national level (as defined by each *National Anti-Doping Organization*). An *Anti-Doping Organization* has discretion to apply anti-doping rules to an *Athlete* who is neither an *International-Level Athlete* nor a *National-Level Athlete*, and thus to bring them within the definition of “*Athlete*”. In relation to *Athletes* who are neither *International-Level* nor *National-Level Athletes*, an *Anti-Doping Organization* may elect to: conduct limited *Testing* or no *Testing* at all; analyze *Samples* for less than the full menu of *Prohibited Substances*; require limited or no whereabouts information; or not require advance *TUEs*. However, if an Article 2.1, 2.3 or 2.5 anti-doping rule violation is committed by any *Athlete* over whom an *Anti-Doping Organization* has elected to exercise its authority to test and who competes below the international or national level, then the *Consequences* set forth in the *Code* must be applied. For purposes of Article 2.8 and Article 2.9 and for purposes of anti-doping information and *Education*, any *Person* who participates in sport under the authority of any *Signatory*, government, or other sports organization accepting the *Code* is an *Athlete*.

[Comment to Athlete: Individuals who participate in sport may fall in one of five categories: 1) International-Level Athlete, 2) National-Level Athlete, 3) individuals who are not International or National-Level Athletes but over whom the International Federation or National Anti-Doping Organization has chosen to exercise authority, 4) Recreational Athlete, and 5) individuals over whom no International Federation or National Anti-Doping Organization has, or has chosen to, exercise authority. All International and National-Level Athletes are subject to the anti-doping rules of the Code, with the precise definitions of international and national level sport to be set forth in the anti-doping rules of the International Federations and National Anti-Doping Organizations.]

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, guardian, or any other *Person* working with, treating, or assisting an *Athlete* participating in or preparing for sports ~~Competition~~competition.

CAS: The Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Code: The World Anti-Doping Code.

International Standard: A standard adopted by WADA in support of the Code. Compliance with an *International Standard* (as opposed to another alternative standard, practice, or procedure) shall be sufficient to conclude that the procedures addressed by the *International Standard* were performed properly. *International Standards* shall include any *Technical Documents* and *Technical Letters* issued pursuant to the *International Standard*.

National Anti-Doping Organization: The entity(ies) designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of *Samples*, the management of test results, and the conduct of hearings at the national level. If this designation has not been made by the competent public authority(ies), the entity shall be the country's *National Olympic Committee* or its designee.

Person: A natural *Person* or an organization or other entity.

Protected Person: An *Athlete* or other natural *Person* who at the time of the anti-doping rule violation: (i) has not reached the age of sixteen (16) years; (ii) has not reached the age of eighteen (18) years and is not included in any *Registered Testing Pool* and has never competed in any *International Event* in an open category; or (iii) for reasons other than age, has been determined to lack legal capacity under applicable national legislation.

~~[Comment to Protected Persons: The Code treats Protected Persons differently than other Athletes or Persons in certain circumstances based on the understanding that, below a certain age or intellectual capacity, Person: Not every Minor is a Protected Person. The Code differentiates between different groups of Minors based on two criteria: (i) age and (ii) level of sporting performance. Below the age of 16, Minors always qualify as Protected Persons. It is assumed that they are unable, in principle, to control their behavior in the same way as adults and therefore need to be given special treatment. Where Minors are over 16 (but below 18) years of age, they are assumed to have a higher level of understanding and, depending on their sporting level, better access to anti-doping Education. This justifies treating the age group between 16-18 differently from the age group below 16. The term "open category" is meant to exclude competition that is limited to junior or age group categories.]~~

[Athletes with a documented lack of legal capacity due to an intellectual impairment always qualify as Protected Persons independently of their age.](#)

[The purpose of the category of Protected Person is to take into account that an Athlete or other Person may not possess the mental capacity to sufficiently understand and appreciate the prohibitions against conduct contained in the Code. ~~This would include, for example, a Paralympic Athlete with a documented lack of legal capacity due to an intellectual impairment. The term "open category" is meant to exclude competition that is limited to junior or age group categories.~~The special treatment of Protected Person flows from the fact that the central criteria to determine the period of Ineligibility is "Fault".](#)

Those circumstances where a Protected Person, [Minor](#) or Recreational Athlete is to be treated differently than [other](#) Persons or Athletes have been specifically identified in the Code. It should not be assumed, with respect to Article 7.4 or any other Article in the Code, that different treatment was intended where it is not specifically expressed.]

Results Management: The process encompassing the timeframe between notification as per Article 5 of the *International Standard for Results Management*, or in certain cases (e.g., *Atypical Finding*, *Athlete Biological Passport*, whereabouts failure), such pre-notification steps expressly provided for in Article 5 of the *International Standard for Results Management*, through the charge until the final resolution of the matter, including the end of the hearing process at first instance or on appeal (if an appeal was lodged).

Signatories: Those entities accepting the Code and agreeing to implement the Code, as provided in Article 23.

Substantial Assistance: For purposes of Article 10.7.1, a *Person* providing *Substantial Assistance* must: (1) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information he or she possesses in relation to anti-doping rule violations or other proceeding described in Article 10.7.1.1, and (2) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, presenting testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by an *Anti-Doping Organization* or hearing panel. Further, the information provided must remain credible and valuable throughout any subsequent investigation or proceeding.

Tampering: Intentional conduct which subverts the *Doping Control* process, but which would not otherwise be included in the definition of *Prohibited Methods*. *Tampering* shall include, without limitation, offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, preventing the collection of a *Sample*, affecting or making impossible the analysis of a *Sample*, falsifying documents submitted to an *Anti-Doping Organization* or *Therapeutic Use Exemption* committee or hearing panel, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon the *Anti-Doping Organization* or hearing body to affect *Results Management* or the imposition of *Consequences*, and any other similar intentional interference or attempted interference with any aspect of *Doping Control*.

[\[Comment to Tampering: For example, this Article would prohibit altering identification numbers on a Doping Control form during Testing, breaking the B bottle at the time of B Sample analysis, altering a Sample by the addition of a foreign substance, or intimidating or Attempting to intimidate a potential witness or a witness who has provided testimony or information in the Doping Control process. Tampering includes misconduct which occurs during the Results Management process. See Article 10.9.3.3. However, actions taken as part of a Person's legitimate defense to an anti-doping rule violation charge shall not be considered Tampering. Offensive conduct towards a Doping Control official or other Person](#)

involved in Doping Control which does not otherwise constitute Tampering shall be addressed in the disciplinary rules of sport organizations.]

Target Testing: Selection of specific *Athletes* for *Testing* based on criteria set forth in the *International Standard for Testing*.

Testing: The parts of the *Doping Control* process that involve test distribution planning, *Sample* collection, *Sample* handling, and *Sample* transport to the laboratory.

WADA: The World Anti-Doping Agency.

Without Prejudice Agreement: For purposes of Articles 10.7.1.1 and 10.8.2, a written agreement between an *Anti-Doping Organization* and an *Athlete* or other *Person* that allows the *Athlete* or other *Person* to provide information to the *Anti-Doping Organization* in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that, if an agreement for *Substantial Assistance* or a case resolution agreement is not finalized, the information provided by the *Athlete* or other *Person* in this particular setting may not be used by the *Anti-Doping Organization* against the *Athlete* or other *Person* in any *Results Management* proceeding under the *Code*, and that the information provided by the *Anti-Doping Organization* in this particular setting may not be used by the *Athlete* or other *Person* against the *Anti-Doping Organization* in any *Results Management* proceeding under the *Code*. Such an agreement shall not preclude the *Anti-Doping Organization*, *Athlete*, or other *Person* from using any Information or evidence gathered from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

3.2 Defined terms from the *International Standard for Data Protection*

Processing (and its cognates, Process and Processed): Collecting, accessing, retaining, storing, disclosing, transferring, transmitting, amending, deleting, or otherwise making use of Personal Information.

3.3 Defined terms specific to the *International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations*

Anti-Doping Intelligence: Anti-Doping Intelligence is the product of the evaluation and analysis of Raw Information to extract meaningful insights relevant to the end user (e.g., the *Anti-Doping Activities* of an *Anti-Doping Organization*).

Confidential Source: ~~A Confidential Source is a Human Source whose identity is kept confidential by an Anti-Doping Organization.~~ **Human Source:** A Confidential Human Source is an umbrella term for ~~any~~ any *Person* that has disclosed Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence and/or evidence to an *Anti-Doping Organization*, ~~usually on an~~ (or other relevant agency including law enforcement), and as such their identity is kept confidential by an Anti-Doping Organization and/or other relevant agency.

[Comment to Confidential Human Source: Confidential Human Sources may provide Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence and/or evidence on a once-off, intermittent and/or ongoing or regular basis. Informants and whistleblowers are examples of Human Sources.]

Raw Information: Raw Information is any raw, unverified, or unevaluated information (in any form) related to *Anti-Doping Activities*. Raw Information can come in many forms including, but not limited to, unprocessed data, information reports, Doping Control Forms (including declarations made by Athletes), conversations / interviews, telephone calls, video, media reports, and anonymous or non-anonymous disclosures.

3.4 Defined terms specific to the *International Standard for Testing*

Sample Collection Personnel: A collective term for qualified officials authorized by the Sample Collection Authority to carry out or assist with duties during the Sample Collection Session.

Test Distribution Plan (TDP): A document written by an *Anti-Doping Organization* that plans *Testing on Athletes*, in accordance with the requirements of Article 4.7 ~~of the *International Standard for Testing*~~.

3.5 Interpretation

3.5.1 The official text of the *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations shall be published in English and French. In the event of any conflict between the English and French versions, the English version shall prevail.

3.5.2 Like the *Code*, the *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations was drafted considering proportionality, human rights, and other applicable legal principles. It shall be interpreted and applied in that light.

3.5.3 The comments annotating various provisions of the *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations shall be used to guide its interpretation.

3.5.4 Unless otherwise specified, references to Articles are references to Articles of the *International Standard* for Intelligence and Investigations.

PART TWO: STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND THE CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATIONS

4.0 Raw Information and Anti-Doping Intelligence

4.1 Objective

Anti-Doping Organizations shall ensure they are able to collect, receive, store, and assess Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence, from all available sources, and then use such ~~information~~ Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence to inform and guide its *Anti-Doping Activities*. The ~~object~~ objective of Article 4 is to establish what an *Anti-Doping Organization* must do to ~~fulfil~~ fulfill the minimum standards set out in this Article.

[Comment to Article 4.1: While Testing will always remain an integral part of the anti-doping effort, Testing alone is not sufficient to detect and establish to the requisite standard, all anti-doping rule violations identified in the Code. This means that Anti-Doping Organizations need to develop a capable intelligence-gathering and investigation function. WADA has devised Intelligence and Investigations Guidelines to assist Anti-Doping Organizations in their efforts to comply with the Code and this International Standard.]

4.2 Collection, Storage and Sharing

4.2.1 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall ensure that they are able to collect, receive, and store Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence from all available sources.

[Comment to Article 4.2.1: Available sources of Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence include, but are not limited to, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and members of the public (e.g., by means of a confidential reporting platform like the WADA Speak Up platform), Sample Collection Personnel (whether via mission reports, incident reports, or otherwise), Doping Control Forms (including declarations made by Athletes), whereabouts data, laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, other Anti-Doping Organizations, WADA, National Federations, law enforcement, other regulatory and disciplinary bodies, and the media (in all its forms).]

4.2.2 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall share Anti-Doping Intelligence with other *Anti-Doping Organizations* in a secure manner (e.g., encryption) where such disclosure ~~is necessary to allow~~ allows the *Anti-Doping Organization* receiving the intelligence to fulfill its obligations under the *Code* and/or the *International Standards*. Where an *Anti-Doping Organization* shares Anti-Doping Intelligence with another *Anti-Doping Organization* it shall do so in accordance with the *International Standard* for Data Protection and any relevant national data protection legislation. *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall share Anti-Doping Intelligence with other relevant authorities (e.g., law enforcement) on a need-to-know basis where appropriate and in accordance with the *International Standard* for Data Protection and applicable law. The sharing of Anti-Doping Intelligence may be delayed in exceptional and justified circumstances.

[Comment to Article 4.2.2: Anti-Doping Intelligence should be shared with the relevant Anti-Doping Organization or other relevant authority as quickly as possible, and in as much detail as possible to maximize the value and benefit of that intelligence to the receiving Anti-Doping Organization or other relevant authority. However, Anti-Doping Organizations may delay their disclosure of Anti-Doping Intelligence where there is a legitimate reason to delay such disclosure (e.g., the immediate disclosure may compromise or adversely impact an ongoing investigation, intelligence operation or Results Management process).]

An example of a disclosure that is necessary to allow the recipient Anti-Doping Organization to fulfill its obligations under the Code and/or the International Standards is where the Anti-Doping Intelligence relates to an Athlete, Athlete Support ~~Person~~Personnel, or other Person under the authority (e.g., Results Management jurisdiction) of the recipient Anti-Doping Organization.

An example of an exceptional and justified circumstance not to share Anti-Doping Intelligence with another Anti-Doping Organization would be where the disclosure is likely to seriously compromise the status of an ongoing investigation, or likely to reveal the identity of a Confidential Human Source, or where the intelligence to be disclosed had been received by the first Anti-Doping Organization as part of a Without Prejudice Agreement.

Nothing in this Article prevents an Anti-Doping Organization from sharing Raw Information with an Anti-Doping Organization or other relevant authority where the Anti-Doping Organization reasonably believes that the Raw Information will likely assist the Anti-Doping Activities of the recipient Anti-Doping Organization, or the work of the other relevant authority. Any such disclosure of Raw Information shall be done in accordance with the International Standard for Data Protection.]

- 4.2.3** *Anti-Doping Organizations shall not disclose or confirm the identity of a Confidential Human Source except where such disclosure is required by law or with the informed written consent of the Confidential Human Source.*

[Comment to Article 4.2.3: Where WADA receives an identity disclosure or identity confirmation of a Confidential Human Source, such information shall be received by WADA in the strictest of confidence and shall only be communicated within WADA on a need-to-know basis.]

- 4.2.4** *Anti-Doping Organizations shall have policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence in its possession is handled securely, confidentially (on a need-to-know basis) and shared with other *Anti-Doping Organizations* or any relevant third party (e.g., law enforcement) where appropriate and in accordance with the *International Standard for Data Protection* and any relevant national data protection legislation.*

[Comment to 4.2.4: WADA has devised applicable policies and procedures templates – housed within the WADA Guidelines for Intelligence and Investigation – as models of best practice to assist Anti-Doping Organizations comply with Article 4.2.4.]

- 4.2.5** *If an Anti-Doping Organization ~~uses a~~manages a Confidential Human Source, the Anti-Doping Organization shall have a policy and procedure in place for the handling, management, and use of Confidential Human Sources.*

[Comment to 4.2.5: To assist Anti-Doping Organizations in their use and management of Confidential Human Sources, WADA has published Guidelines for Human Source Management on its website along with a related policy and procedure template.]

4.3 Assessment and Use

- 4.3.1** *Anti-Doping Organizations shall ensure they can assess the relevance and reliability of the Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence that they collect and receive.*

[Comment to Article 4.3.1: An example of how to assess reliability would be to consider the nature ~~of the~~ of the information source, the circumstances in which the information had been provided, and whether there is any supporting or corroborating information or evidence. There are also databases and case management systems that may be used to assist in the organization, Processing, analysis, and cross-referencing of such intelligence.]

4.3.2 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall use Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence to inform and guide its *Anti-Doping Activities*.

[Comment to Article 4.3.2: An example of the use that can be made of Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence is that outlined in Article 12 of the International Standard for Testing (i.e., to inform the development of an effective, intelligent, and proportionate ~~Test Distribution Plan~~TDP and to plan Target Testing).]

5.0 Investigations

5.1 Objective

Investigations conducted by an *Anti-Doping Organization* under the Code shall be based on the minimum standards set out in this Article.

5.2 Purpose

In acknowledgement of the fundamental right of an *Athlete* to participate in doping-free sport, the purpose of an investigation includes, but is not limited to, gathering sufficient evidence to prove or disprove that an anti-doping rule violation has been committed. In the case of an investigation conducted by WADA per Code Article ~~20.7.14~~20.8.14, that purpose includes, but is not limited to, establishing whether a *Signatory* has or has not committed a breach of the Code or *International Standard*.

5.3 Conducting Investigations

5.3.1 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall conduct investigations where there is reasonable cause to ~~suspect~~believe that a breach of the Code (e.g., anti-doping rule violation) or applicable *International Standard* ~~has~~may have occurred.

[Comment to Article 5.3.1: Reasonable cause in the context of conducting investigations refers to a justifiable basis or sufficient grounds to believe that a breach of the Code or International Standard may have occurred. It implies that there is more than mere speculation or a hunch; rather, there is credible information or evidence. This threshold helps ensure that investigations are initiated based on sound reasoning rather than on arbitrary or unfounded suspicions.]

5.3.2 *Anti-Doping Organizations* should ensure all investigations are conducted by individuals with investigative qualifications or experience.

[Comment to Article 5.3.2: WADA's Global Learning and Development Framework provides accessible and standardized training for a range of anti-doping roles, including investigation, to all Anti-Doping Organizations and other stakeholders worldwide.

~~An example of investigative experience is where the individual has worked in law enforcement or has previously conducted anti-doping related investigations or is currently employed by an Anti-Doping Organization and has conducted investigations for that Anti-Doping Organization.]~~

5.3.3 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall conduct each investigation impartially, objectively, and with an open mind.

[Comment to Article 5.3.3: Investigations shall not be conducted with a closed mind, pursuing only one outcome (e.g., proving that an Athlete had committed an anti-doping rule violation). Rather, investigators will consider all possible outcomes at each stage of the investigation,

seeking to gather not only evidence indicating that there is a case to answer, but also any evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.]

5.3.4 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall have policies and procedures in place for the investigation of *Protected Persons* that reflect the fact that the *Code* treats *Protected Persons* differently than other *Athletes* or *Persons* in certain circumstances.

5.3.5 *Anti-Doping Organizations* should plan each investigation and make use of all investigative resources and powers available to it. This may include obtaining Raw Information, Anti-Doping Intelligence, or evidence from other *Anti-Doping Organizations* or law enforcement, or exercising powers conferred to the *Anti-Doping Organization* under applicable rules (e.g., the power to demand production of relevant documents and information). An investigation plan is important because it helps identify the resources and avenues of enquiry necessary to complete the investigation in a competent and timely manner.

*[Comment to Article 5.3.5: While notification of an Adverse Analytical Finding or other potential anti-doping rule violation is commonly done by letter alone, this practice does not ~~maximise~~ maximize the use of available investigative resources, rather, it may decrease the chances of gathering evidence relevant to whether the Athlete has or has not committed an anti-doping rule violation. In an appropriate case (e.g., an Adverse Analytical Finding involving a professional or international level Athlete), the letter notifying the Athlete of an Adverse Analytical Finding, or a potential anti-doping rule violation should be delivered directly to the Athlete by an investigator. During delivery, the content of the notification letter and the benefits of Code Article 10.7.1 (Substantial Assistance in ~~Discovering or Establishing~~ discovering or establishing Code ~~Violations~~ violations) should be explained to the Athlete by the investigator. Moreover, wherever possible, *Anti-Doping Organizations* should consult with an investigator before notifying an Athlete of an Adverse Analytical Finding or other potential anti-doping rule violation.]*

5.3.6 To ensure the preservation of evidence and any relevant Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence in relation to a potential breach of the *Code* or *International Standards*, *Anti-Doping Organizations* should conduct investigations in a timely manner and without undue delay.

[Comment to Article 5.3.6: Factors which may reasonably impact the length of an investigation include, but are not limited to, the complexity of the investigation, seriousness of the allegation, the involvement of evidence or assistance provided pursuant to Code Article 10.7.1, the availability of resources to the investigating Anti-doping Organization, or the involvement of law enforcement (e.g., law enforcement may request an Anti-Doping Organization to pause its investigation so as not to interfere with the law enforcement investigation).]

5.3.7 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall gather and preserve ~~and gather~~ all relevant Raw Information, Anti-Doping Intelligence, and evidence as soon as possible to develop such material into further lines of enquiry and/or reliable evidence in relation to the subject matter of the investigation.

5.3.8 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall treat the Raw Information, Anti-Doping Intelligence and evidence obtained during an investigation confidentially and only share such where appropriate, on a need-to-know basis, and in accordance with the *International Standard* for Data Protection and applicable law (see also Art 4.2.2).

[Comment to 5.3.8: When determining who has a need to know for investigation ~~related information~~Raw Information and/or ~~intelligence~~Anti-Doping Intelligence or evidence, the Anti-Doping Organization should consider whether the recipient has a legitimate purpose considering the recipient's role and responsibilities at that point in the investigation. An appropriate sharing of Raw Information and/or Anti-Doping Intelligence by an Anti-Doping Organization would include circumstances where the disclosure would likely help the recipient Anti-Doping Organization conduct its Anti-Doping Activities.]

5.3.9 *Anti-Doping Organizations* shall document the conduct of an investigation, the evidence identified in that investigation, and the outcome of that investigation.

[Comment to 5.3.9: Documenting the conduct of an investigation may include, where applicable, obtaining a statement or conducting an interview with a relevant person, and making a record of the enquiries conducted by an investigator.]

5.4 Cooperating with an Investigation

5.4.1 A *Signatory* is required under *Code* Article 20 to cooperate with relevant national organizations and agencies and other *Anti-Doping Organizations*. Where the *Signatory* fails to cooperate with an investigation being conducted by an *Anti-Doping Organization*, that lack of cooperation should be reported to WADA as the entity responsible for monitoring compliance by *Code Signatories*.

5.4.2 *Athletes* and *Athlete Support Personnel* are required under *Code* Article 21 to cooperate with investigations conducted by *Anti-Doping Organizations*. Where the failure to cooperate ~~involved~~involves conduct which undermines the investigation process (e.g., by providing false or misleading information, the destruction of potential evidence, or discouraging another *Person* from providing information that is relevant to the investigation) the *Anti-Doping Organization* should bring proceedings against the *Athlete* or *Athlete Support Person* for violation of any applicable *anti-doping rule* violation (e.g., *Code* Article 2.5 (*Tampering* or *Attempted Tampering*)). Where the failure to cooperate involves conduct that does not amount to an *anti-doping rule* violation, disciplinary action ~~should~~may be taken against the *Athlete* or *Athlete Support Person* under any other applicable rules.

[Comment to 5.4.2: This does not override the rights afforded to Athletes under the Athletes' Anti-Doping Rights Act.]

[Any other applicable rules could include, but are not limited to, Code of Conduct, safety, or medical rules.]

5.5 Investigation Outcomes

5.5.1 The *Anti-Doping Organization* shall decide without undue delay whether proceedings should be brought against the *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Person*~~Personnel~~, or other *Person* for any potential anti-doping rule violation, whereabouts failure and/or violation of *Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension*.
As

Further, as set out in *Code* Article 13.3, if an *Anti-Doping Organization* fails to make such decision within a reasonable deadline set by WADA, then WADA may elect to appeal directly to the Court of Arbitration for Sport~~CAS~~ as if the *Anti-Doping Organization* had rendered a decision finding that no anti-doping rule violation has been committed. As noted in the comment to *Code* Article 13.3, however, before taking such action WADA will consult with the *Anti-Doping Organization* and give it an opportunity to explain why it has not yet rendered a decision.

5.5.2 Where the *Anti-Doping Organization* concludes based on the results of its investigation that ~~proceedings~~an anti-doping rule violation, whereabouts failure and/or violations of *Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension* should be brought against the *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Person*~~Personnel~~ or other *Person* ~~asserting commission of an anti-doping rule violation~~, it shall ~~give notice of that decision in the manner set out in the *International Standard for Results Management*~~promptly notify the *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Personnel* or other *Person* of the potential anti-doping rule violation, whereabouts failure and/or violations of *Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension* and shall bring forward the proceedings against the *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Person*~~Personnel~~ or other *Person* in ~~question in accordance with *Code* Article 8~~the manner set out in the *International Standard for Results Management*.

5.5.3 Where the *Anti-Doping Organization* concludes, based on the results of its investigation, that ~~proceedings~~an anti-doping rule violation, whereabouts failure and/or violations of *Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension* should not be brought forward against the *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Person*~~Personnel~~ or other *Person* ~~asserting commission of an anti-doping rule violation~~:

5.5.3.1 It shall notify WADA and the *Athlete's* or other *Person's* International Federation and *National Anti-Doping Organization* in writing of that decision, with reasons, in accordance with *Code* Article ~~14.1.4~~14 and the *International Standard for Results Management*.

5.5.3.2 It shall provide all such other information about the investigation as is required by WADA and/or the International Federation and/or *National Anti-Doping Organization* to determine whether to appeal against that decision.

5.5.3.3 In any event, it shall consider whether any of the ~~information~~Raw Information and/or ~~intelligence~~Anti-Doping Intelligence, or evidence obtained during the investigation should be used to inform and guide its *Anti-Doping Activities* or those of another *Anti-Doping Organization*, and/or should be shared with any other body in accordance with Article 4.2.2.

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