

VANCOUVER YOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2023



International Olympic Committee

Director: Erica Chang

Chair: Stella Humphrey

Dear delegates,

Welcome to VYMUN 2023! My name is Erica Chang and I, along with my chair Stella Humphrey, hope to create a welcoming environment in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that will encourage all delegates to engage in stimulating discussion and grow as confident Model UN participants. In this iteration of the IOC, we will focus on the topic of Combating Doping.

Our topic, Combating Doping, is a medical, ethical and legal problem that must be addressed immediately as athletes in the Olympics continue to utilize performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). Since obtaining second place is seen as the “first loser” to many athletes, it is not surprising that they would sacrifice a great deal to win, however, they tend to overlook the severe consequences that follow. These illegal substances not only lead to incurable life-threatening health issues, but also ruin the integrity of the Olympics as a whole. For the past 50 years, the IOC has attempted to prevent the spread of PEDs by establishing the World Anti-Doping Agency but has so far been unable to do so. Therefore, it is our duty to revise current doping rules and devise innovative solutions to help mitigate the problem. We must find the optimal solution to create a healthy and honest environment for all athletes at the Olympics.

On behalf of the IOC dias team, I wish you the best of luck for the upcoming conference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at ioc-js@vymun.org. We are truly looking forward to meeting you in October!

Warmly,

Erica Chang

Director of the International Olympic Committee | VYMUN 2023

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Topic A: Combatting Doping

Questions to Consider

1. What plans does your country have in terms of preventing the usage of PEDs?
2. What could doping education look like in its new form? Should it be mandatory? Does it need a change at all?
3. How will your country discourage athletes from involving themselves with banned substances?
4. Should WADA intervene to ensure that the drug tests of undeveloped countries reach the same level as those of developed nations? If so, how?
5. At what point should a drug be considered “performance enhancing”? Does marijuana fulfill this definition?

Overview

Ever since 1968, athletes have been disqualified from the Olympic Games due to the abuse of Performance-enhancing substances (PEDs). To coordinate efforts to thwart drug use, The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was created in 1999 to manage PED policies at every Olympics. With the responsibility to determine which drugs were banned, they listed seven categories of illegal substances: blood doping, androgens, stimulants, peptide hormones, diuretics, narcotics and cannabinoids. The two primary reasons why these PEDs were prohibited were the fear of unfair advantages and health concerns. Not only would these substances grant athletes a shortcut to victory, ruining the integrity of the game, but possibly create permanent health issues for athletes. Thus, to protect the Olympics and the athletes, the detection process was complicated but essential. Multiple blood, urine and saliva tests are administered randomly to athletes prior to events, and those that test positive are prevented from continuing to compete at the Olympics. While the IOC and WADA have tried to build a clean sport for many years, their rules and regulations were not enough to completely eliminate doping. From personal choice to government-forced doping scandals, it is clear that many don't see the issues regarding this topic. Therefore, in order to remedy this problem, education, stricter rules and sanctions were established.

Annotated Timeline

May 9th, 1967: The first attempt at a drug testing policy is implemented. Earlier meetings, prior to this one in Tehran, did not reach a consensus to take action against doping, yet there was an undeniable sense of urgency towards the issue within the community. In 1967, the first list of banned drugs is finalized, ready to be put in place for the 1968 Olympics. The Medical Commission, a subcommittee under the IOC, is created to supervise the random

screening of urine samples for drug tests, and defines PEDS violations as “an illegal procedure used by certain athletes, in the form of drugs; physical means and exceptional measures which are used by small groups in a sporting community in order to alter positively or negatively the physical or physiological capacity of a living creature, man or animal in competitive sport.”¹

October 12th, 1968: The IOC introduces drug tests to the Mexico City Summer Olympics. Ten athletes – selected using a simple random sample technique – from a certain sport are ordered to take a urine test.² If the results come back positive, the athletes would be banned from their events. However, many flaws are found in this system. Narcotics and stimulants are the only substances analyzed, meaning that the abuse of other PEDS goes undetected. Athletes, such as female shot-putter Margarita Gummel, that take steroids, are still eligible to compete and receive a gold medal.³ Despite the limited scope of substances tested, a Swedish pentathlete named Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall fails the drug test due to excessive alcohol, making him the first athlete to be prohibited from the Olympics.

July 1976: The East German swimmers at the Montreal Olympics are all forced to take PEDs by their government with the goal of proving communist superiority. Some swimmers reveal that they had no choice and were told: “You eat pills, or you die.”⁴ Additionally, the side effects of the drugs change the athletes' bodies and create lifelong health problems. Female swimmers are affected the most by steroids, and experience virilization symptoms – the biological development of male characteristics in females – and psychological damage. A former American swimmer, Shirely Babashoff, that competed at the Montreal Olympics, said she “thought the East Germans had replaced the women's team with men in women's swimwear” and suspected “they were shown a film and were told, ‘Get in the pool and do that’,” because they had such poor technique. Even though many suspected that PEDs were used, no action took place due to East Germany's government policy.⁵

September 1988: The 100-meter sprint at the Seoul Summer Olympics is marked as one of the most controversial races in Olympic history. A Canadian sprinter, Bend Johnson, beat the previous world record with a time of 9.79 seconds, granting him a medal. However, after only 24 hours, his medal was taken away because a steroid by the name of stanozolol was spotted in his urine sample.⁶ Johnson's gold medal was passed to Carl Lewis, the previous world record holder and second place. However, not long after Lewis received the gold medal, he too had a positive drug test. Of the eight sprinters in this race, six tested positive after the race ended, which brought lots of attention from the global community, resulting in the end of the ‘golden age’ in track and field.⁷ Despite the pressure from the spectators, the IOC did nothing.

¹ <https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203795347.ch2>

² http://www.kawasaki-m.ac.jp/soc/mw/journal/en/2006-e12-1/01_kremenik.pdf

³ Ibid

⁴ <https://www.history.com/news/doping-scandals-through-history-list>

⁵ <https://archive.jsonline.com/sports/olympics/former-swimmer-shirley-babashoff-was-stunned-by-dopers-in-1976-b99764674z1-387545691.html/>

⁶ <https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/olympics-2021-ben-johnson-1988-summer-scandals-team-canada-035056930.html>

⁷ <https://www.cnn.com/2012/07/23/sport/olympics-2012-ben-johnson-seoul-1988-dirtiest-race/index.html>

People believed that IOC showed incompetence since there wasn't an initiative to combat doping until 1999 – the establishment of WADA.⁸

February 1998: The IOC only documented a single doping case during this Winter Olympics: Ross Rebagliati, a Canadian snowboarder, won a gold medal in the giant slalom. Right after his win, his drug test revealed traces of marijuana in his urine sample, revoking his medal.⁹ The IOC received several complaints from the Canadian Olympic Association (COA), insisting that Rebagliati has not used marijuana for over a year and that his sample got contaminated due to secondhand smoke. Rebagliati, too, to this day, claims his negative test result was because of his close contact with smokers.¹⁰ This case was eventually brought to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), where the COA appealed for the IOC to change their decision. And roughly after 32 hours, the COA successfully overturned the situation by claiming that cannabis was not officially banned yet. Therefore, the IOC returned the medal to the Canadian athlete.¹¹

November 10th, 1999: The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established by the IOC.¹² At the First World Conference of Doping in Sport, WADA was created to regulate the doping rules of the 2000 Olympics and all future international sporting events. Numerous governments, sports movements, intergovernmental organizations and public authorities sponsored them. Since WADA has been the primary organization to fight against the abuse of drugs, they have continuously strived to improve drug tests for more accurate results— such as adding memory, speech, and muscle tests.¹³ These additions, which are more generalized, would simply help WADA detect if athletes doped or not instead of analyzing which specific PEDs were used. So far, the WADA has been one of the most effective and reliable sources of PED testing.

February 2002: During the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, more than 100 drug tests were positive for a banned PED: erythropoietin (EPO).¹⁴ This was the first time all endurance Olympians had to take an EPO test that included a blood and urine sample. Since most samples were not linked with the athlete, officials didn't know which competitors abused the drug, so a senior IOC official said that "there was absolutely nothing [they] could do about it."¹⁵ However, one cross-country skier, Johann Muhlegg, was identified to have used a new EPO drug, darbepoetin, that boosts performance by increasing oxygen delivered to the muscles. Due to the fact that this drug was novel, it was counted under the category of "erythropoietin and similar substances," as the IOC did not add it to the list of banned substances. After two tests that confirmed his samples were positive, all three of his gold medals were stripped, and he was pushed out of the Olympics.¹⁶

⁸<https://www.modernghana.com/sports/409949/hero-or-villain-ben-johnson-and-the-dirtiest-race.html>

⁹<https://cces.ca/cannabis#:~:text=All%20prohibited%20substances%20are%20added,violates%20the%20spirit%20of%20sport.>

¹⁰<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/sports/longterm/olympics1998/sport/snowboard/articles/board11.htm>

¹¹<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/sports/longterm/olympics1998/sport/snowboard/articles/medal12.htm>

¹²<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/who-we-are#:~:text=WADA%20was%20formed%20in%201999,in%20the%20fight%20against%20doping.>

¹³<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/epilepsy/wada-testing>

¹⁴<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/visualizing-50-years-of-doping-scandals-at-the-winter-olympics/#:~:text=The%20Winter%20Olympic%20has%20had,cases%20at%20the%20Winter%20Olympics.>

¹⁵<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2002/apr/10/olympicgames.winterolympics2002>

¹⁶<https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/doping-scandal-hits-salt-lake-1.1051650>

July 31st, 2008: A week before the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (now known as the World Athletics) concluded a year and a half investigation on seven Russian athletes, suspending them for tampering with urine samples.¹⁷ Many prominent rising athletes with great potential– including Yelena Soboleva, a previous world record holder for the 1500-meter indoor run– were all placed under an eight-year ban.¹⁸ Another drug test issue is that they are always one step behind the advancement of drugs. After the 2016 Russian Sochi scandal, the IOC re-evaluated the athletes in the 2008 Olympics and found 16 more positive results. Ten medals were being revoked.¹⁹

August 2008: IOC is caught covering up positive drug tests. During the Beijing Olympics, the IOC concluded no cheating was identified even though a Jamaican sprinter had traces of clenbuterol– a banned substance that builds muscles– when retested in 2016. The IOC denied their accusation of concealing the positive test and maintained that "WADA could not find any significant and consistent pattern of abuse of clenbuterol in these cases and that it would be appropriate not to take these cases any further."²⁰ WADA added that they “determined that the levels were consistent with meat contamination” .” They continued: “It is also worth noting that even more clenbuterol cases (in the hundreds) have been prosecuted and have led to sanctions since 2010. Pharmacological intake of clenbuterol for doping purposes does not go unpunished.”²¹

February 2014: Russia committed one of the most elaborate doping offences in history during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics that only surfaced after a whistleblower revealed the truth.²² According to Grigory Rodchenkov, the director of Russia's anti-doping laboratory, the 19 athletes that were under the state-run doping program were each given alcoholic drinks mixed with three different banned substances.²³ The drug test did not initially detect such substances because Russian anti-doping experts and intelligence service members swapped out bottles of urine samples with ones taken months prior. It was believed that 100 Russian athlete drugs tests in this Olympics were tampered with.²⁴ In the end, 13 out of 33 medals from the Sochi Olympics were revoked.

January 2018: WADA launched the Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform, a new version of the Anti-Doping e-Learning platform. As previously stated in the current situation sector, this novel implementation provides education on clean sports for any one part of the sports community. With a wide range of educational resources and courses, athletes can access a variety of topics regarding PEDs and the rules. To satisfy a greater population, ADEL aims to have resources available in English, French and Spanish, as well as give everyone the option to learn the course offline via the ‘ADEL by WADA’ app. The WADA Director General, Olivier Niggli, said: “WADA recognizes the power of education to its

¹⁷<https://www.espn.com/olympics/summer08/trackandfield/news/story?id=3512551>

¹⁸<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/general/athletics/russian-champion-yelena-soboleva-doping-ban-b1828037.html>

¹⁹<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/nov/17/failed-drug-tests-beijing-2008-olympics-ioc>

²⁰<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/olympics/2017/04/03/ioc-denies-covering-up-2008-olympic-doping-cases/99971142/>

²¹<https://athleticsweekly.com/athletics-news/ioc-denies-doping-cover-up-59526/>

²²<https://olympics.nbcsports.com/2017/11/27/sochi-olympic-medal-standings-russia-medals-stripped-doping/>

²³<https://www.inverse.com/article/24985-mclaren-report-russian-doping>

²⁴<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/13/sports/russia-doping-sochi-olympics-2014.html>

mission for doping-free sport. The launch of the new and improved ADEL is an important milestone. It demonstrates the Agency's commitment to education and our intention to support the development of balanced anti-doping programs that include education as a core function by Anti-Doping Organizations. ADEL directly supports the objectives of the new International Standard for Education (ISE)."²⁵

December 9th, 2019: A scheme of doping, tied deep within the Russian state, surfaced when a whistleblower revealed that over 15 medal winners have doped in the 2014 Olympics. In 2019, WADA banned Russia from competing at the Olympics for four years.²⁶ Denying all evidence suggesting the use of PEDs, the Russian government appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the ban. The ban was altered to a two-year penalty where Russia could not display their name, flag or anthem.²⁷ Thus, Russia competed under the acronym "ROC" (Russian Olympics Committee) in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Even though a step was taken to halt drug use, there are still cases caught since the "ban" on Russia, such as Igor Polyanski, yet it is unknown how many more scandals will surface in the upcoming years.

July 1st, 2021: Sha'Carri Richardson tested positive for THC, a psychoactive compound found in marijuana, barring her from competing in the 100-meter dash at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. While Trimetazidine functions as a stimulant, boosting endurance and performance, THC does not.

December 25th, 2021: A 15-year-old Russian figure skater at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics tested positive for a banned heart medication: Trimetazidine. Valieva's case was dismissed when her provisional suspension was cancelled a day after by the Disciplinary Anti-Doping Committee. Her ability to fully continue participating in the Olympics was permitted under an IOC condition that if she finishes amongst the top three competitors, "no flower ceremony and no medal ceremony will take place during the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022." The previous offender Sha'Carri Richardson suggested that the reason Valieva was eligible to compete, whereas she was denied, was due to race. According to Richardson, "the only difference [she] sees is [she] is a black young lady. It's all in the skin."²⁸ The IOC responded, stating Valieva is a "protected person" as only specific rules apply to minors, therefore, she does not face the same punishment.²⁹

²⁵<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/news/wada-launches-new-and-improved-anti-doping-education-and-learning-platform-adel#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20World%20Anti%2DDoping,was%20launched%20in%20January%202018.>

²⁶<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/sports/beijing-winter-olympics/explainer-this-is-why-russian-athletes-are-competing-as-the-roc-at-the-olympics/2753911/>

²⁷<https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-figure-skating-kamila-valieva-coronavirus-pandemic-sports-4229adb5538bc0b299e6b4f0294a1feb>

²⁸<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/15/1080694770/shacarri-richardson-kamila-valieva-doping>

²⁹ <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/14/1080501383/russian-figure-skater-kamila-valieva-olympics-2022>

Current Situation

Anti-Doping Education and Learning

Anti-Doping Education and Learning (ADEL), established in January 2018, is an implemented education program to encourage athletes, medical professionals and coaches to preserve a clean sport. Intending to increase knowledge, the ADEL delivers an online platform for educational classes and resources to allow everyone to learn about the anti-doping community as well as the importance of staying away from PEDs. As of 2021, there are 87,487 active users from 173 countries, with an exponential increase in participants every month.³⁰ Each of these athletes has received a reinforcement of anti-doping rules - all through education. Since many athletes that partake are likely unaware of the dangers and side effects of doping, by providing information accessible to anyone who wishes to learn more, the Olympics in the future will see a decrease in doping amongst participants.

The Fight Against Doping

IOC's current doping restrictions bans the usage of all PEDS. Anabolic steroids, erythropoietin (EPO), and beta-2 agonists that were once used in past Olympics and gave athletic leverages to users are not permitted anymore. As well, Marijuana and other drugs that are not classified as PED are also prohibited as they pose a safety hazard and violate the spirit of sports.³¹ The penalties for catching an athlete using any of these drugs differ between sports. When an athlete is caught doping or is involved in a doping scandal, the 11 Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) defines which punishments they will undergo. A single rule violation can entitle them to a two-year ban from all sports competitions, while a second violation can ban them for a lifetime.³² In addition, the WADA requires every athlete to complete a number of blood and urine tests. If for any reason an athlete fails to submit to testing, they will be punished, possibly with suspension.

Paris 2024

With the conclusion of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics are right around the corner. The recent controversy with Kamila Valieva's doping scandals brought light to the flaws in drug testing systems. In response to the scandals, the IOC expressed that "Paris 2024 is 100% committed to the fight against doping and is working in close coordination with all stakeholders to ensure the fairness of the competitions in 2024 and the protection of athletes."³³ They emphasized that they would prioritize developing an effective anti-doping program for the benefit of all athletes and competition. Although the organizers of the Paris Olympics have not yet mentioned which measures will be taken, they

³⁰<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/news/wadas-anti-doping-education-and-learning-platform-marks-first-anniversary>

³¹<https://www.usada.org/athletes/substances/marijuana-faq/#:~:text=Why%20are%20cannabinoids%20on%20the,violates%20the%20spirit%20of%20sport>

³²<https://www.sportsmedtoday.com/doping-va-119.htm>

³³<https://www.reuters.com/article/olympics-2022-figureskating-valieva-pari-idCNL8N2UQ2KM>

have stated that they will not be afraid to use all possible resources to uphold the integrity of the game.³⁴

Possible Solutions

Independent Testing Infrastructure

In order to nullify the rise of unreported violations of PEDS such as during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a new anti-doping agency should be created independent of WADA and the IOC. Since former athletes and their staff work in current testing infrastructures, it is recommended that officials staffing in this novel organization should not have a background in sports in order to gain fresh perspective. Recruited officials, such as health, business, and law experts, should have the duty of providing solutions to the easily corrupted sports industry as well as keep themselves impartial.³⁵ This way, every abuser will be held accountable and face severe punishment, thus constructing an open and honest Olympics.

Unfortunately, the support of every nation would be required to establish a fully independent testing infrastructure. Countries like Russia may be interested in keeping their present testing system due to the fact that cheaters could be overlooked. Even in the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022, Kamila Valieva's late test results stirred suspension around Russia's testing system.³⁶ Despite each country's desire to maintain WADA and IOC's anti-doping testing systems, it is paramount to eliminate the root of the problem to create the best environment for the athletes.

Education Requirement

The lack of anti-doping education is a concerning obstacle. Despite WADA developing the Anti-Doping Education and Learning (ADEL) program, the online platform remains optional for Olympians and athletes. Numerous uneducated coaching staff, who don't participate in ADEL, are the fundamental cause behind larger drug violation scandals like that of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics.³⁷ Thus, a mandatory minimum education requirement for each athlete and their supporters before the Olympics should be implemented to tackle this problem.

Considering that WADA believes the best way to prevent doping is "to raise awareness, inform, communicate, to instil values, develop life skills and decision-making capability to prevent intentional and unintentional anti-doping rule violations," establishing an education requirement could be beneficial. Delegates may consider creating a system in which that requirement counts towards the eligibility of athletes at the Olympics.³⁸ The method and

³⁴Ibid:

³⁵Ibid:

³⁶<https://www.rt.com/sport/549070-reason-kamila-valieva-test-delay/>

³⁷<https://www.si.com/olympics/2016/05/12/russians-doping-2014-winter-olympics-sochi-medalist-investigation-grigory-rodchenkov>

³⁸<https://unifight.net/anti-doping/#:~:text=The%202021%20Code%20defines%20education,of%20any%20anti%20doping%20program.>

content of that education is a question that the delegates should address. Online resources are cheaper but less effective than in-person teaching. It is also easier for athletes to skip online classes and miss essential materials.

In order for this to take effect, all countries must come to a consensus. Nations throughout the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Conventions and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have already expressed interest in advancing and improving education.³⁹ However, certain countries such as China and Russia that remain reluctant to use resources on education may disagree.

Bloc Positions

Western Liberal Democracies & Japan and South Korea

Although these countries still have a significant amount of doping cases, they have explicitly expressed interest in reinforcing more robust approaches to combat doping. A little more than a year ago, the United States of America passed a bill that criminalized doping in international competitions.⁴⁰ The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) praised the action taken by the government since it helps them achieve their primary goal: “to stand with athletes to champion their right to clean sport, inspire true and healthy sport, and promote the integrity of sport.”⁴¹ Since these measures to regulate doping are not limited to America, including other governments with similar ideologies, all countries in this bloc would likely advocate for solutions such as education requirements. In addition, The Council of Europe Anti-Doping Conventions is already a signatory of an initiative to create a new education program, meaning the route to education improvements has already begun.⁴² In this regard, most Western liberal democracies would strive to discover a solution that strongly regulates PED use at the Olympics.

Developing Countries

In the developing world, professional sports or ‘elite’ sports have low interest or budgets.⁴³ Since a majority of developing countries have limited resources when it comes to drug tests, they don’t have the ability to establish drug bans like the West. Without an endless supply of money, these countries cannot keep up with PED advancement alone.⁴⁴ Therefore, these countries would favour receiving funding from other sources such as the IOC, WADA or a novel independent testing infrastructure – a system completely disconnected from IOC and WADA that can generate a novel anti-doping structure for developing countries. Since

³⁹<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/education-and-training#:~:text=The%20WADA%20views%20education%20in,to%20play%20in%20clean%20sport>.

⁴⁰<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-doping-usa-idUSKBN27X03H>

⁴¹<https://www.usada.org/resources/faq/>

⁴²<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/education-and-training#:~:text=The%20WADA%20views%20education%20in,to%20play%20in%20clean%20sport>.

⁴³ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/why-sports-and-development-go-hand-hand>

⁴⁴[https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/79\(9\)894.pdf](https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/79(9)894.pdf)

the IOC has been involved with scandals regarding doping cover-ups, a more independent organization without a mixed record would certainly be preferable for these countries.

Former Soviet States & China

Even though the Soviet Union was dissolved only recently, the country's long history of doping still remains. Most countries within the former Soviet sphere of influence as well as China share similar ideas surrounding anti-doping measures, namely a testing system that is purely domestic and has no Western influence. This would allow them to continue doping practices without proper oversight. In addition, these countries can argue that sending samples to different countries for testing is a lot more complicated. Samples would have to be examined within 36 hours or else they would be contaminated.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ <https://www.sportsnet.ca/olympics/doping-ex-soviet-nations-mirrors-russias-problems/>