

# TASKFORCE ON UNINTENTIONAL DOPING (WORKING GROUP)

## Terms of Reference

The WADA Taskforce on Unintentional Doping (Taskforce) is a specific Working Group<sup>1</sup> (WG) created by the WADA Education Department at the request of the WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG).

*These Terms of Reference (ToR) are approved by the WADA Director General, following consultation with the Head of Research and Policy (Education), the Chair of the WADA Education Committee and the Chair of the SSREAG.*

### **Background**

In 2018, WADA entered into an agreement with Fonds de recherche du Quebec (FRQ), an organization based in Quebec whose mission is to promote and support excellence in research. This was a match-funding agreement designed to target scientific and social science research in specific anti-doping areas. In total, \$1m CAD from FRQ and \$1m CAD from WADA was contributed to the research pot. The structure of the funding is to support five modules with funding of \$400k CAD each with one of these modules supporting the area of social science research (SSR). From 2018-2022, modules were administered in the area of natural science with modules focused on Artificial Intelligence and Biomarkers.

Following discussions between WADA and FRQ, and consultation with the SSREAG in 2021, it was decided to focus the SSR module on the topics of unintentional doping, in line with a key priority of the WADA SSR Strategy, and also on online misinformation related to doping products.

### **Purpose**

To support work in the area of unintentional doping, a Taskforce is established to specifically provide guidance to the *Unintentional Doping Project* (hereafter: the Project). This project will seek to advance knowledge and understanding of the concept of unintentional doping in line with the five components outlined below:

1. Characterizing the nature of unintentional doping and its underlying behaviors
2. Determining a reliable measure(s) or indicators(s) of the prevalence of unintentional doping
3. To assess the global incidence and prevalence of unintentional doping to be measured

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<sup>1</sup> WGs are created on an as-needed basis only, and generally with a defined mandate requiring deliverables within a set timeframe. Where the expected deliverables are not met, an extension of mandate is possible, however it is not expected that WGs continue indefinitely. If it is considered that their work should be ongoing in nature, whether WG should be elevated to an Expert Advisory Group would need to be determined.

4. Further the understanding of risk and protective factors of unintentional doping
5. How is unintentional doping most effectively prevented?

A 'Call for Contributions' will be published to seek input and evidence on unintentional doping from different communities who may be able to offer insight. Such contributions will then be considered by the Taskforce as part of the Project.

The Taskforce will carry out its current mandate over the January to December 2024 period. It will deliver recommendations to the SSREAG on an ongoing basis during this timeframe. The necessary meeting timelines will be framed with this in mind. There may be future work for the Taskforce, and it will be evaluated at the end of this current period.

### **Objectives/Key Activities**

The Taskforce will:

- 1) validate the proposed objectives of the Project;
- 2) examine proposed work packages and determine the most effective ways of working;
- 3) propose a consensus statement on the concept of unintentional doping following review of submissions to the Call for Contributions, discussion and synthesis of available evidence; and
- 4) establish a research program to achieve objectives, address the work packages and answer most relevant research questions related to unintentional doping.

### **Reporting Structure**

The Taskforce reports to the SSREAG, with input from FRQ and WADA Education Department. In turn it reports to the WADA Education Committee.

### **Membership/Composition**

WADA's Working Groups are generally comprised of 8-10 experts, The composition of this Taskforce however may reach a maximum of 15 members given the wide scope of the proposed work packages of this group.

The WADA Director General, following consultation with the WADA Head of Research and Policy, the Chair of the Education Committee and the Chair of the SSREAG will appoint members to the Taskforce.

Members are selected based on their relevant background and experience, including but not limited to the following:

- Work (or has worked) in the area of anti-doping with experience in unintentional doping (measurement, prevention, prevalence);
- Published research specifically addressing the area of unintentional doping;
- Work (or has worked) in the policy area specifically addressing unintentional doping;
- Has been affected as an athlete by unintentional doping that has been validated;
- Work (or has worked) in an area, field or discipline with transferable applications to unintentional doping.

The membership of the Taskforce is published on the WADA website.

Member terms reflect the current mandate of the Taskforce, i.e., until December 2024. If the work of the Taskforce is not completed within the originally planned period, and is extended, the composition and terms of members are reviewed to ensure their relevance remains.

### **Chair/Rapporteur**

The Taskforce Chair is selected based on their proven record and expertise in the area of clean sport research. When possible, the Chair will also be a member of the SSREAG.

The Chair shall act as the official reporter who is responsible for ensuring appropriate coordination with the SSREAG for providing accurate and timely information on all relevant issues.

### **WADA Liaison**

The WADA Education Department, and in particular the Head of Research and Policy will serve as the primary liaison between WADA and the Taskforce.

The Head of Research and Policy will be an observer to the Taskforce in the sense that they contribute to and bring expertise to support the work of the Taskforce but do not have a voting position. Additional WADA Education Department staff may also participate in Taskforce meetings as WADA experts on particular subject matters and to provide general support to the group where required.

### **Meetings and Working Norms**

The Taskforce will meet in person, or virtually via video or teleconference (as determined by WADA) as many times as is necessary to complete its mandate.

The Taskforce normally operates on the basis of consensus and maintains as informal a manner as is possible or appropriate for the conduct of business. Consensus will be sought whenever possible. In the event of divergence of opinion or disagreement concerning recommendations, the absolute majority (determined by vote by hand) will rule. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the casting vote. There is presently no formal practice concerning a quorum. The Chair has the responsibility to determine if a quorum is present. Meeting notes will record any dissenting opinion on request.

The Chair may limit discussion of resurfacing issues by referring to previous recommendations or conclusions of previous discussions.

Meeting notes of Taskforce meetings, reports and correspondence relative to the group's work shall be retained at the WADA Headquarters.

### **Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Media**

Upon their appointment and again annually, all Taskforce members are required to sign a document pursuant to which they undertake (i) to comply with the Code of Ethics adopted by the WADA Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (ii) to comply with the Conflict of Interest policy adopted by the WADA Foundation Board (as amended from time to time); (iii) to

keep all matters related to WADA confidential; and (iv) to comply with the WADA Media Relations Policy issued by the Agency (as amended from time to time).

#### **A) Code of Ethics**

The purpose of the WADA Code of Ethics is to establish clear ethical standards over the activities of WADA's Officials (as defined in Section 2 of the Code of Ethics), to allow WADA to achieve its mission and protect its core values. WADA and all its Officials undertake to foster a culture of ethics, loyalty, and integrity within their respective areas of competence.

#### **B) Conflict of Interest**

Taskforce members will be bound by the WADA Conflict of Interest policy. They will be required to annually complete and sign a Statement of Absence of Conflict of Interest in accordance with the policy, and to update such statement if and as necessary during the year.

#### **C) Confidentiality**

All Taskforce members are required to sign a Confidentiality Declaration upon appointment, and again annually. This ensures all members reflect on the confidential nature of their WADA work and confirm their adherence to such confidentiality rules.

#### **D) Communications and Media**

All Taskforce members must read and comply with WADA's Media Relations policy. If a member should receive a request for an interview in relation to their role in the Taskforce, or WADA's work in the fight against doping in sport, they should consult first with the WADA Head of Media Relations or (if absent), with the WADA Communications Director.

#### **Budget and Financial Support**

FRQ and WADA are the joint funders of the work of the Taskforce pursuant to an agreement signed by FRQ and WADA to target scientific research in specific anti-doping areas.

WADA shall provide the necessary administrative and operational resources for meetings. The research fund will cover certain expenses and compensate members for meetings in accordance with WADA's applicable indemnity policy.

It is acknowledged that some experts go above and beyond, including providing extensive advice throughout the year, outside of annual meetings. WADA offers a further indemnity to experts for such work carried out. The specific indemnity details are outlined in the "Overview of WADA Working Groups" document provided to Members each year.

#### **Effective Date**

These ToR came into effect in January 2024 and are published on the WADA website.