



WADA Athlete Rights Impact Assessment



The problem:



The World Anti-Doping Code (Code), including its systems and processes, has produced countless cases of injustice which have profound impacts on the health, wellbeing and careers of athletes.

The World Anti Doping Agency has a special responsibility under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to address, prevent and mitigate against such impacts but has failed to do so. Undertaking an athlete rights impact assessment is the first essential step.

Why act? The first essential step for WADA to:



Rebuild athlete trust and confidence



Begin implementing a human rights-based approach, including compliance with international requirements



Know and show how its systems are connected to athlete harm



Take action to prevent, mitigate and redress adverse impacts



Get ahead of regulatory initiatives requiring human rights due diligence

WADA's knowledge gap on impact:





Existing research on the compatibility of the Code with international human rights is lacking as it is:

- Not based on the responsibility to respect human rights under the UNPGs
- Conducted in a factual vacuum that neglects the lived experiences of athletes



Accordingly, the Code has adverse impacts on various athlete rights which are neither understood nor researched by WADA, including:

Right to an effective remedy	Right to work	Fair and just working conditions
Right to due process	World Anti-Doping Code (WADC)	Right to organise and collective bargaining
Freedom of opinion and expression		Right to health
Right to privacy and the protection of personal data	Right to education	Right to physical and psychological integrity







In accordance with the UNGPs, WADA should undertake a tailored impact assessment that



Identifies, understands and addresses the adverse impact of WADA's regulations and processes on the internationally recognised human rights of athletes



Includes impacts WADA causes, contributes to or is directly linked to



Provides a series of recommendations to key stakeholders on how to protect, respect and uphold athlete rights