



ATHLETICS  
INTEGRITY  
UNIT



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT – FOREWORD



**DAVID HOWMAN**  
BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

**“SUCH PROACTIVE EXCHANGES WITH ATHLETES AND RELATED STAKEHOLDERS ARE THE CENTREPIECE OF OUR EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW BEST THE AIU CAN SUPPORT THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPORT.”**

As the athletics world, and sport in general, continued to re-emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) brought greater normalcy back to its operations and the execution of its global mandate to protect the integrity of elite athletics.

Having reduced our 2021 budget by 10% due to pandemic-related constraints, I am pleased to say the AIU returned to full-scale functioning in 2022, thanks to the restoration of 100% of its funding from World Athletics. This allowed the organisation to resume or start projects which had been put on hold and for its departments to strengthen their staff complements and upgrade purposefully to meet the ever-evolving challenge of catching cheats and keeping athletics clean. The budgetary boost was very welcome given the tasks facing the AIU on many levels, including testing, intelligence and education work in the lead-up to and during the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 and the World Athletics U20 Championships Cali22; the ramped-up Road Running Integrity Programme (as the revitalised World Athletics Label Road Race calendar jumped to nearly 200 races in more than 40 countries) and tackling the appreciable rise in doping cases in Kenyan athletics.

Our intelligence-driven anti-doping framework – with strategic testing for top-level competitors at its epicentre – was again pivotal to guarding our signature events. We collected 10,686 samples from 2,779 athletes representing 136 nationalities. Out-of-competition samples accounted for 67% of the samples collected. The AIU’s relentless commitment to fair play resulted in various charges being brought against athletes just ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, Oregon last July. Nijel Amos (Botswana), Lawrence Cherono (Kenya) and Randolph Ross Jr (USA) were provisionally suspended by the AIU for alleged violations. The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) also provisionally suspended American decathlete Garrett Scantling based in part on evidence solicited by the AIU.

Fortunately, unlike the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (in 2021), all qualifiers from ‘Category A’ National Federations – those deemed to pose the highest doping risk to athletics in 2022 – were declared eligible for the World Championships after meeting the minimum testing requirements as set out under the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules (Rule 15). It was great to see full compliance by five of the seven ‘Category A’ National Federations: Bahrain, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria. Meanwhile, seven Ukrainian athletes were given exemptions due to extenuating circumstances because of the war, though 15 of their team-mates fulfilled the testing obligations. Belarus – the other ‘Category A’ nation – did not compete in Eugene. In total, 156 athletes from six ‘Category A’ countries were entered for the World Championships, with 1206 out-of-competition tests conducted since 1 January 2022 at domestic level (excluding AIU tests). Since January 2019, National Federation Anti-Doping Obligations have mandated that National Federations are accountable for ensuring appropriate anti-doping measures are in place in their respective jurisdictions and minimum out-of-competition testing requirements are met for athletes representing them at major championships.

Additionally, the AIU partnered with USADA and the Oregon22 Local Organising Committee to deliver a robust and innovative testing plan, including the AIU’s first-ever collection of Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples for laboratory analysis, using a new, less-intrusive device and seamless process. That initiative contributed to the development of DBS as a viable and complementary alternative to current anti-doping practices. The DBS samples were among 600 pre-competition tests while 500 in-competition tests were conducted across all events.



On the education front, we were able to conduct outreach programmes in Oregon and Cali which – after the two-year COVID-19 hiatus – were great for personally reconnecting with the community. My fellow Board members and I truly value such engagement; the opportunity to hear directly from athletes and discuss issues that impact them. We look forward to that experience again at this year's World Championships in Budapest.

Such proactive exchanges with athletes and related stakeholders are the centrepiece of our efforts to understand how best the AIU can support the key participants in the sport. In 2022, we made meaningful progress in advancing our long-term education strategy, centred on behavioural science. We are grateful to all the elite athletes, coaches, managers, technical officials, and medical staff who spent valuable time sharing their views with our researchers on integrity challenges at the ground level and suggesting how to navigate these challenges. The insights captured, in honest and open conversations, have given us the evidence-based foundation to confidently plan and implement the required interventions which you will see in the coming months.

Athletes and support personnel have truly welcomed our cohort-based, online education sessions. Delivered in ten languages, our efforts are now more inclusive and globally accessible. Participation highlights, detailed elsewhere in this Annual Report, are testimony of how enthusiastically the athletics community has embraced our new methodology.

In 2022, the AIU affirmed our intention to revert to the original vision of the Road Running Integrity Programme in 2023 by establishing a 300-strong pool (150 men; 150 women)

of well-controlled professional runners from which World Athletics Label Road Race organisers can choose event competitors. This was against the backdrop of road-racing testing pools narrowing significantly to the top 40 men and top 40 women runners during the pandemic heights. Budgetary cuts of about 50% saw spending drop to an average \$1.3 million annually.

We announced a robust integrity operation would resume in 2023 with over 2000 out-of-competition tests around 1600 in-competition tests, backed by targeted investigations and appropriate education to promote doping-free sport. All of this will be underwritten by a budget that doubles to nearly \$3 million, with financial contributions from Label Road Race organisers, athletes, athlete representatives and shoe companies. This partnership reiterates the road-running industry's incredible commitment to ensuring a clean environment for its events and strengthens stakeholder confidence in the integrity of the World Athletics road-racing circuit.

This enhanced integrity campaign in road racing is among the strategic ways in which the AIU is confronting the alarming rise in Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) among Kenyan athletes. In 2022, 25 Kenyans, including star performers, were banned either by the AIU or the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK), with ten others provisionally suspended. The lack of competition during the pandemic – and the ensuing financial pressure – has been a major factor tempting road-running athletes to cheat, keen to gain any advantage over rivals now elite races have resumed and lucrative winnings are again on offer.

To stave off the prospect of any possible international ban from competition, the Kenyan Government pledged US\$25 million (\$5 million annually for five years) in late 2022 to fight doping in athletics. A Steering Committee – primarily comprising the AIU, ADAK and Athletics Kenya (AK) – was set up to oversee the disbursement of government’s funding and track its usage. The AIU will offer expertise across essential functions (Testing, Investigations and Intelligence, and Education). Kenya has been among the shining lights in middle-and-long-distance running for generations and we hope the East African nation can stifle the ongoing doping scourge that has been tarnishing its reputation.

Another highlight of our work in 2022 was the prioritisation of non-doping investigations, with the AIU specifically allocating resources and hiring staff for this mission. We have been examining broader integrity threats to the sport and we are seeing some trends emerging. Our progress in this area led to year-end competition-manipulation charges against senior Albanian athletics’ officials for breaches of the World Athletics’ Integrity Code of Conduct. Two of them have since been banned – a historic first for competition manipulation in athletics – as have two marathoners who deliberately swapped bibs at a 2021 race so one could clock a better time. They were sanctioned for violating both the Code and the World Athletics’ Manipulation of Sports Competitions Rules. Elsewhere, the globally-reported withdrawal of sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in August 2021 saw a Belarusian coach charged for alleged breaches of the Code’s Integrity Standards. Meanwhile, other non-doping investigations are still unfolding.

These developments followed World Athletics’ establishment of a Competition Manipulation Watch List in September 2022, stemming from the AIU’s investigation of 17 reports of suspicious competition results during the qualification period for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Seven Member Federations – Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkey and Uzbekistan – were placed on the Watch List which reflects the high degree of risk of results manipulation within those organisations. As a consequence, those federations must now satisfy specific criteria for World Athletics to recognise results achieved at competitions hosted by them. In a busy 2022, the AIU also concluded 11 historic age-manipulation cases (World Athletics Series events between 2001 and 2013), with World Athletics annulling the results of 11 competitors and reallocating four medals. We also tackled a number of Tampering violations as emboldened athletes sought to cover up their wrongdoings.

At every turn, the AIU’s message has remained resolute: all those members of the World Athletics community, irrespective of their stature, will be held accountable for their actions if they violate the integrity rules. We have not wavered and in every decision, policy and process the AIU Board’s rigid focus has been on that goal. We appreciate and applaud the hard work which has delivered on many trailblazing fronts – and we thank everyone who has contributed – but, as always, we curb our enthusiasm by reminding ourselves there is still a long and challenging way to go in our quest for integrity in the sport.

*Daria Howman*



# FINANCES

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

TESTING AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT	\$ 2,973,148
DISCIPLINARY/LEGAL	\$ 579,237
EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION	\$ 182,382
INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE	\$ 333,567
SUPERVISORY BOARD	\$ 207,336
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 804,951
STAFF COSTS (INCLUDING CONTRACTORS)	\$ 3,796,798
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,877,420</b>

January to December 2022. All figures are in U.S. dollars.

### REMARKS:

- The figures are inclusive of expenditure on the Label Road Race Anti-Doping Programme which was fully funded by Label Road Races, the World Marathon Majors, athletes and their representatives and shoe companies, adidas, ASICS and Nike (\$685,386) and expenses that are recoverable from the Russian Athletic Federation under its reinstatement conditions (\$269,695).
- The Head of the AIU was remunerated as follows in 2022: Gross Salary of €276,850 (\$ 305,642); Housing allowance of €80,004 (\$ 88,324). Conversion to US dollars, based on 31 December 2022 exchange rate.
- In 2022, the annual remuneration for the independent board members was as follows: \$25,000 for the Chairman; \$15,000 for the independent board members.



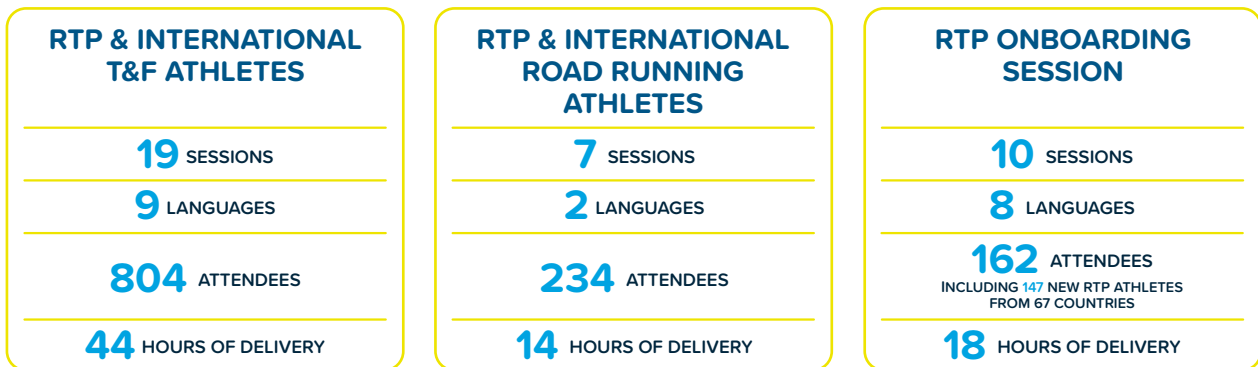
# EDUCATION

## ONLINE SESSIONS

Following the adoption of a Behavioural Science approach to guide the work of the education team at end of 2021, our education programme went from strength to strength during 2022. Our team leveraged digital power to build an equitable, inclusive, and accessible online education programme, delivered in ten languages, to reach athletes and athlete support personnel across the six area associations.



## FOCUS ON RTP ATHLETES



## PEER-TO-PEER CONVERSATIONS



## ATHLETE SENTIMENTS

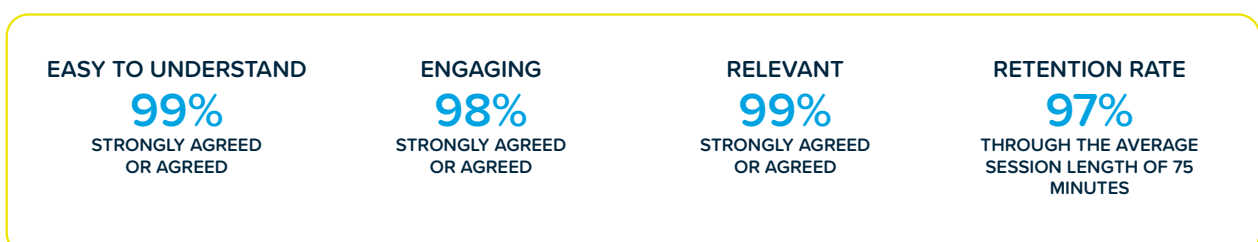
“The breakout gave me an opportunity to talk to athletes I would not normally come across, this made the session different to any kind of education I have had before.”

Athlete, Europe

“It was great to chat in this relaxed forum but still with a focus, I feel this helped us reinforce each other’s knowledge.”

Athlete, Europe

## WHAT DO THE PARTICIPANTS THINK OF THE SESSIONS



## ATHLETICS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the year provided the perfect opportunity to launch a holistic community engagement programme. This included community outreach and deep-dive focus-group discussions to truly understand the integrity challenges and the context in which they occur. The aim is to use these engagements to continuously improve our Education programme.

### OUTREACH PROGRAMME



### FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS



### SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THE FOCUS GROUPS:

“I just wanted to say, you made this feel like a very open and welcome space, and you did a very good job at pushing the conversation forward, without being threatening or suggesting, so I really appreciate your patience and your accommodation with this, it was a wonderful discussion so thank you”

Athlete, N America

“It [the conversation] was really good and I enjoy this kind of stuff, talking about it and hearing things. I think a lot of coaches are scared to self-reflect and it’s something we need to do more of to strengthen our coaching, our behaviours to be good people, and to understand the power we have over our athletes. Because power if not understood is incredibly dangerous”

Coach, Oceania



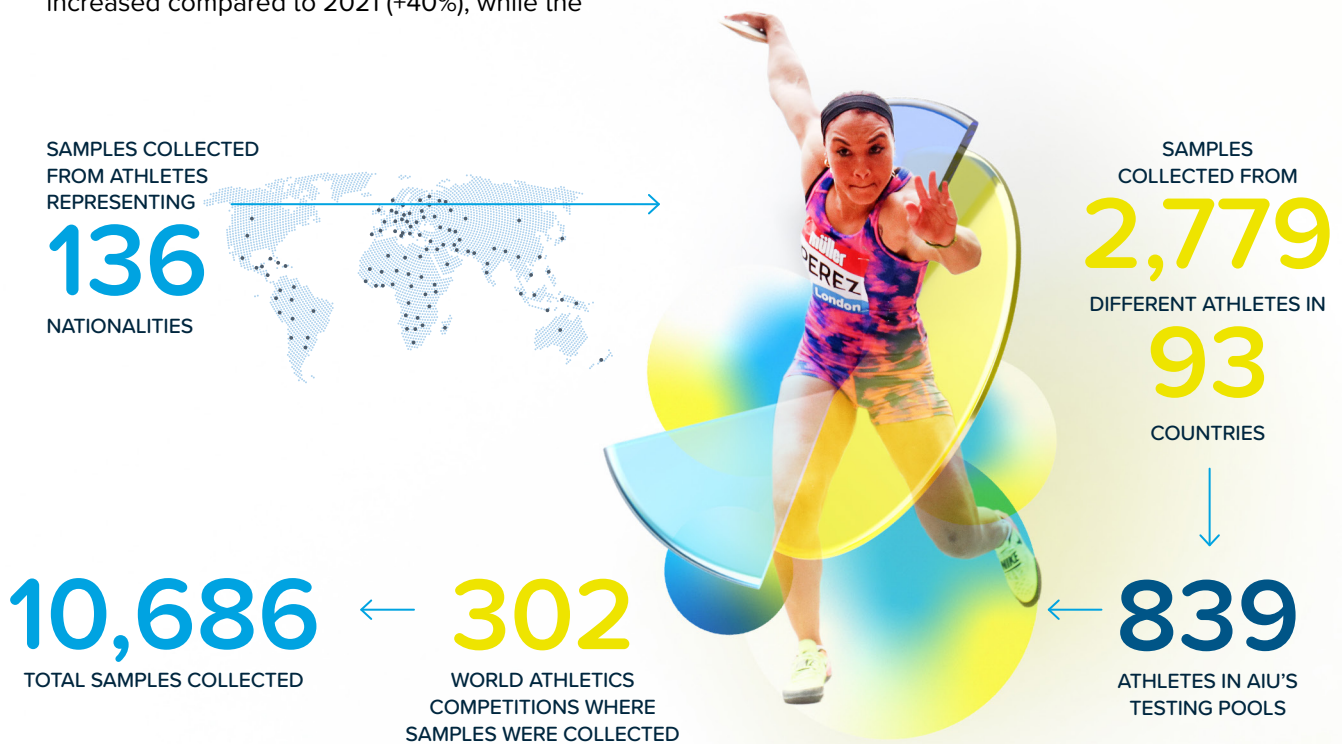
# TESTING

The 2022 Testing figures are comparable with the pre-pandemic levels. It was a World Championships year, with more than 10,000 doping-control samples collected and more than 14,500 analyses performed in total.

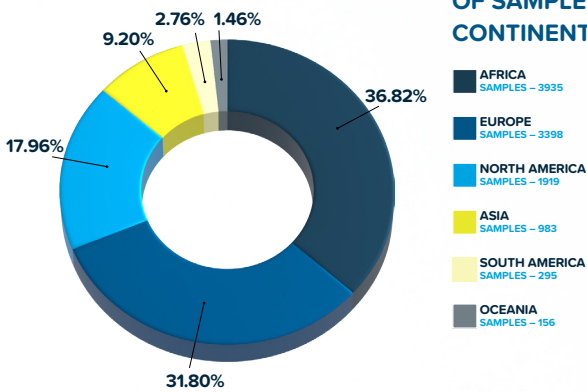
With most competitions resuming, the number of samples collected at competitions significantly increased compared to 2021 (+40%), while the

dedicated out-of-competition testing programme for Road Running athletes remained reduced in 2022.

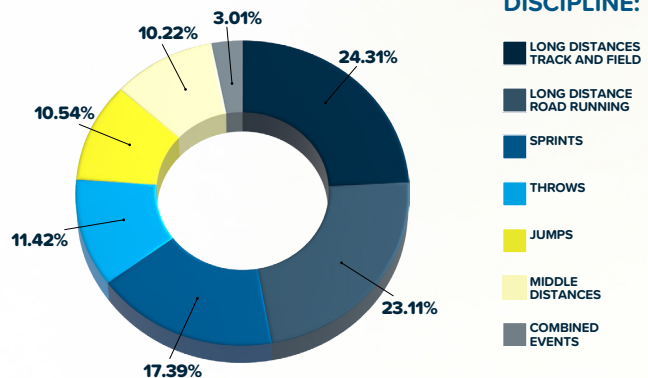
Dried Blood Spot (“DBS”) samples were also introduced in 2022.



**DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES BY CONTINENT**

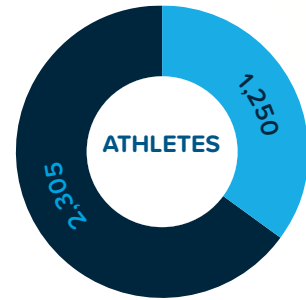
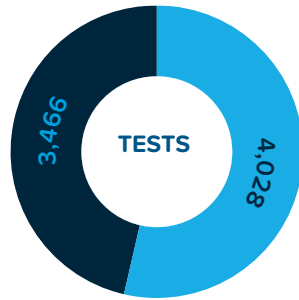
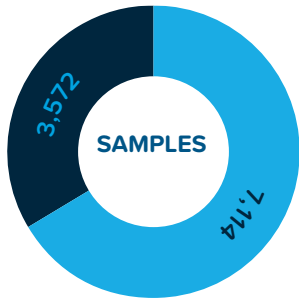


**DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES BY DISCIPLINE:**

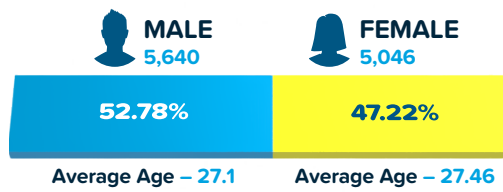


SAMPLES COLLECTED IN-COMPETITION VS OUT-OF-COMPETITION:

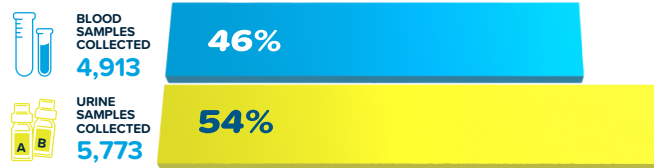
OUT OF COMPETITION IN COMPETITION



DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER:

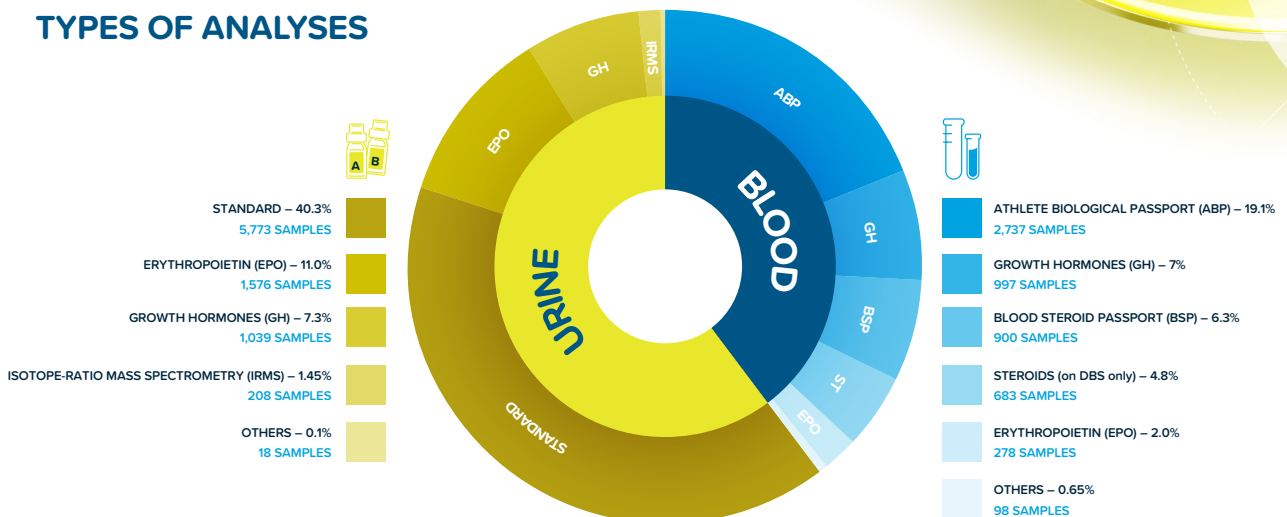


DISTRIBUTION BY SAMPLE TYPE:

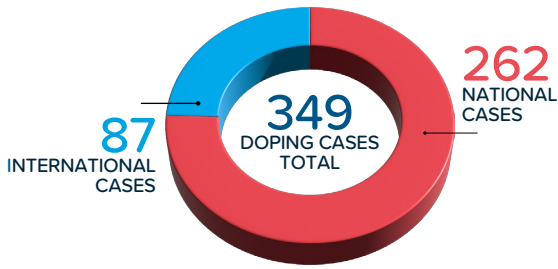


13,769 ANALYSES COMPLETED

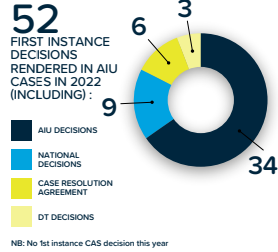
TYPES OF ANALYSES



# CASE MANAGEMENT



FROM **66** COUNTRIES

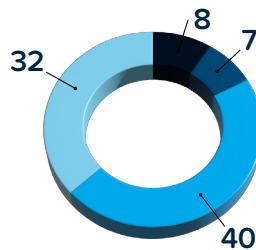


**3** CAS APPEAL DECISIONS RENDERED IN 2022

## 87 INTERNATIONAL CASES

CASES STATUS\*:

- ATYPICAL FINDINGS
- NO VIOLATION
- SANCTION
- PENDING



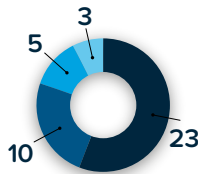
### \*TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS (ADRVs):

**8** ATFs



**43** ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS

- STERIODS
- SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES
- NON-SPECIFIED STIMULANT
- EPO

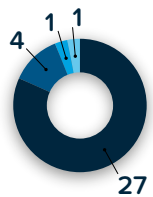


**3** ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDING



**33** NON ANALYTICAL ADRVs, INCLUDING:

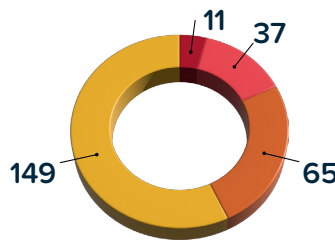
- LIMS/MCLAREN CASES (USE)
- TAMPERING
- WHEREABOUTS FAILURES
- POSSESSION/USE/ATTEMPTED USE (ODUDURU)



## 262 NATIONAL CASES

CASES STATUS\*:

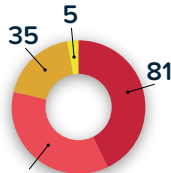
- ATYPICAL FINDINGS
- NO VIOLATION
- SANCTION
- PENDING



### \*TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS (ADRVs):

**43** ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS

- STERIODS
- SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES
- EPO/HEPO/ CERA
- GROWTH HORMONE SECRETAGOGUE (GHRP-2, IPAMORELIN)

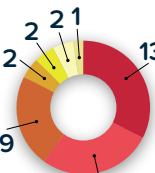


**1** ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDING



**40** NON ANALYTICAL ADRVs, INCLUDING:

- USE CASE
- EVASION / REFUSAL
- WHEREABOUTS FAILURES
- POSSESSION
- TAMPERING
- ADMINISTRATION/COMPLICITY
- PROHIBITED ASSOCIATION



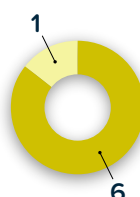
**11** ATFs



## 7 NON-DOPING CASES

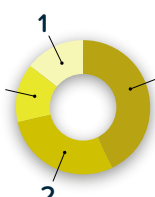
CASE STATUS

- SANCTIONED
- PENDING



TYPES OF CASES

- COMPETITION MANIPULATION
- PARTICIPATION WHILST INELIGIBLE
- AGE MANIPULATION
- BREACH OF INTEGRITY STANDARDS OF HONESTY, DIGNITY AND PROTECT REPUTATION



# INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE

The Investigations and Intelligence (I&I) team has been re-shaped and has increased in numbers to cover a full spectrum of integrity themes, including:

- AGE MANIPULATION
- COMPETITION MANIPULATION
- DOPING
- CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CORRUPTION
- SAFEGUARDING
- TECHNICAL CHEATING
- ELIGIBILITY

The team adopts a whole-of-governance approach to its work, not only by undertaking investigations and gathering intelligence to develop prosecution cases and to inform on other matters, but also by:

- Producing strategic and analytical reports on specific athletics topics.
- Conducting statistical research and analysis to identify rule violations in integrity themes.
- Working to enhance the regulatory frameworks for all integrity themes.
- Developing new and innovative policy approaches to investigations and intelligence work.
- Supporting targeted education programmes.
- Broadening the scope of the information, intelligence and evidence-collection spectrum.

It has developed numerous open-source research and analysis initiatives, maintains a confidential-sources programme, conducts numerous technical collection and analysis projects, and manages a wide range of localised service providers in pursuit of its work.

I&I has also developed close ties with the academic community, strongly supporting the MA and PhD programmes in Sports Ethics and Integrity at Leuven University while working closely with NADOs and law-enforcement entities globally.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The growing importance and remit of Communications – and indeed Education – within the AIU’s operations led to the decision in 2022 to split the two functions into separate departments, to be ultimately built out as necessary for AIU’s maximum benefit. In that regard, 2022 could best be described as transformative for Communications as it determined key deliverables for the near future.

While this evolution was taking place in mid-2022, Communications continued to be integral to the organisation’s focused agenda: producing 16

press releases (mainly case outcomes), the 2021 Annual Report and the 2020-2021 Road Running Report; fielding weekly queries for information and requests for interviews from media; hosting a media roundtable at the World Athletics Championships at Oregon22; keeping social-media output steady and maintaining watch on the global landscape for any matters of interest.

Herein are the statistical highlights of the AIU’s Communications work in 2022.

## WEBSITE



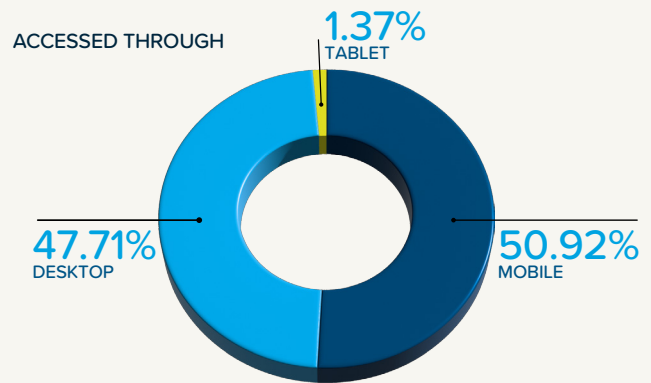
**70,099**  
USERS



**98,177**  
SESSIONS



**215**  
COUNTRIES



## SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK  
**5,558**  
FOLLOWERS  
UP BY 12.8%



INSTAGRAM  
**1,770**  
FOLLOWERS  
UP BY 22.7%



TWITTER  
**8,765**  
FOLLOWERS  
UP BY 19.5%

## NEWSLETTER

#OURSPORTOURINTEGRITY



**1**  
EDITION



**1,898**  
RECIPIENTS




**56.7%**  
OPEN RATE


2022 ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT		
MEASURES	GLOBAL ONLINE MEDIA	SOCIAL MEDIA
VOLUME	17.5K	3.3K
UNIQUE AUTHORS	7.9K	2.3K
REACH	39.8B	12.7B
ENGAGEMENT	94.3K	9.9K
SENTIMENT (FAVOURABLE)	82%	50%
NO. OF MARKETS	148	88






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