



R E P O R T
2020

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



David Howman
Chair of the Athletics Integrity Unit Board

“The quality and quantity of output from the AIU in the past 12 months, despite the very difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic, is a significant achievement. As a young organisation it was very important for us to continue to move forward in 2020 and we managed to do that.”

As we look back on one of the most extraordinary years in recent memory, I believe that despite the serious difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIU continued to fulfil its mandate effectively, finding innovative ways to meet the challenges of the moment. As the challenges for our operations became apparent in March 2020, ‘business as usual’ was put aside and the focus of the AIU Board quickly changed to the following key strategic priorities:

- Ensuring that we were able to maintain the level of **vigilance** required to protect the sport in the lead up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
- Identifying **opportunities** in the crisis - particularly through adapting to the use of emerging technology.
- Revisiting our overall **strategy** to ensure it was fit for purpose, given the effect of the pandemic on sport and society in the short and long term.

Vigilance maintained

In the testing context, the challenges of the pandemic were extreme. But the Board’s clear view was that as much testing as possible should continue, provided it was safe and practicable to do so. Thanks to the resourcefulness and logistical skill of our team, 4204 out-of-competition samples were collected around the world in 2020, all with strict adherence to health and safety protocols. To put it in context, these numbers are approximately 70% of corresponding testing figure in a year like 2018, which also did not have either a World Athletics Championships or the Olympic Games. These are impressive numbers, representing a high degree of deterrence and illustrated that in 2020 the AIU and the sport of athletics did not raise the white flag on anti-doping.

The message was the same when it came to the AIU’s case management and investigative work. Despite the challenges of remote working, 47 First Instance Decisions were rendered in 2020. This included a number of high-profile cases of importance to the sport, which were prosecuted across the whole spectrum of integrity challenges. A prime example is the outcome of the Danil Lysenko case, which resulted in sanctions to highly placed Russian Athletics Federation officials and administrators. This case sent the message that those who aid and abet cheating will be held equally accountable for what they do. The high standards of integrity are not just expected of athletes but from anyone who has a role in the sport irrespective of their stature.

Identifying opportunities

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a large uptake in the use of video conferencing and the AIU was able to take advantage of this to transform certain parts of our operations in ways that will hold us in good stead for the future. We adapted our education programmes to embrace digital technology, conducting a pilot programme of education for international level athletes and support personnel. The programme consisted of webinar sessions in multiple languages and enabled us to connect directly with our constituents across the world – something that had been impossible for us to do at scale previously. The programme has continued into 2021 and will be central to our long-term education strategy. Video conferencing has also been adapted to our investigative and prosecution processes, enabling us to conduct global investigations and disciplinary hearings extremely efficiently and effectively without compromising fairness. The changes made to our investigative and the disciplinary processes will also be used into the future.

Revisiting our strategy

Travel restrictions made it impossible for the Board to meet in person after January 2020, however we made up for it by meeting virtually every month in 2020. We made progress on several fronts, but most importantly we conducted a review of the long-term AIU strategy which was approved by the Board in January 2021. This review identified the serious challenges that exist to the integrity of the sport in the future, both in the area of doping and other integrity issues, and sets out the Board’s vision and strategies to meet those challenges. The new AIU strategy will be published soon after publication of this report.

In conclusion

The quality and quantity of output from the AIU in the past 12 months, despite the very difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic, is a significant achievement. As a young organisation it was very important for us to continue to move forward in 2020 and we managed to do that. I would like to thank the AIU staff for their efforts and also the AIU Board members for their valuable contribution and commitment.

WORDS FROM THE HEAD



Brett Clothier
Head of the Athletics Integrity Unit

“We hope that our efforts in 2020 give the athletics community and fans confidence that the integrity of our sport is a priority that will be maintained to high standards no matter the challenges we may face in the future.”

2020 was a year of unique challenges. Due to reduced competitions, travel and sanitary restrictions and severe financial uncertainty, we sought to reduce expenditure quite significantly compared to our original forecast in 2020. At the same time our ambitions remained high – the sport of athletics has begun to restore its reputation and we wanted to continue to take the integrity of the sport forwards in 2020, despite much of the world seeming to stand still.

We met the challenge by creatively managing resources, deploying assets where they could have the greatest impact, restructuring our teams to focus on what we were able to control and bolstering our education programming, embellishing it rather than taking things away. Thanks to innovative digital technologies, we were actually able to do more across the range of our activities with limited resources.

The globality of our testing programme required continual monitoring by country, region, and city, as situations evolved in different regions of the world. The pandemic required us to adapt the way we operated, ensuring that the maximum number of safe and effective tests could still be carried out in a way that endangered neither athletes, their families, nor personnel conducting the tests. Our efforts were successful: a high level of deterrence that ensured our programme remained robust, despite the difficulties that had to be overcome. In the subsequent pages of this report, you will find data related to what we managed to achieve with respect to testing, cases, investigations, and education. In addition, we also conducted a great deal of research on the broader integrity issues confronting the sport which will continue to inform our strategy development in the future.

The privately funded Road Running Integrity Programme launched at the start of 2020, originally involving 180 races, was adjusted to account for the drastically changed circumstances. Due to the decreased number of races, the programme was adapted to the economic reality while still maintaining its original long-term objective of protecting the integrity of athletics. There was clear feedback from the key stakeholders, when the sport does return to a more normal level of competition in the future, it should be with a strong integrity platform still in place.

We hope that our efforts in 2020 give the athletics community and fans confidence in two things: first, that in 2021, the level of scrutiny for Olympics-bound teams in athletics has and will continue to be maintained at a very high level; and second, in the longer term, that the integrity of our sport is a priority that will be maintained to high standards no matter the challenges we may face in the future.



FINANCES

Financial report for the year 2020

TESTING & COMPLIANCE	\$ 2,744,750
CASE MANAGEMENT	\$ 1,254,629
COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION	\$ 173,136
INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE	\$ 131,563
SUPERVISORY BOARD	\$ 102,543
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 324,440
STAFF COSTS (gross salaries including social insurance)	\$ 3,126,396
TOTAL	\$ 7,857,457

January to December 2020. All figures are in US 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, Asics, Adidas and Nike (\$1,029,159) and expenses that are recoverable from the Russian Athletic Federation under its reinstatement conditions (\$470,083).
- The Head of the AIU was remunerated as follows in 2020: Gross Salary of €270,000 (\$ 332,100); Housing allowance of €80,004 (\$ 98,405). Conversion to US dollars, based on 31 December 2020 exchange rate.
- In 2020, the annual remuneration for the independent board members was as follows: \$25,000 for the Chairman; \$15,000 for the independent board members. Note - Two independent board members who commenced on 12 March 2020 received pro-rata amount.



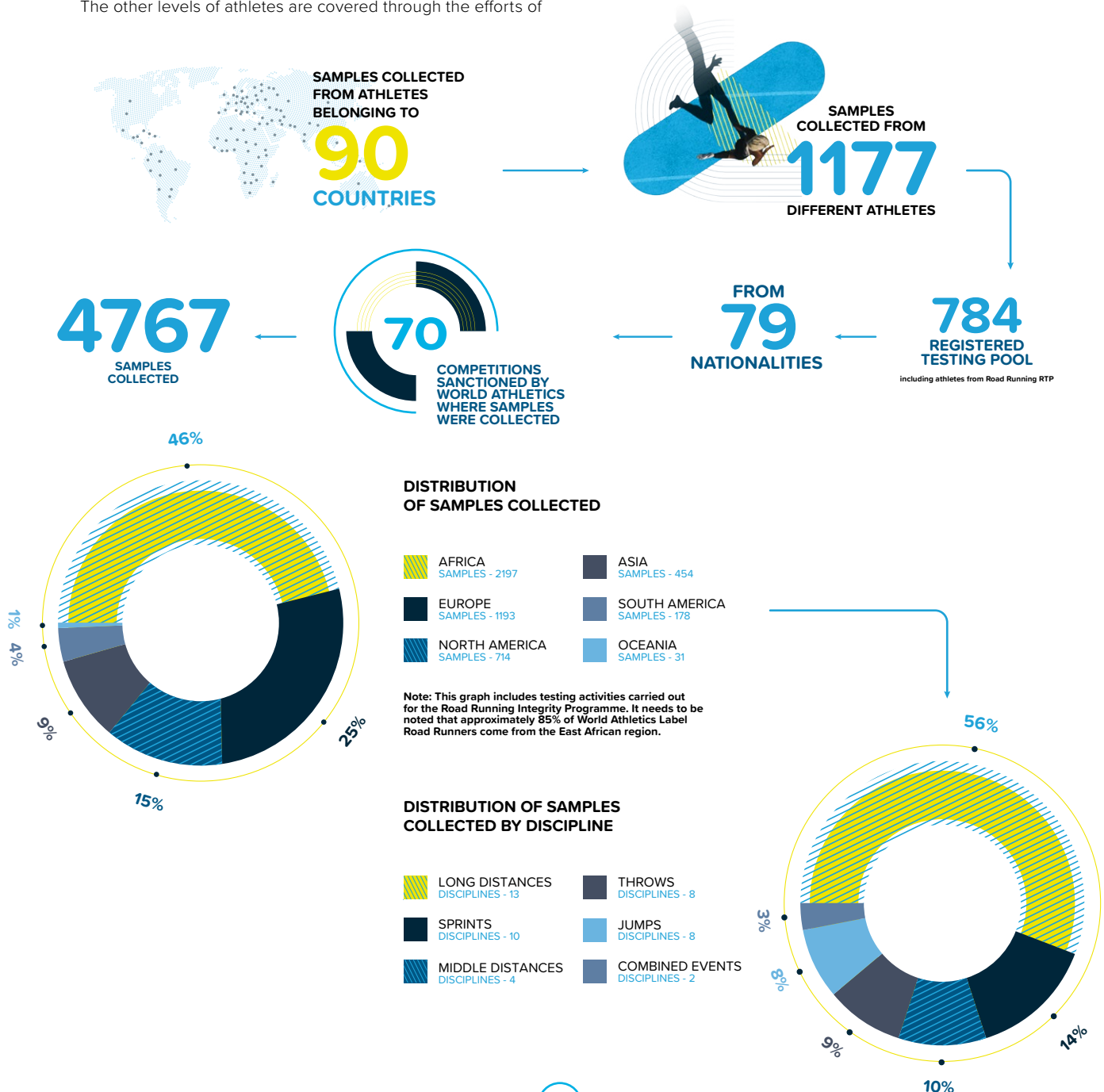
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 IN NUMBERS

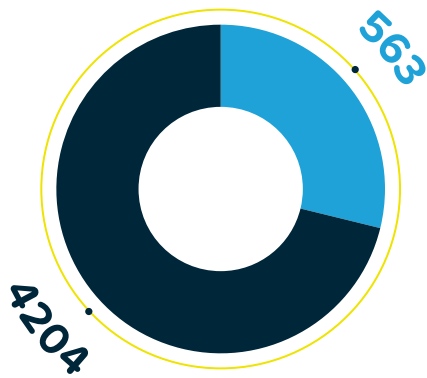
The year was marked by the several restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The AIU team recalibrated its strategic objectives and successfully adapted to the changed landscape. New ways were found to push forward in our quest to safeguard the integrity of the sport of athletics.

TESTING

The figures below only reflect the testing activities carried out by the AIU. The AIU's testing is focused on elite top-end athletes and is designed to be specific, targeted and intelligence-led. The other levels of athletes are covered through the efforts of

the National and Regional Anti Doping Organisations (NADOs and RADOs), and that data is collated and published separately by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).





■ SAMPLES COLLECTED IN-COMPETITION
■ SAMPLES COLLECTED OUT-OF-COMPETITION



2475



2292

SAMPLES COLLECTED BY GENDER



MALE

52%

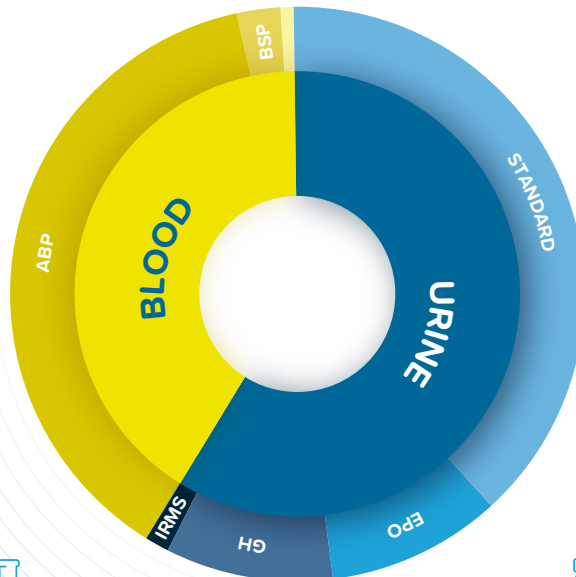


FEMALE

48%

6003
ANALYSIS COMPLETED

TYPES OF ANALYSIS



ATHLETE BIOLOGICAL PASSPORT (ABP) - 38%

BLOOD STEROID PASSPORT (BSP) - 2.5%

ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO) - 1%

STANDARD - 38%

ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO) - 10%

GROWTH HORMONES (GH) - 9%

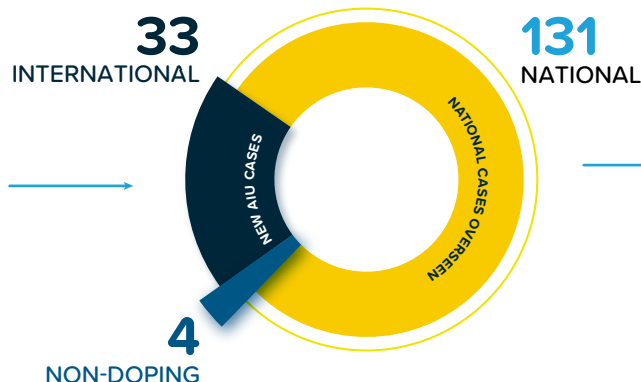
ISOTOPE-RATIO MASS SPECTROMETRY (IRMS) - 1.5%

CASE MANAGEMENT



Total disciplinary cases brought by AIU and at national level in 2020

168



ATHLETES FROM

36 National Federations

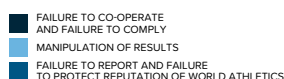
33

NEW AIU DOPING CASES INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES & ASP



4

NON-DOPING CASES



TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

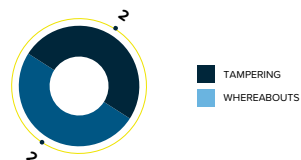
10 ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



5 ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDINGS



4 NON-ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



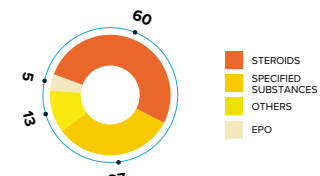
131

CASES AND VIOLATIONS INVOLVING NATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES & ASP

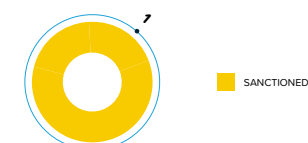


TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

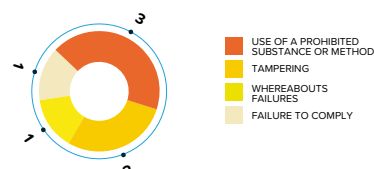
115 ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



1 ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDINGS



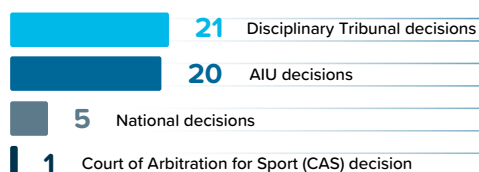
7 NON-ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



47

**FIRST INSTANCE DECISIONS
RENDERED IN AIU CASES**

INCLUDING CASES INITIATED PRIOR TO 2020



3

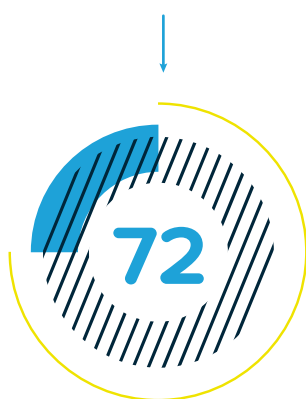
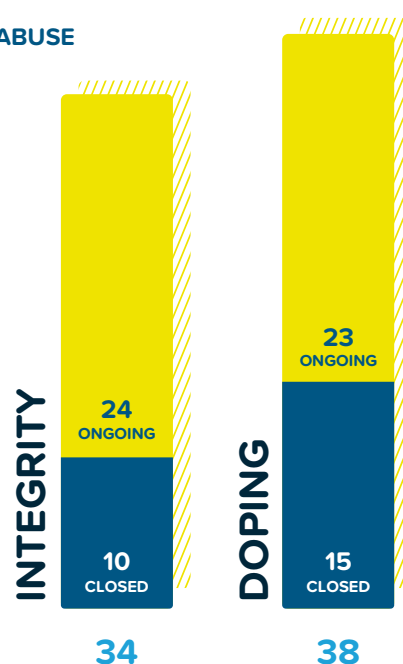
**CAS APPEAL
DECISIONS
RENDERED
IN 2020**

INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE

The I&I team successfully adapted its work by using its networks of localised and specialised service providers, and by conducting more desktop-driven investigations processes more regularly than before. The quality of outcomes has not been affected, although on occasion it has taken longer to complete certain investigative steps.

**INVESTIGATIONS ON NON-ANALYTICAL
AND INTEGRITY-RELATED AREAS
ARE ONGOING FOR:**

- DOPING
- CORRUPTION
- TAMPERING
- CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
- WHEREABOUTS FAILURES
- TRANSFERS OF ALLEGIANCE
- AGE MANIPULATION
- MANIPULATION OF RESULTS
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF INVESTIGATIONS
(SITUATIONS AT VARYING STAGES)**

EDUCATION

While the pandemic caused plenty of difficulties in 2020, it also presented opportunities for innovation in education activities. The AIU initiated pilot education programmes for the RTP athletes

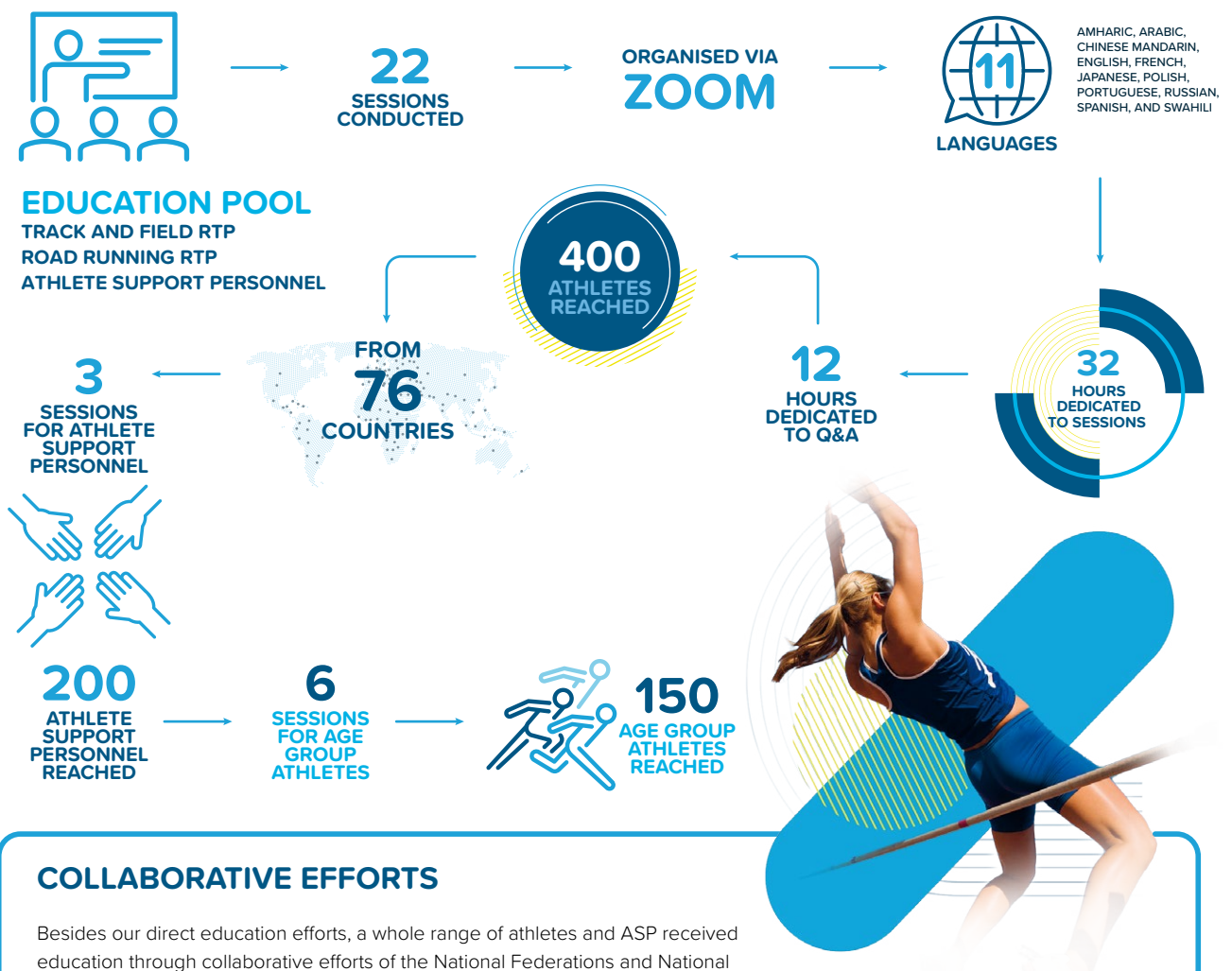
and ASP, which not only created awareness but also provides opportunities for conversation, insights and data gathering that will be utilised to inform our education strategy.

ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

ONLINE SESSIONS 3 PILOT PROGRAMMES

EDUCATION STRATEGY

THE AIU HAS ENGAGED A TEAM AT THE LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY TO CO-DEVELOP A LONGTERM EDUCATION STRATEGY, WHICH WILL BE REFLECTIVE OF THE DIVERSITY OF THE SPORT AND TRULY INNOVATIVE.



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Besides our direct education efforts, a whole range of athletes and ASP received education through collaborative efforts of the National Federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations.



7210**ATHLETES AND ASP EDUCATED THROUGH THE EFFORTS
OF NATIONAL FEDERATIONS & NADOs****COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT****2**NATIONAL
FEDERATIONS
INFO SESSION**2**MEETINGS WITH
WORLD ATHLETICS
ATHLETE COMMISSION**2**MEETINGS WITH
AD-HOC EDUCATION
ADVISORY GROUP**2 ATHLETE
QUESTIONNAIRES**

TOPICS COVERED

**SAFEGUARDING &
COMPETITION
MANIPULATION**CIRCULATED IN
10
LANGUAGES**3800**
RESPONSES
RECEIVEDRESPONSE
FROM
6
ASSOCIATIONS**COMMUNICATIONS****WEBSITE**

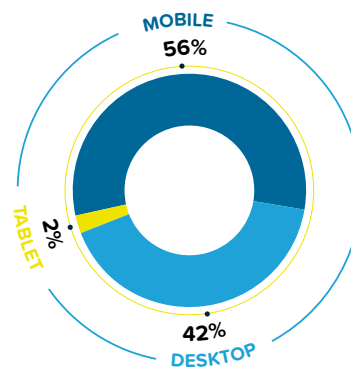
USERS

87,043

SESSIONS

143,512

LOCATION

203
COUNTRIES**ACCESSED THROUGH****NEWSLETTERS**

#MYSPORTMYINTEGRITY

**3**

EDITIONS

**4120**

RECIPIENTS

**84**

COUNTRIES

**55%**

OPEN RATE

ATHLETICS INTEGRITY WATCH

**3**

EDITIONS

**3960**

RECIPIENTS

**104**

COUNTRIES

**53%**

OPEN RATE

SOCIAL MEDIA

NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS

11242**UP 38.20%**

INSTAGRAM

UP 41.20%

TWITTER

UP 53.40%


FACEBOOK


UP 22.60%**UP** — OVERALL GROWTH YEAR ON YEAR




ATHLETICS
INTEGRITY
UNIT

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