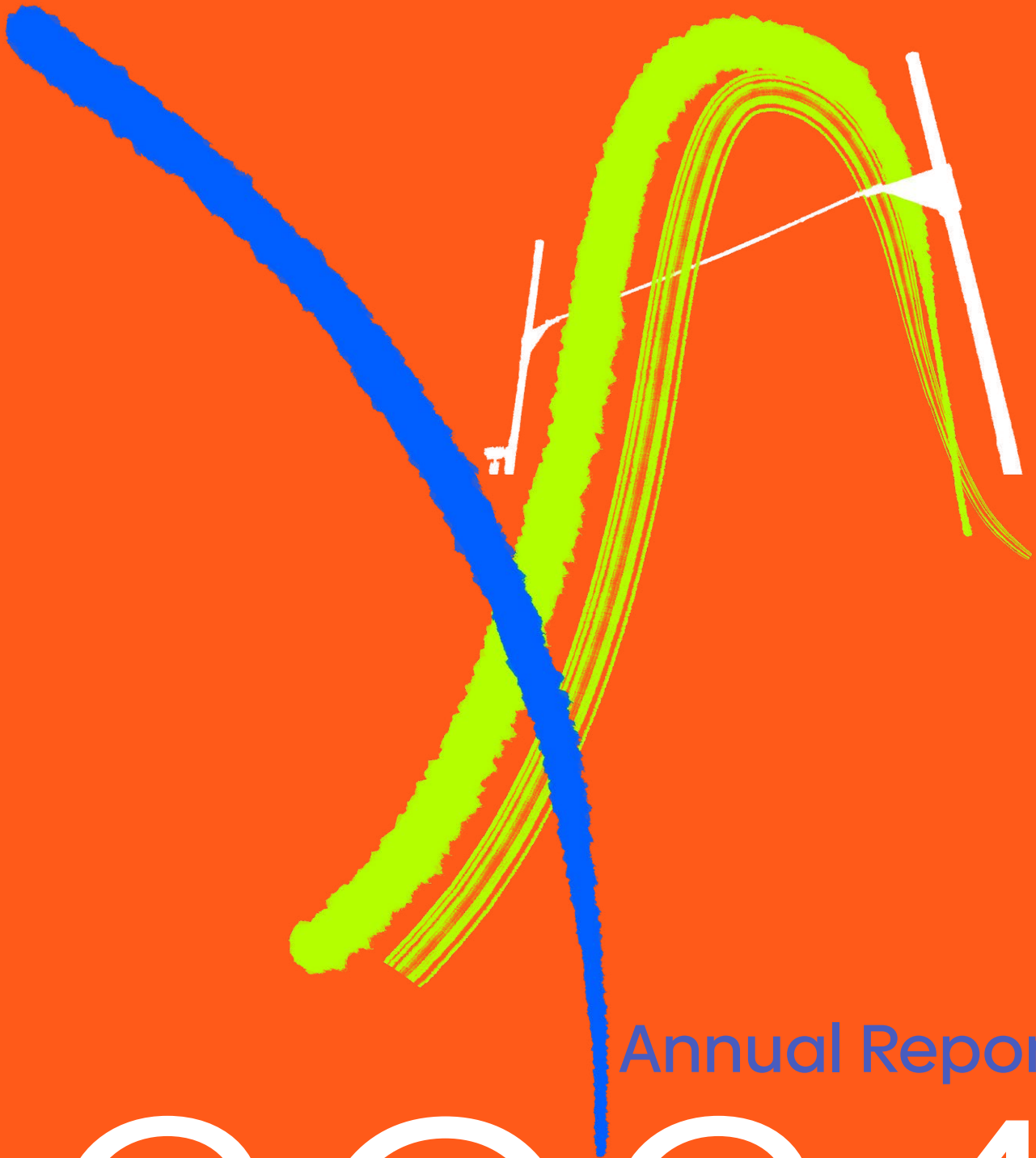




Athletics
Integrity
Unit



Annual Report

2024

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Foreword



David Howman
AIU Board Chair



In 2024, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) continued to deepen its mandate as the global guardian of integrity in athletics. The Paris Olympic Games was the defining event of the year and much of our work focused on ensuring athletes competed in full compliance with the rules, and that sport's grandest stage remained credible, fair, and clean.

A significant portion of the AIU's operational energy was directed toward managing cases with direct Olympic implications. This included the fast-tracking of disciplinary proceedings, both at First Instance and Appeal level, while preparing for late-breaking matters to be addressed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Several high-profile cases, including those of Issamade Asinga, Thiago Braz, Mehdi Frère, and Norbert Kobielski, were concluded in time to preserve the integrity of the Olympic competition. Only one Adverse Analytical Finding (Dominique Lasconi Mulamba) was reported in athletics by the International Testing Agency (ITA) during the Games, with the matter duly referred to the CAS Anti-Doping Division.

Across the full year, the AIU managed 100 international-level cases. In addition to the prosecutions above, the AIU brought successful actions against elite athletes like Lawrence Cherono, Rogers Kwemoi, Rhonex Kipruto, Tsehay Gemechu and Carina Horn. Notably, our commitment to pursuing non-analytical violations remained firm. We managed 26 such cases in 2024, including Whereabouts Failures, biological-passport anomalies, Tampering, Evasion, and historical doping based on the LIMS/McLaren data. These cases reflect the breadth of doping behaviour and the AIU's refusal to limit its work to traditional positive tests.

The AIU's determination to secure stronger deterrence led to enhanced sanctions in 11 cases under the framework of Aggravating Circumstances. These sanctions not only reflect the seriousness of the violations, but they also send a clear message to athletes and support personnel: attempts to deceive, obstruct or conceal will be met with proportionate force.

The year also marked a new frontier for integrity in athletics with the AIU assuming specific responsibilities under the World Athletics' Safeguarding Rules. Following the establishment of the independent Case Management Group (CMG), we began investigating and referring safeguarding complaints against relevant individuals, including conducting two investigations at the Paris Olympic Games. Four cases



were referred to the CMG in its first operational year, all involving allegations of sexual harassment, with additional investigations in progress or referred to other bodies. Our safeguarding mandate is narrowly focused with a defined jurisdiction which mirrors the other integrity issues covered in the Integrity Code, and it represents a vital evolution of our role in promoting safe environments in athletics.

In parallel, the AIU's education strategy embraced an even more tailored, athlete-first approach in 2024. This was particularly vital in an Olympic year. The launch of the AIU Call Room allowed Registered Testing Pool (RTP) athletes to engage directly with AIU experts in confidential one-on-one sessions at a time of their choosing. The statistics speak for themselves: of the 800 athletes in the RTP, 94 athletes from 21 countries participated, including 59 Olympic and World Championship medallists. For 27 of them, it was the first direct interaction with the AIU. These conversations were substantive, as over 88% of them were driven by specific queries and most calls exceeded 20 minutes.

On the testing front, 2024 saw a very high level of testing activity in the lead-up to Paris. Combining efforts by the AIU and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs), a total of 10,112 doping controls were conducted on 1,876 athletes who ultimately competed at the Olympic Games; an average of 5.4 tests per athlete. Out-of-competition tests made up over 7,000 of those controls. These figures have improved through more national-level testing, as the AIU holds National Federations accountable for testing on the teams they take to major events.

Creditably, 97% of athletics medallists in Paris were part of our RTP and every medallist was tested out-of-competition before the Games. Of the 319 finalists in Paris, 87% were either in the AIU's testing pools or monitored closely via targeted recommendations to NADOs. These numbers create a new level for Olympic anti-doping vigilance in athletics.

I was heartened by our progress in 2024, protecting the integrity of the Olympic Games, bringing many cases against top athletes, and playing an important role in World Athletics' new safeguarding framework. We remain committed to ever improving in 2025, informed by what we have learnt and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Devia Howman

Finances

Testing Programme	\$ 4 475 561
Disciplinary/Legal	\$ 627 266
Education	\$ 284 429
Communication	\$ 126 012
Investigations & Intelligence	\$ 305 049
Supervisory Board	\$ 265 106
Administration	\$ 610 547
Allocated Rule 15 Programme Costs	\$ 602 732
Staff Costs	\$ 4 600 884
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 11 897 586
AIU Income	\$ 3 835 582
NET RESULT	\$ 8 062 004

January to December 2024. All figures are in US dollars.

- AIU income includes funding related to the World Athletics Label Road Race Anti-Doping Programme from Label Road Races, the World Marathon Majors, athletes and their representatives and shoe companies, adidas, ASICS and Nike plus recovered expenses from the Russian Athletics Federation and the enhanced Kenya Anti-Doping Project.
- The AIU Head was remunerated as follows in 2024: gross salary of €320,838 (\$ 334,172); housing allowance of €80,004 (\$ 83,328). Conversion to US dollars based on 31 December 2024 exchange rate.
- In 2024, the remuneration for Board members was \$35,000 for the Chair and \$15,000 each for other Board members.

Education

In an Olympic year, the importance of preserving the integrity of sport is magnified. Last year, as athletes prepared for Paris 2024, our education programme rose to the occasion with a truly diverse, inclusive, and accessible approach – designed to meet the needs of today's athletes and their support personnel.

Highlights included:

- The launch of the AIU Call Room, a bespoke one-on-one integrity advisory service.
- A redesign of Registered Testing Pool (RTP) induction sessions, using real-life case studies.
- Expanded in-person outreach at Diamond League meets and World Athletics U20 Championships.
- Tailored programmes for Athlete Support Personnel (ASP), reinforcing their clean sport role.
- This report reflects a year of innovation, collaboration, and athlete-focused education activities, all delivered to protect and promote the values of fair and ethical competition on sport's biggest stage.

Paris 2024-focused Programmes

In the lead-up to the Paris Olympic Games, we delivered programmes to help athletes and ASP to understand applicable rules and regulations, provided individualised assistance on request and made AIU visible and its staff and educators approachable and accessible through our presence at several meets and events. While initiatives like the AIU Call Room were aimed at elite athletes (on our RTP), our engagement activities at Diamond League meets ensured wider reach.

AIU Call Room

Launched two months before Paris 2024, the Call Room offered private, athlete-driven, one-on-one integrity advice in 12 languages – responding directly to athlete feedback.

AIU Call Room Key Stats

94

RTP athletes from
21 countries

83%

Ranked Top 8
globally

59

World & Olympic
medallists

27

First-time AIU
engagements

5

follow-up sessions
requested

88%

of calls prompted by
a specific question

20 minutes

Average conversation length:
(5min to 1hr)

Athlete Feedback Highlights

“Direct 1-1 calls are efficient and personal.”

“Flexible, approachable, and supportive.”

“Bridging language barriers is a big win.”

Integrity Guide

Distributed to all athletes and National Federations, the guide covered anti-doping rules, testing protocols, Whereabouts, Competition Manipulation, and Safeguarding – in seven languages.

#RoadtoParis Newsletter

Reached 1,500+ athletes and ASP, achieving a 69.5% open rate – well above the 15-25% industry average – with over 3,000 opens and hundreds of Integrity Guide downloads.

Community Engagement Programme

To foster informal, athlete-led conversations and build community trust, AIU educators engaged directly with athletes at Diamond League meets, US Trials, and the World Athletics U20 Championships.

Event	Outreach Days	Interactions	RTP Athletes	Countries	Conversation Minutes
US Trials (Eugene)	4	74	31	1	332 min
Diamond Leagues	10	113	92	23	339 min
World Athletics U20 Championships	5	697	-	66	578 min

Key Outcome: Conversations focused on listening, clarifying rules, and fostering a supportive athletics community.

Online Education Sessions

The AIU delivers online education sessions to small, regionally and linguistically tailored athlete cohorts, strengthening their connections with both the AIU and fellow athletes. To enhance quality and relevance, real-life case studies were introduced and the RTP induction session was comprehensively redesigned, reaffirming the AIU's commitment to guiding athletes throughout their elite careers. These enhancements were positively received by the athletics community.

Types of Online Sessions offered

- Track and Field RTP Sessions
- Road Running RTP Sessions
- Induction Sessions for new RTP and Monitoring Pool athletes
- On-Demand Sessions

Programme Highlights

- 74 sessions delivered (up 17% from 2023)
- 926 attendees (including 610 RTP athletes)
- 68 countries reached (+2 from 2023)
- Delivered in 14 languages (+4 from 2023)
- 106.3 total delivery hours (+21% from 2023)

What did the community think of the sessions?

"Whenever there is an issue, we will be updated, we will be welcomed with everything. So, I just wanted to say thank you for your time, thank you for always teaching us. It is good to always have many of such sessions, that we athletes got to learn such things."

Kenyan Road Runner

"Thank you for this kind of education. You know whenever we benefit from these sessions, we then extend this to other athletes. It is good to always have sessions like this, so that we can learn every day"

Ethiopian Road Runner

"I really like and respect that the AIU is there, and you guys are very helpful."

Olympic and World medallist
(European long jumper)

Athlete Representatives Professional Development

Athlete Representatives (ARs) were recognised as a key pillar in the athletics' integrity framework, particularly following the introduction of new World Athletics licensing rules requiring their participation in continued professional development (CPD). To address existing gaps in provision and understanding, the AIU partnered with Leeds Beckett University to co-create an innovative, evidence-informed CPD programme centred on the needs of ARs.

Educators Training

In 2024, 12 educators — including former Olympians, support personnel, and integrity professionals — were recruited and trained to support the athletics community. Equipped to manage conversations and deliver integrity education, they played a vital role in bridging language and cultural barriers. These educators led online sessions in 14 languages and provided personalised, integrity-related advice through the AIU Call Room, enhancing athlete and support-personnel engagement worldwide.

Collaborative Efforts with National Federations

Through collaborative efforts, the AIU leveraged the National Federation Anti-Doping Obligations rule (Rule 15 of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules) to make sure athletes are educated by their respective National Federation.

Key Highlights



4 Focus groups conducted



11 ARs engaged (2 females, 9 males; 2–40 years' experience)



100% of ARs valued integrity-focused CPD discussions



1 co-designed online workshop on athlete vulnerability and the AR's role as a protective agent



258 ARs participated in the CPD session

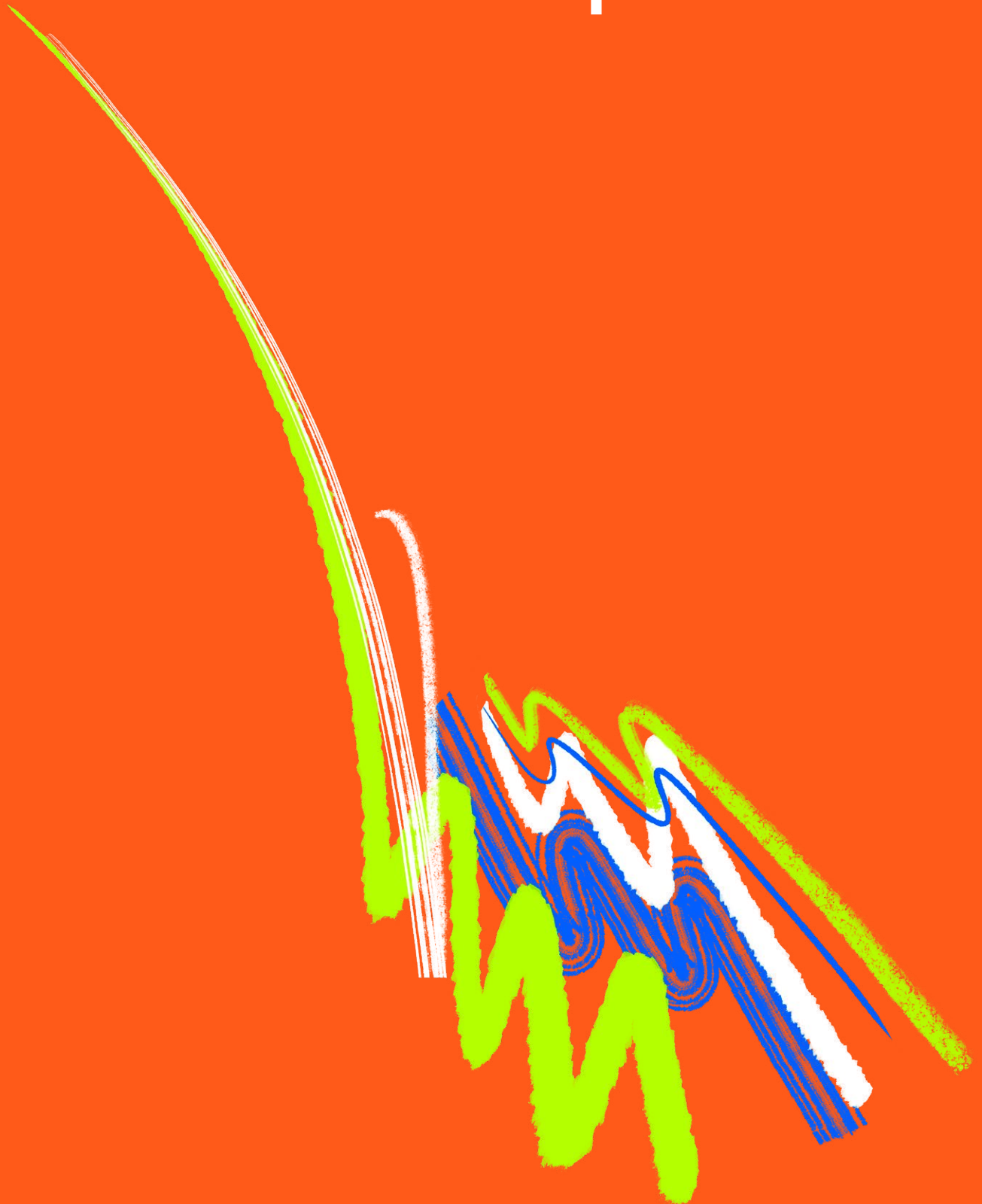
10,260

International-level Athlete Support
Personnel engaged in 2024

2,431

International-level and
RTP athletes engaged in 2024
(through National Federation/
National Anti-Doping Organisations'
workshops/e-learning)

Testing & Compliance



Unprecedented Levels of Testing in Athletics in Paris 2024 Lead-up

Thanks to the combined efforts of the AIU, National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and the International Testing Agency (ITA), through its Pre-Games testing-monitoring programme, an unprecedented level of testing was conducted on national-team athletes in the lead-up to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



A total of **10,112 doping controls** – including 7,080 out-of-competition (OOC) tests – were conducted on the 1,876 athletes who competed in Paris (average of 5.4 tests/athlete)



39% of the OOC tests were conducted by the AIU and **61%** by NADOs



97% of medallists in Paris were included in one of the AIU testing pools (**87%** in the main Registered Testing Pool and **10 %** in second-tier pools).



All medallists in Paris had at least one OOC test before competing.



Of the **319 finalists** in Paris, **224 (70%)** were part of AIU's RTP and another **53 (total of 87%)** were monitored by the AIU either as part of the second-tier AIU testing pools or through express recommendations to NADOs. Only seven of the 319 finalists were not tested out-of-competition prior to the Olympic Games.

More detailed statistics on national teams testing levels can be found here:
athleticsintegrity.org/national-teams-testing-levels-paris

Consolidation of the AIU Testing Programme in 2024

The AIU consolidated its testing programme in 2024 with an Athlete Biological Passport programme being extended to the four available modules (Haematological Module, Blood and Urinary Steroid Modules and the Endocrine Module) as well as the use of numerous special analyses for better detection and deterrence of doping.

The AIU has also strengthened its in-competition testing programme with doping controls carried out at more than 522 competitions sanctioned by World Athletics. The AIU has also consolidated its programme in East Africa, a key region in our Road Running Integrity Programme, with a strengthened presence on the ground and close cooperation with and sustained support for local authorities for more robust domestic anti-doping programmes, complementing the AIU's programme.



2024 AIU Testing Statistics



12,982

doping control
samples collected



On
3,744

athletes



Representing
139

nationalities



838

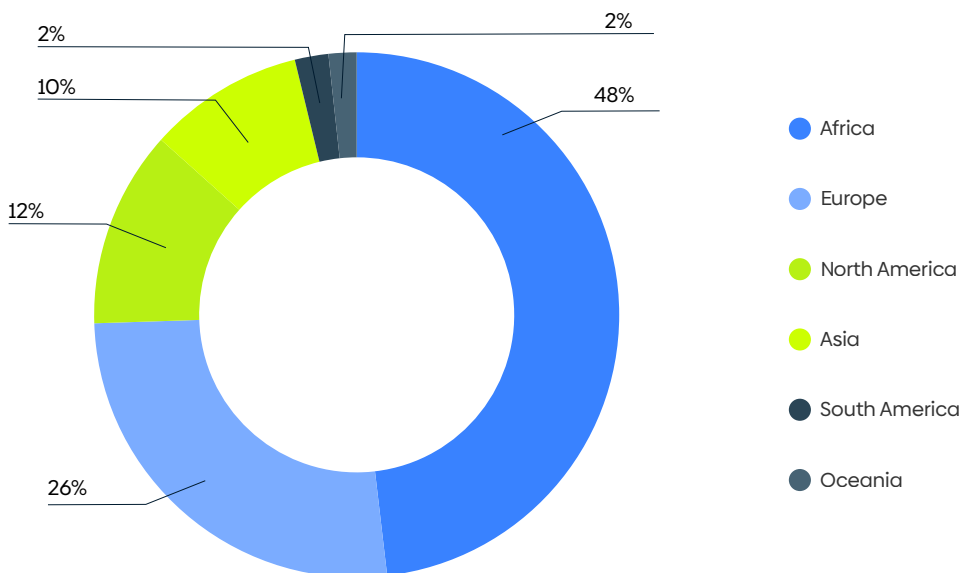
athletes in the
Registered Testing Pool



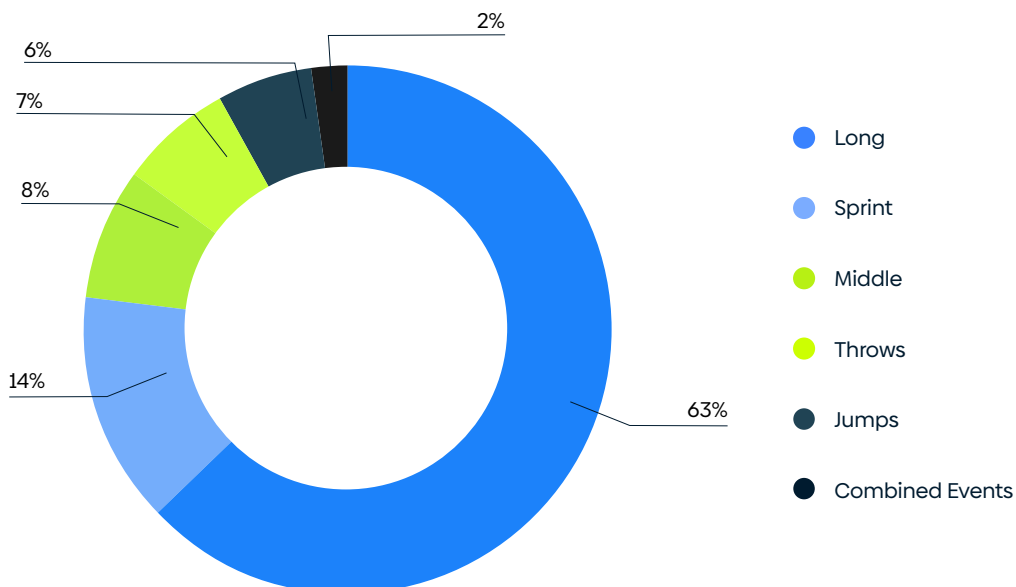
Testing conducted at
522

competitions

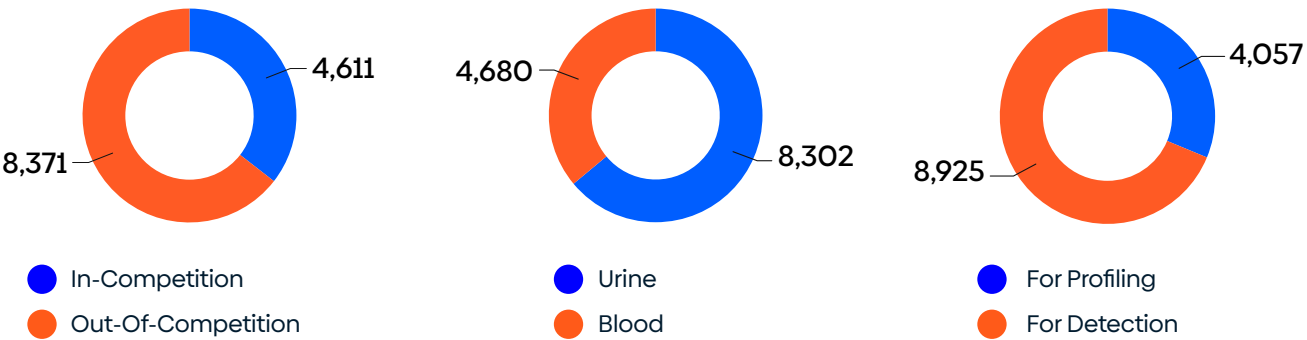
Distribution by Continent



Distribution by Discipline



Distribution of Samples

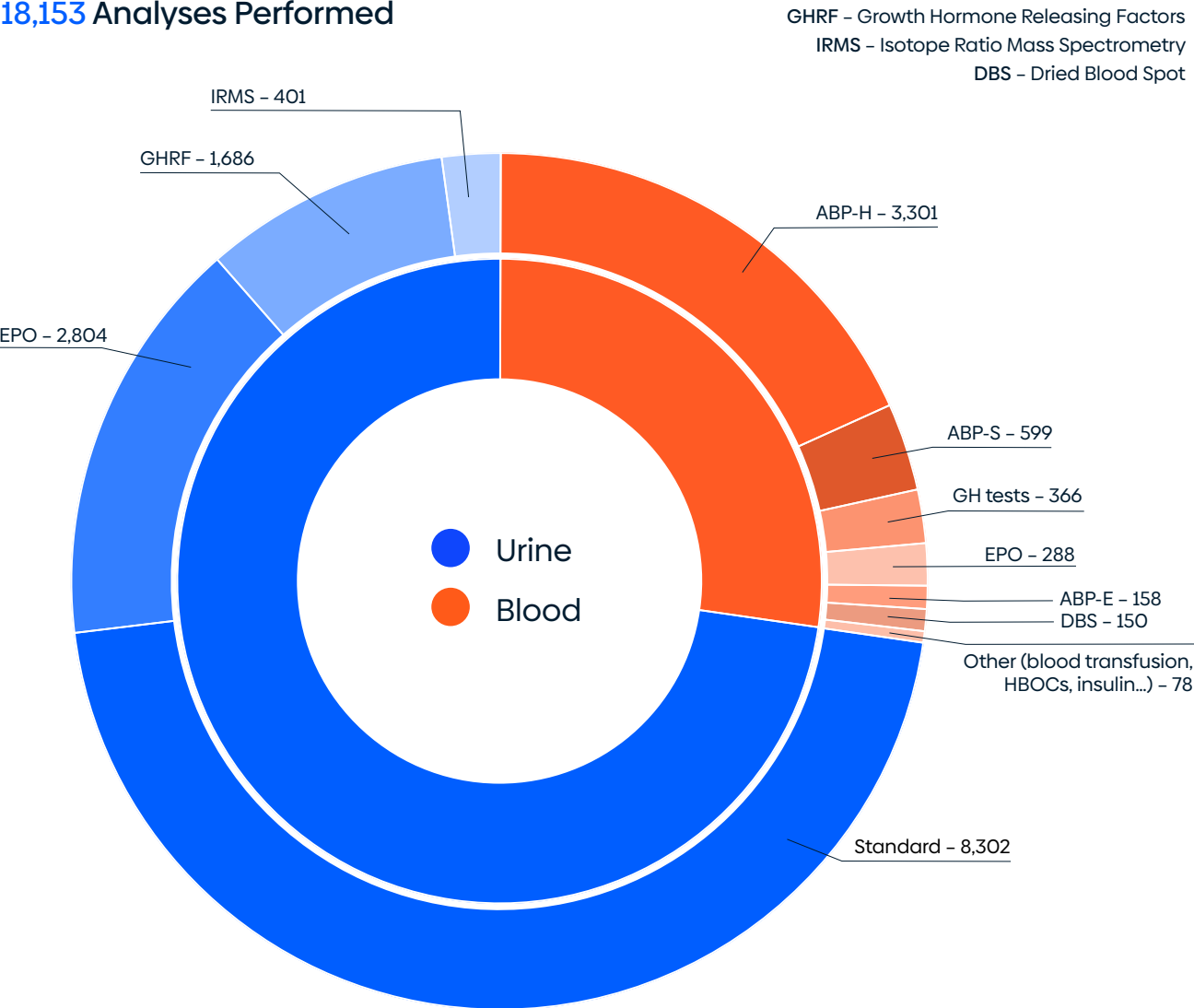


Distribution of Gender



Total: 12,982 samples
Average of age: 28

18,153 Analyses Performed



Case Management

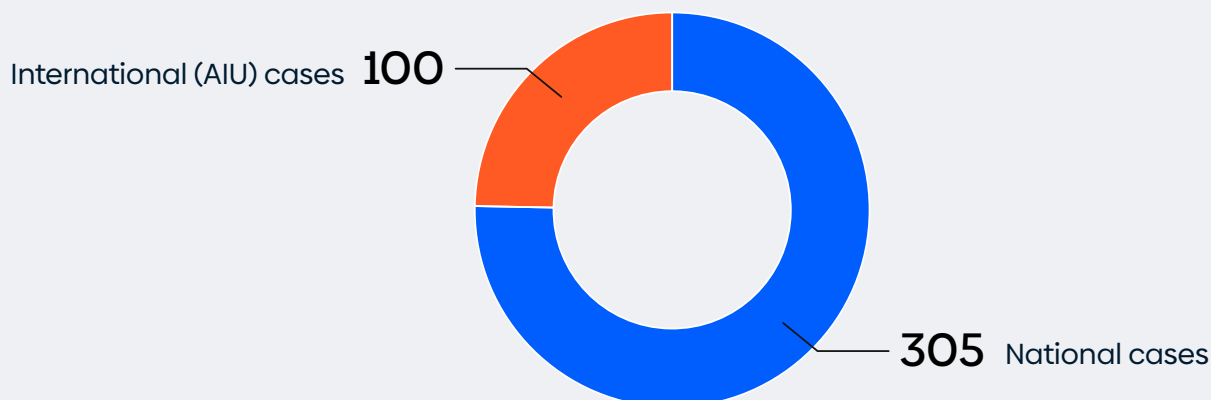
A large focus for Case Management in 2024 was the Paris Olympic Games and taking all necessary steps to ensure the eligibility of athletes who competed at the Games. This meant expediting disciplinary cases heard at First Instance and on appeal but also managing cases arising on the eve of the Games before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Several high-profile cases received priority treatment ahead of the Games. Only one Adverse Analytical Finding was reported at the Games (Dominique Lasconi Mulamba) and his case was referred to the CAS Anti-Doping Division.

One hundred international-level athlete cases were managed in 2024, with cases successfully prosecuted against elite athletes such as Issamade Asinga, Thiago Braz, Mehdi Frère, Norbert Kobielski, Carina Horn, Rhonex Kipruto, Lawrence Cherono, Rogers Kwemoi and Tsehay Gemechu. There were three instances in which athletes were successful in defending cases against them: Tobi Amusan, Norah Jeruto and Rule 15 appeal by three Brazilian athletes (Livia Avancini, Max Batista and Hygor Bezerra) seeking to compete in Paris. The pursuit of non-analytical cases remained an AIU priority, with 26 cases pursued during the year (6 Whereabouts Failures cases, 3 ABP cases, 3 Tampering cases, 1 Evasion case and 13 cases based on the LIMS/McLaren evidence). The AIU's commitment to seeking increased sanctions in cases of Aggravating Circumstances resulted in 11 enhanced sanctions being imposed during the year.

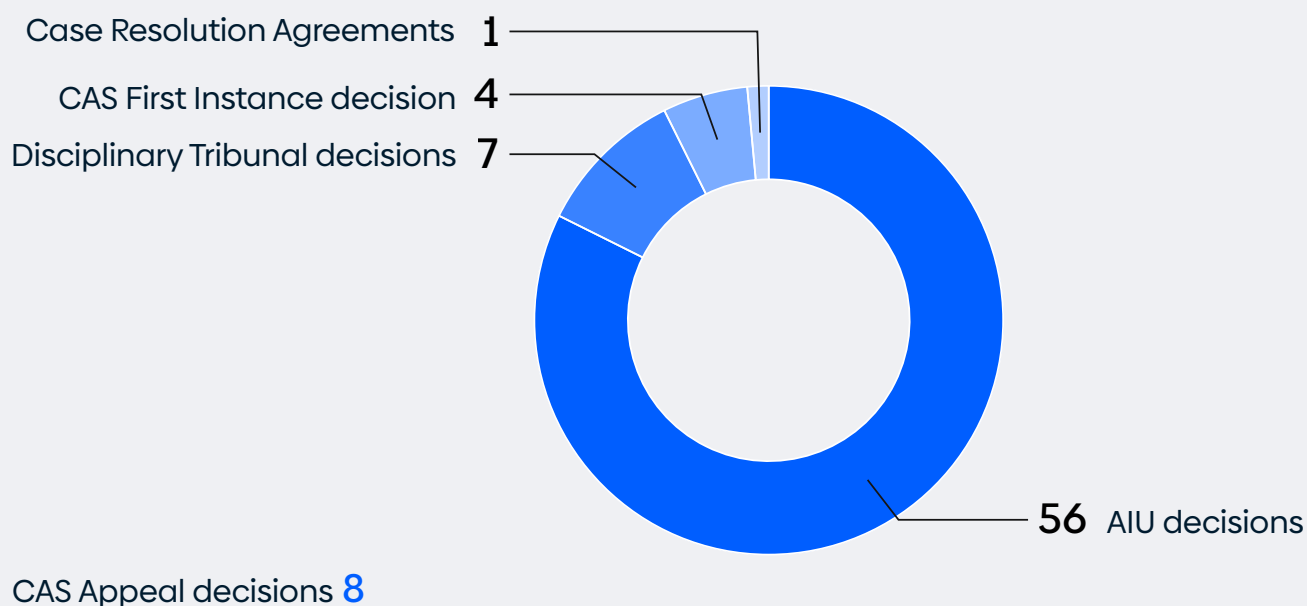
In addition, an increased number of Safeguarding cases were managed following the creation of the independent Case Management Group under the World Athletics Safeguarding Rules, including following Safeguarding cases that arose on-site in Paris in co-operation with the IOC Safeguarding Officer. A harassment and abuse case involving a Belarusian official that arose during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (in 2021) was concluded before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Doping

405 cases in 2024

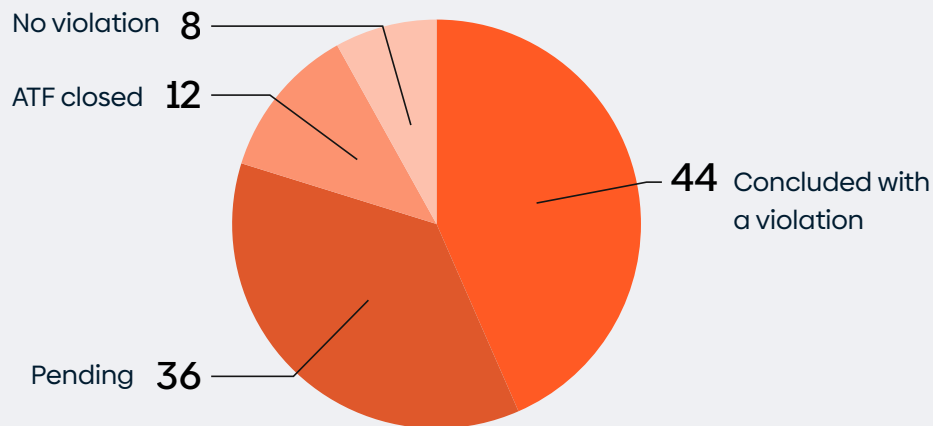


68 First Instance decisions regarding international-level athletes



100 International cases

Case Status

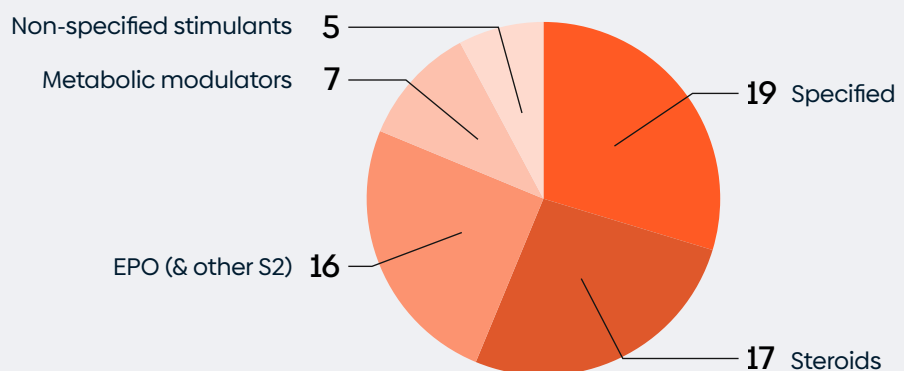


Types of Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)



Atypical Findings

Adverse Analytical Findings (64)

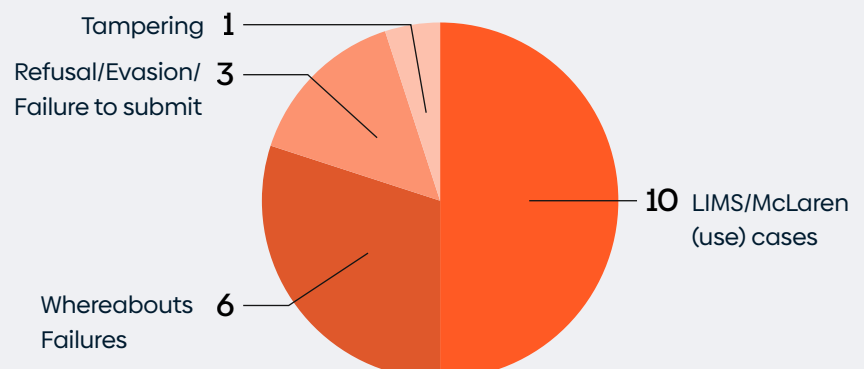


Types of ADRVs



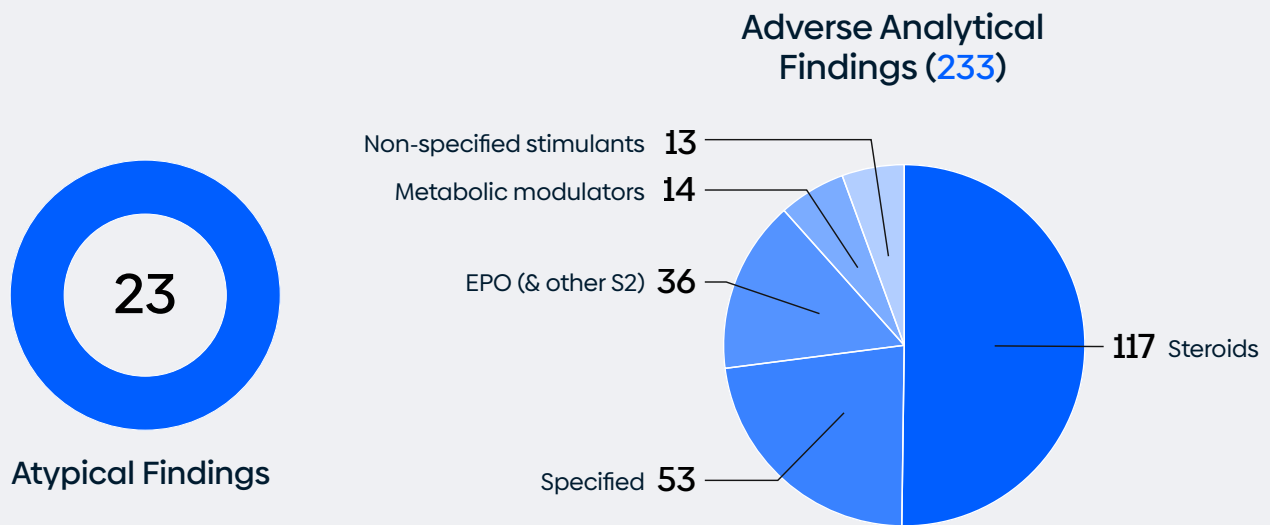
Adverse Passport Findings

Non-Analytical (20 cases)

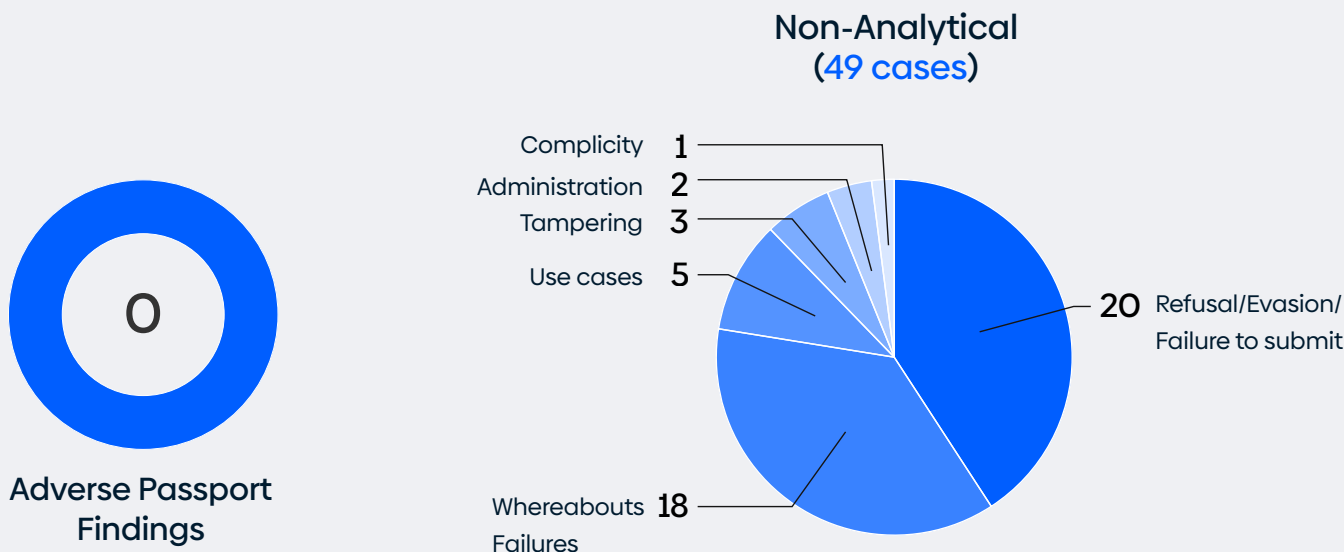


305 National cases

Types of ADRVs

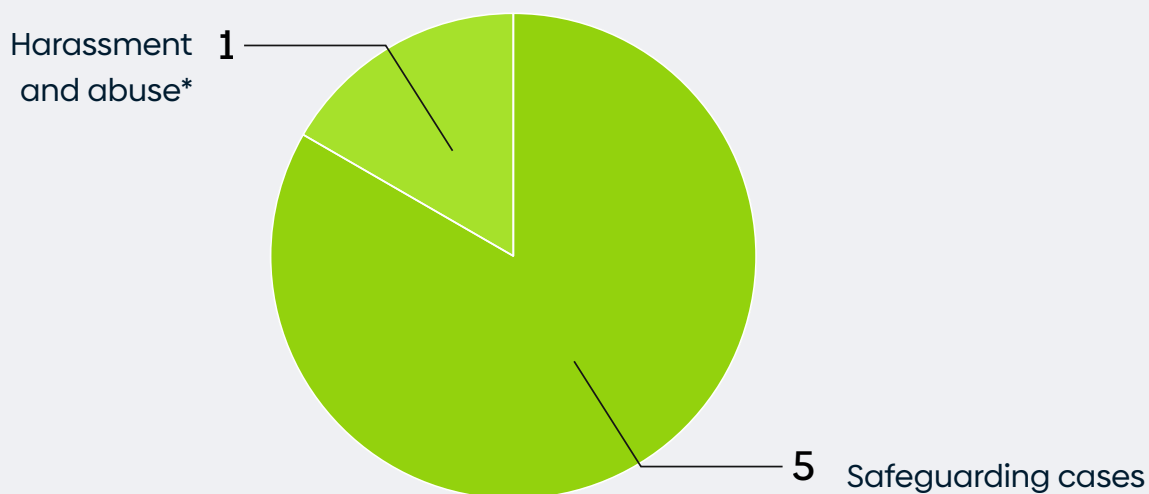
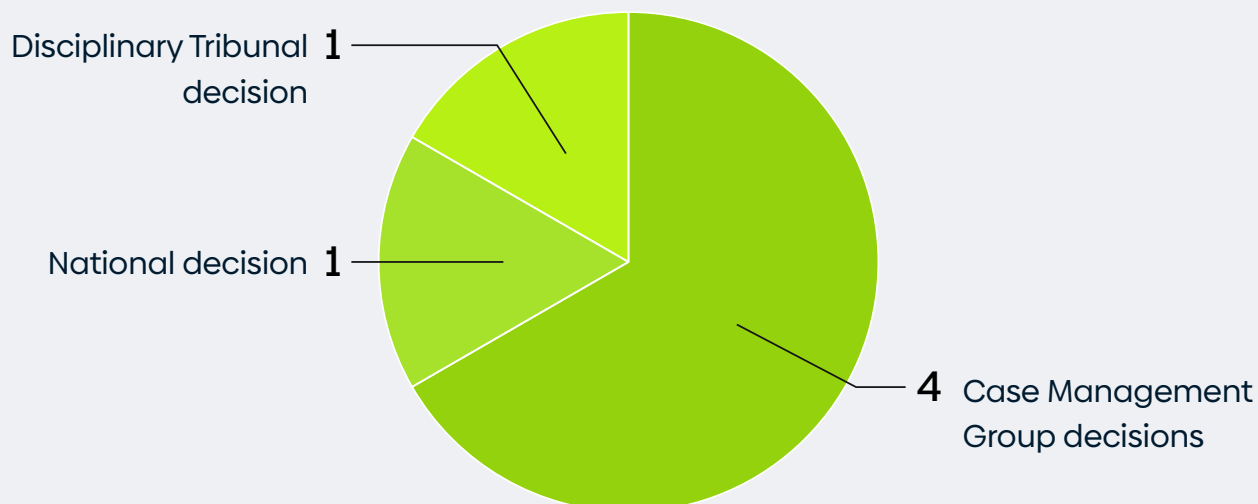


Types of ADRVs



Non-Doping

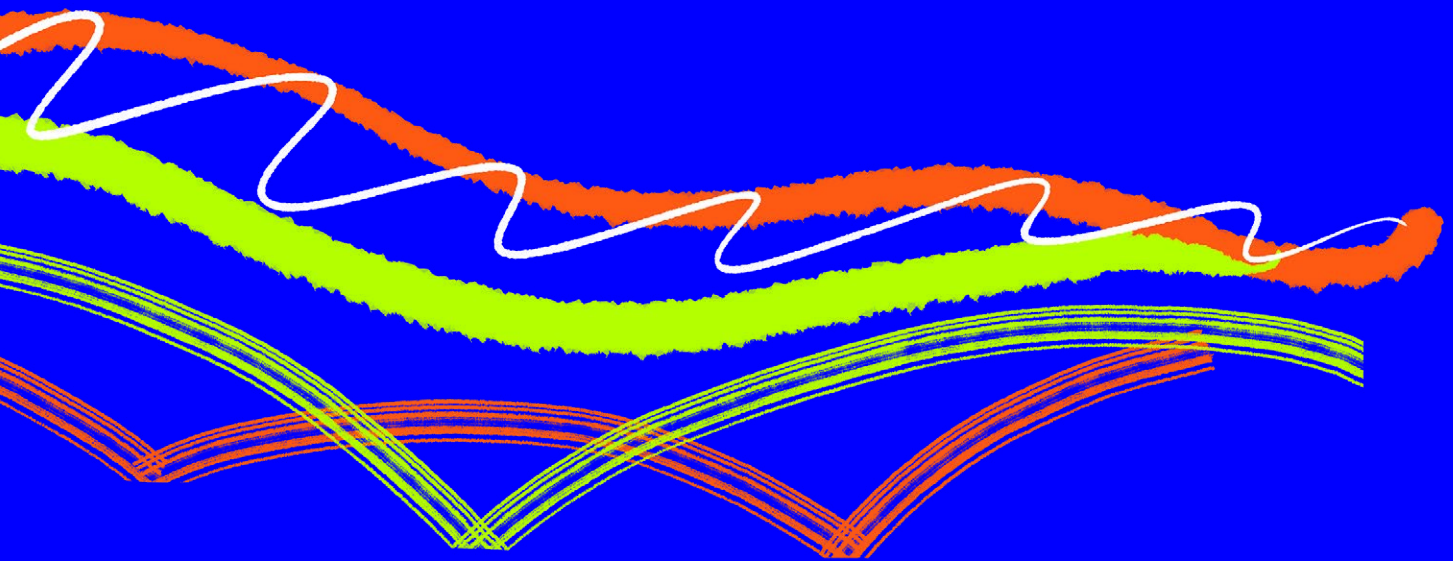
6 cases in 2024



*Pre-dates the 2023 Safeguarding Rules

Investigations & Intelligence

The Investigations & Intelligence (I&I)
unit focused on the Paris 2024
Olympic Games last year.



Prior to the Olympic Games, the I&I team – through its single point of contact to the International Olympic Committee's Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition Unit – ensured that real-time flagging of any unusual betting patterns involving athletics was in place for the Olympics. While no individual issues were raised, this work identified that the global gambling market is growing in track & field and road running. It is anticipated to become a more prominent area of our work. Plans to monitor this effectively in future years are being considered.

Also, in the run-up to Paris, 115 suspect results were identified and investigated, leading to 12 enquiries being pursued with World Athletics, under suspicion of possible Competition Manipulation, with some results subsequently being annulled. The impact of the Competition Manipulation Watch List was also evident in Paris, with much more confidence in the results obtained from athletes who represented the eight Member Federations on the watch list. That eventually led to all eight federations being removed (under conditions) from the watch list at year-end.

During the Olympic Games, one Adverse Analytical Finding led to direct involvement from the I&I team, while a collaborative investigation was run with both the International Testing Agency (with responsibility for anti-doping during the Olympic Games) and the Agence Française de Lutte Contre le Dopage (the French National Anti-Doping Agency), following reports made to all three organisations.

Following Paris, the I&I team sent two staff members to the World Athletics U20 Championships, in Lima, with a focus on Age Manipulation and Safeguarding. Engagement with athletes, support persons and others there helped to underpin the start of a much deeper review of the issue of Age Manipulation, with work in that area expected to come to fruition in 2025. We also engaged with certain Member Federations to discuss concerns in their respective countries.

In late 2024, the I&I unit conducted a full review of all internal documents, policies and procedures, as well as a restructuring of the unit, giving clearer internal lines of reporting and responsibility for both anti-doping and integrity-based investigations. This is part of our dedication to being fit-for-purpose and continuing to be world-leading in investigations. Additionally, the sustained enhancement of a bespoke version of the Clue database centralised our work, improving coordination, timeliness and responsiveness.

Collaboration began with the Japan Sport Council's Sport Integrity Unit, Japan Sports Agency, Japan Anti-Doping Agency, and the Local Organising Committee for Tokyo 2025, to ensure full coordination with between the AIU and all local enforcement bodies during the Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships.

Last year also saw the I&I unit lead the AIU's activity in Safeguarding, in line with the World Athletics Safeguarding Rules. Investigations were concluded into three international cases, and two others were referred to National Federations to adjudicate upon after being investigated on-site by the AIU at Paris 2024.

Two I&I staff were part of the six-person drafting team for the forthcoming inaugural stand-alone WADA International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations (ISII), seeking to ensure and guide the standardisation of investigative work in anti-doping across all anti-doping organisations. The ISII will become the reference document for anti-doping investigations, and the AIU's representation on the drafting team couples nicely with our leading roles on other WADA-coordinated I&I groups, such as the Sport Human Intelligence Network, and Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network.

Key Cases:

During 2024, the AIU's I&I department's skills were deployed across a wide range of investigations, including Daniel Do Nascimento (AAF, sanctioned with 5 years' ineligibility), Alemtsehay Asefa (Whereabouts Failures, 2 years), Sultan Haydar (Refusal, 2 years 6 months), Faith Chepkoech (AAF, 3 years), Emmaculate Achol (AAF, 6 years), Tsehay Gemechu (ABP, 4 years), and Abderrahim Ougra (Evasion, 3 years).

Communications

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games presented a unique opportunity for various communications activities, showcasing the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) and its work, especially supporting athletes before and during the Games.

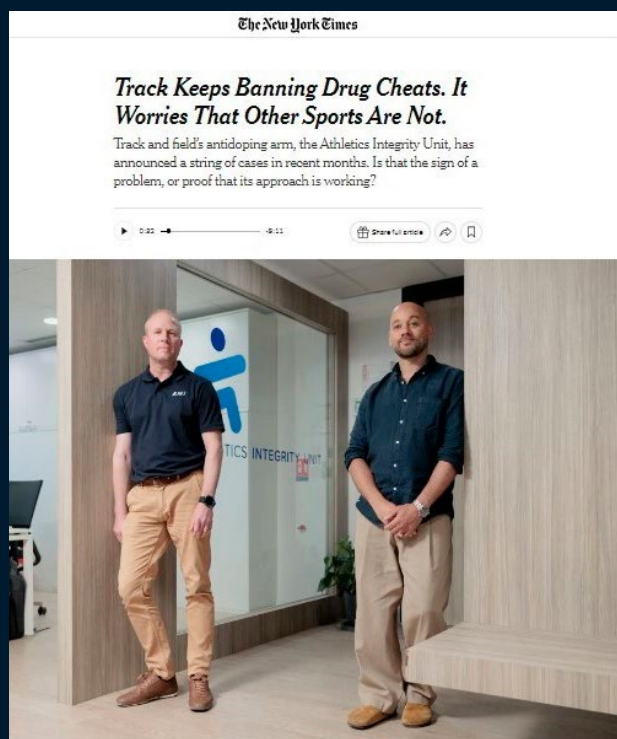
This busy period saw the AIU in demand for interviews – including welcoming the New York Times to our office for an in-depth feature – while curating impactful social media to assist athletes and partnering with Education to promote the AIU Call Room; a confidential, one-on-one integrity education helpline. This diverse content, as well as timely output of Games-times disciplinary matters, garnered many eyeballs and much interest.



Media engagement/interviews

Media interest in the AIU was strong leading up to and during the Olympics with AIU Chair, David Howman; AIU Head, Brett Clothier; and AIU Deputy Head, Thomas Capdevielle either being interviewed by industry and mainstream global media on request and, in other instances, having informal chats for information purposes on the sidelines of Paris 2024. These included The Economist, The New York Times, L'Equipe, Le Monde (Afrique), ARD (German broadcaster), The Times (UK), The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS), ZDF (German television), Wide World of Sports (Australia), Finland's National Broadcasting Company (YLE), TV New Zealand, ABC Australia, The Herald Sun (Australia), ESPN Brazil and CH Media (Switzerland).

As a result of this engagement, there was a lot of positive and informative news about the AIU and its work. Pleasingly, major media is now beginning to view the AIU's many cases as being a success for the sport of athletics, showing its credibility and strong stance on integrity, rather than being a negative.



A snapshot of resulting print and broadcast stories

New York Times (USA):

[How Track's Athletics Integrity Unit Catches Doping Cheats - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

[Why Kenya Stopped Running From Its Doping Past - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

ARD (Germany):

[Doping Top Secret Dirty Games Part04 - YouTube](#)

[Doping Top Secret Dirty Games Part05 - YouTube](#)

Le Monde Afrique (France):

[In Kenya, the kingdom of marathon runners, the fight against doping intensifies](#)

Herald Sun (Australia):

[Herald Sun: Investigators could have just six hours to catch a cheat as athletics' war on doping continues](#)

ZDF (Germany):

[Olympics 2024: Anti-doping chief on ZDF: No clean games - ZDFheute](#)

1News (New Zealand):

[Olympics: Doping concerns simmer as China's swimmers compete \(1news.co.nz\)](#)

Wide World of Sports (Australia):

[Paris 2024 Olympics: David Howman calls for Australian sprinting legend Raelene Boyle to be given gold medals \(nine.com.au\)](#)

Analytics spanning from two weeks before the Games until two weeks after Paris 2024 (12 July to 25 August 2024), revealed 2,648 articles referenced the AIU, with a global reach of 6.1 billion and a 98% favourable tonality.

The New York Times articles had reaches of 148.2 million; ZDF (broadcast), 28.6 million; Le Monde, 27 million; ARD (broadcast), 10 million; 1News, 2.1 million; and the Herald Sun, 1.6 million.

Social media

Boosted by our refreshed branding, our social-media content stood out prominently for the Olympics. Topics relevant to athletes were to the fore, particularly the AIU Call Room. The Communications unit promoted this AIU initiative heavily, amplifying key messaging regarding Call Room operations, explaining where athletes could meet AIU staff to discuss the Call Room and how to register for sessions. Call Room social-media content generated a reach of 7.4 million with a 70% favourable tonality.

Other important issues highlighted on our channels were Whereabouts, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), the verification of competition shoes, testing protocols for Paris 2024, and the reallocation of Olympic medals in athletics.

Social media for Paris 2024

We also ran a three-part series of 'Take Care' posts, based on actual cases, about specific risks athletes should avoid. We noted the resulting sanctions for the athletes, despite their claims of not knowing or misunderstanding the regulations. There were also posts celebrating athletes and **#PowerOfRespect** content. Post-Olympics, we featured athletes complimenting the Call Room, thereby underlining its success.

As customary, AIU also kept the public abreast of all suspensions and sanctions with timely updates on X (formerly Twitter).



Global Online Media

21.7K
Volume

11.9K
Unique Authors

29.2 Billion
Potential Reach

104.3K
Engagement

65.8%
Sentiment (positive)

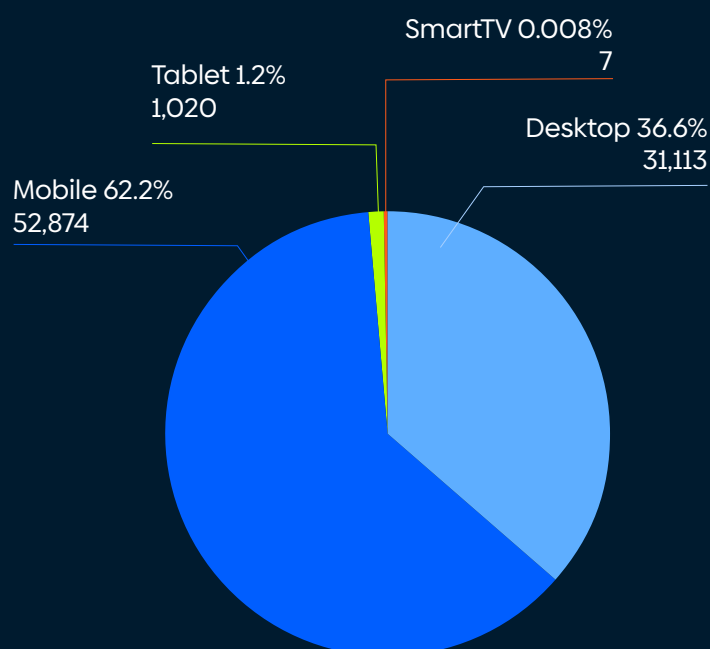
Website

85,014
Users

122,276
Sessions

203
Countries

Access Devices



Platform	Followers 2023	Followers 2024	Change	Reach 2023	Reach 2024	Change	Engagements 2023	Engagements 2024	Change
X	11 043	12 639	14 %	4 985 771	8 459 272	70 %	11 200	7 093	-37 %
Instagram	2 144	2 795	30 %	78 505	99 151	26 %	2 052	2 581	26 %
Facebook	6 169	6 507	5 %	70 678	105 834	50 %	963	676	-30 %



media@athleticsintegrity.org
athleticsintegrity.org