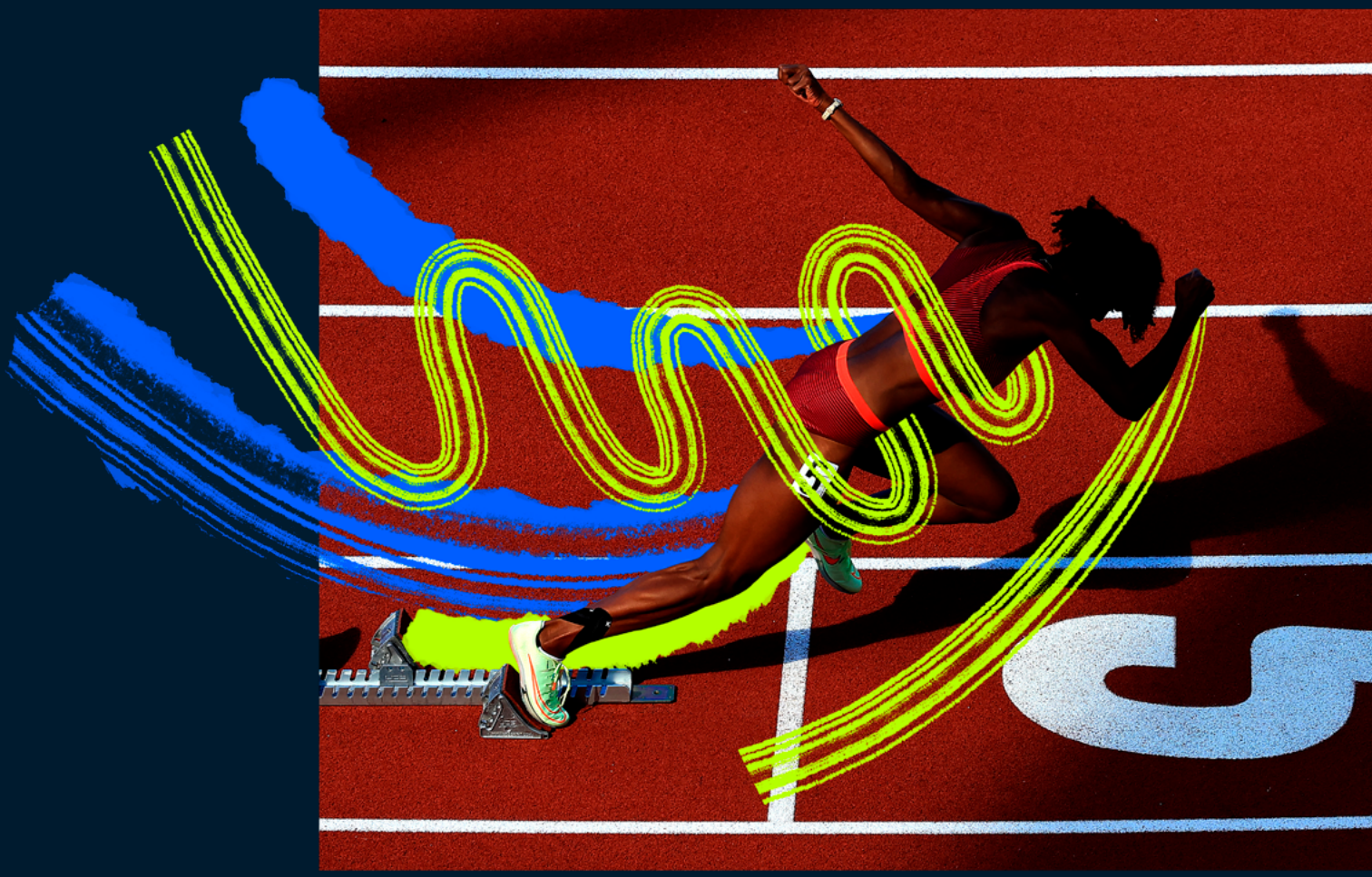
Athletics Integrity Unit



Annual Report 2025

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Foreword



David Howman
AIU Board Chair

In 2025, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) continued to make positive strides in the execution of its mandate of protecting the integrity of the sport of athletics, achieving progress in the critical areas of betting and safeguarding while also prosecuting several high-profile doping cases. These achievements came in a World Championships year where it was very important to ensure that fairness and integrity were upheld, and in this regard the AIU remained fully committed, leaving no stone unturned in its efforts both before and during the Tokyo Championships.

A demonstration of this approach was highlighted in the successful prosecution of women's marathon world record-holder, Ruth Chepng'etich, the Kenyan athlete who was banned for three years in October after admitting to Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) regarding the presence and use of the diuretic Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ), a well-known "masking agent". Chepng'etich, who broke the World record at the Chicago Marathon in October 2024, subsequently tested positive in March and was provisionally suspended in July. Strong investigative activity on the ground in Kenya provided compelling evidence of an ADRV, leading to her admission and a relatively swift conclusion to the proceedings. This result underscores the effectiveness of the AIU's investigative and intelligence work, along with its targeted testing strategy, and also reinforces the notion that no one in the sport is above the rules.

Chepng'etich was only one of several top athletes whose cases were successfully prosecuted in 2025. American sprinter Erriyon Knighton, a World silver and bronze medallist, received a four-year ban also in October after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld the AIU's appeal in his case. Olympic and World Championship silver medallist, Koki Ikeda, was banned for four years in February in an Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) case; Spain's Mohamed Katir, a World 5,000 metres silver medallist, had an appeal against a four-year tampering ban dismissed in September; while former World Under-20 100-metre record-holder, Issamade Asinga, also saw his appeal against a four-year ban dismissed in October. Other cases were announced against top athletes such as Kibiwott Kandie, Marina Beck-Romanchuk, Wilfried Happio, Diribe Welteji, Bernard Koech and Tedu Teshome.

The AIU also maintained a steadfast focus on non-doping matters as it continued



to confront evolving threats to the sport, further reiterating the fact that integrity in athletics extends far beyond simply the investigation and prosecution of doping cases. To this end, the zero tolerance policy on betting was enforced with the sanctions of three athletes - two of whom had participated at the World Championships in Tokyo - while safeguarding remained at the forefront with American coach and World long jump record holder, Mike Powell, suspended indefinitely by the Case Management Group in September following a referral by the AIU. In 2025, the AIU made eight safeguarding referrals to the Case Management Group. These cases reflect the AIU's continued commitment to protecting athletics not only from doping, but also from conduct that threatens athlete welfare and safety, the fairness of competition and trust in the sport.

A central pillar of the AIU's anti-doping strategy is the application of Rule 15 geared towards strengthening anti-doping frameworks at the national level. This allows the AIU to continue its focus on what it does best – intelligence-based testing of the international top-tier athletes. The success of the collaboration with Member Federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) was evidenced in testing numbers in the lead-up to last year's World Championships in Tokyo where there was a marked rise in out-of-competition (OOC) testing by NADOs, in comparison to recent World Championship years. In fact, NADO-led testing rose by 19 per cent ahead of the Tokyo showpiece when compared to the same period prior to the Budapest World Championships in 2023, with 3,300 OOC tests pre-Budapest to 3,940 OOC tests pre-Tokyo. Significantly, during the eight-year period since the London World Championships in 2017, NADO-led OOC testing increased by 71 per cent.

Finally, in 2025, the AIU contributed to the World Anti-Doping Code Review process. This Code has been reviewed every six years, and so it was an important opportunity for the sport of athletics to have its say in strengthening the rules. While the AIU positively contributed to many changes that have been made, in a process like this it is inevitable that not all of our submissions were adopted. We will continue to work for improvements in the global system.

While the sport of athletics has made great strides, the reality is that more must be done across the rest of the anti-doping landscape as too many elite-level dopers still continue to evade detection. This should be a serious concern for all Anti-Doping Organisations (ADOs) and demands a far more robust and collective response from the global ADO community.



Finances

Testing Programme	$ 4 358 966
Case management	$ 680 530
Education	$ 283 873
Communication	$ 50 845
Investigations & Intelligence	$ 230 468
Integrity board	$ 202 128
Administration	$ 746 260
Allocated Rule 15 Programme Costs	$ 487 117
Staff Costs (Gross Salary including Social Insurance)	$ 4 860 220
TOTAL INTEGRITY UNIT	$ 11 900 407
TOTAL INTEGRITY UNIT NET INCOME	$ -3 977 885
TOTAL INTEGRITY UNIT NET RESULT	$ 7 922 522

January to December 2025. 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, Nike and On, plus recovered expenses from the Russian Athletics Federation, Bahrain Athletics Association and the enhanced Kenya Anti-Doping Project.
- The AIU Head was remunerated as follows in 2025: gross salary of €316,837 ($372,699); housing allowance of €80,004 ($94,109). Conversion to US dollars based on 31 December 2025 exchange rate (1.1763)
- In 2025, the remuneration for Board members was $35 000 for the Chair and $15,000 each for other Board members.



Education

The AIU's education programmes aim to equip every member of the athletics community - athletes, coaches, representatives, and families - with the knowledge, confidence, and support needed to act with integrity.

In 2025, we achieved a high level of engagement across the athletics community, with over 2700 participants attending online sessions, in-person workshops and our booth at major events. In each of these interactions, our objective remained the same: to meet people where they are, build trust, and ensure integrity is seen as relevant, necessary and achievable.

Highlights included:

- Successful in-person outreach: engaged with 1000+ athletes and 300+ Athlete Support Personal (ASP)
- Doubling the AIU's in-person reach in 2025 through new partnerships
- Developing tailored education programmes for Athletes' Representatives
- Enhancing online learning, particularly by integrating engaging and relatable case studies that reflect real life scenarios



The 2025 Tokyo World Athletics Championships

AIU Call Room

Launched two months before the Tokyo World Championships, the Call Room offered private, athlete-driven, one-on-one integrity advice in 12 languages - responding directly to athlete feedback and needs.

- 50 Calls booked, including with four athletes who were crowned World Champions in Tokyo.

"It's helpful to get a direct response when there is something on my mind." - (Athlete)

Integrity Guide & Newsletter ahead of the World Championships

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

Athletics Integrity Hub

At the 2025 World Athletics Championships, the AIU booth became a dynamic hub for athletes and support teams to ask questions and speak openly about what matters most to them for sport with integrity.

Power of Respect Campaign

Building on its success during the previous World Championships, the Power of Respect campaign returned in Tokyo with a continued focus on promoting Respect for Others.

Community Engagement Programme

To foster informal, athlete-led conversations and build community trust, AIU educators engaged directly with athletes and ASP at:

- The World Athletics Championships – Tokyo
- The Diamond League meets – Monaco, Paris, Lausanne, Zurich
- The US Olympic Trials – Eugene
- NACAC Championships – Freeport

What	Where	Number of days	Number of Athletes and ASP reached
World Athletics Championships	Tokyo	9	1300
Diamond League meets	Monaco, Paris, Lausanne, Zurich	4	100
US Olympic Trials	Eugene	4	80
NACAC Championships	Freeport	2	68
Total		19	1548

Online Education Sessions

The AIU strengthened its connections with athletes and ASP through regionally and linguistically tailored small-group sessions. The integration of real-life case studies added to the relevance and quality of the sessions. The Registered Testing Pool (RTP) induction programme has undergone continuous improvement to ensure that new RTP athletes receive all necessary information in clear, accessible sessions, with personalised support where needed.

Highlights

62
online educational sessions delivered

50 +
countries reached

10 +
languages

Attended by

552
athletes

57
coaches

300
ARs attended

Types of Online Sessions offered:

- Track & Field RTP Sessions
- Road Running RTP Sessions
- Induction Sessions for new RTP and Testing Pool athletes
- Athlete Representatives CPD
- On-demand sessions for ASP and athletes sponsored by shoe brands
- On-demand session for NACAC coaches

In all the AIU sessions delivered this year, 99.6 per cent of participants found their session engaging, 98.3 per cent found it relevant, 98.6 per cent found it clear.

"The session was very brief and interesting. Thank you AIU for making learning easy."
(Athlete)

"It was all very clear. Thank you for today's session."
(Athlete)

Athlete Support Personnel Education

Sport with integrity depends on more than the athlete. Coaches, athlete representatives, and family members are all part of the picture and in 2025, we invested significantly in educating them too.

Athlete Representatives Professional Development

In direct response to requests from ARs themselves, the AIU delivered a dedicated Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme focused on managing Whereabouts responsibilities - one of the most consequential and complex areas of an AR's role.

300+
ARs from 50+ countries

90%
the highest ever participation rate of registered World Athletics ARs

88%
found it relevant to their role as ARs

"It was useful to understand some reasoning behind AIU choices."

(Athlete Representative)

"Full-on education series for ARs is good. Athletes only have one career, but ARs have several."

(Athlete Representative)

NACAC Coaches Education

An on-demand online session was delivered for more than 50 NACAC coaches, addressing the roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) in safeguarding integrity in athletics, and conducted in both English and Spanish.

Member Federation Information Session

The AIU delivered a Member Federation information session ahead of the World Championships, outlining their role and how they can contribute to keeping athletics safe and clean, while also highlighting the AIU's education programmes and available support.

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 were educated on anti-doping by their respective National Federation and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs).

Partnerships that extended our reach

Through collaborations with national federations, shoe brands, athlete representatives, and other organisations connected to the sport ecosystem, we were able to reach athletes where they train, compete, and engage with the sport.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with a range of partners who share our commitment to safeguarding the integrity of athletics and supporting athletes at all levels. These partnerships have enabled the AIU to deliver tailored educational programmes and to foster meaningful connections and trust across both elite and grassroot level athletes.

- 13 in-person sessions for athletes, ASP and family members in Europe & East Africa with Asics
- 2 online sessions with Asics Sports Marketing Team
- 2 in-person sessions for On athletes in Italy
- 5 online sessions for On athletes
- 2 online sessions for US based athletes sponsored by Nike
- 250+ athletes and 50+ ASP received education through these partnerships

"The work the AIU is doing is so important: We work hard and dedicate ourselves to running, but it only matters if people are fighting for clean sport."

(Athlete)

"AIUs education is different: it's interactive and you let athletes express themselves and the challenges they face."

(Coach)

Conclusion & Numbers

2000+ RTP and International-level and RTP athletes engaged

700+ International-level Athlete Support Personnel engaged

11 100 International-level and RTP athletes engaged in 2024 (through National Federation/National Anti-Doping Organisations' workshops/e-learning).

125+ countries reached

Through outreach activities and partnerships, the AIU **doubled** its in-person interactions in 2025, compared with the last year.

Testing & Compliance

Confidence in World elite athletics performances reinforced through robust and comprehensive testing programs by the AIU and NADOs in the lead-up to and at the Tokyo 2025 World Championships

In a World Championships year immediately following an Olympic year the AIU has maintained a high level of vigilance and rigour to ensure the delivery of a world-class testing program, both in terms of quantity and quality.

In 2025, the AIU began rebalancing its program more towards power and strength disciplines. Over several years, endurance disciplines had gradually become more of a focus because the science of anti-doping is better at detecting doping in endurance events and because testing for road races benefited from additional funding under the World Athletics Label Road Race program. In 2025, more athletes from disciplines such as sprints and throws were been selected in the Registered Testing Pool, we have increased our detection tests for steroids and Human Growth Hormones and we have worked at building-up capacity in key countries such as Jamaica and the USA which are successful in these disciplines.

At the level below the AIU's own testing program focussed on the very top athletes, the World Athletics Anti-doping Rules require that national teams have an appropriate level of testing prior to competing in major championships. A focus for the AIU in 2025 continued to be enforcing compliance with this requirement and pleasingly, the efforts of NADOs in the lead up to the Tokyo World Championships saw testing levels that are unmatched for a sporting event of this magnitude.



A total of 9,640 tests were conducted on the 2006 athletes who competed in Tokyo in the 10-months leading-up to the event, including 6,193 no-notice out-of-competition tests (OOCT)

The number of OOCT on national team athletes has increased by 12% compared with the last edition of the Budapest World Championships in 2023, and by 49% compared with the 2017 London World Championships

The number of OOCT conducted by NADOs on national team athletes competing in Tokyo has increased by 71% compared with the 2017 London World Championships.

53% of the athletes who competed in Tokyo and 95% of top-8 finishers received three or more OOCT

1014 in-competition and out-of-competition tests (1214 urine and blood samples) conducted at the 2025 Tokyo World Championships in partnership with the Japanese Anti-Doping Agency.

New partnerships for more testing

In 2025, the AIU established or consolidated new partnerships to further expand anti-doping testing among elite athletes. Upon request from his management team, the AIU organised and implemented an intensive and bespoke testing programme for the marathon runner Sebastian Sawe ahead of his world record attempt at the Berlin Marathon. Additional testing was fully funded by the athlete's sponsor (adidas). The testing program undertaken for Sawe was fully independent with this arrangement signed off by WADA. It is to be noted that all brands can request enhanced testing for their athletes.

In this vein, in 2025, the AIU established a partnership with the Swiss-based brand ON, which now funds additional monitoring of several of its elite athletes under the AIU's out-of-competition testing program. Various other sponsors have expressed interest in increased monitoring of their athletes within the AIU testing framework.

In 2025, the AIU also supported the Golden Trail Series - an international trail running circuit featuring several world-class races - in establishing an enhanced testing program at races. This included EPO testing and Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) tests.

2025 AIU Testing Statistics

13,276
doping control samples collected

On **3,930** athletes

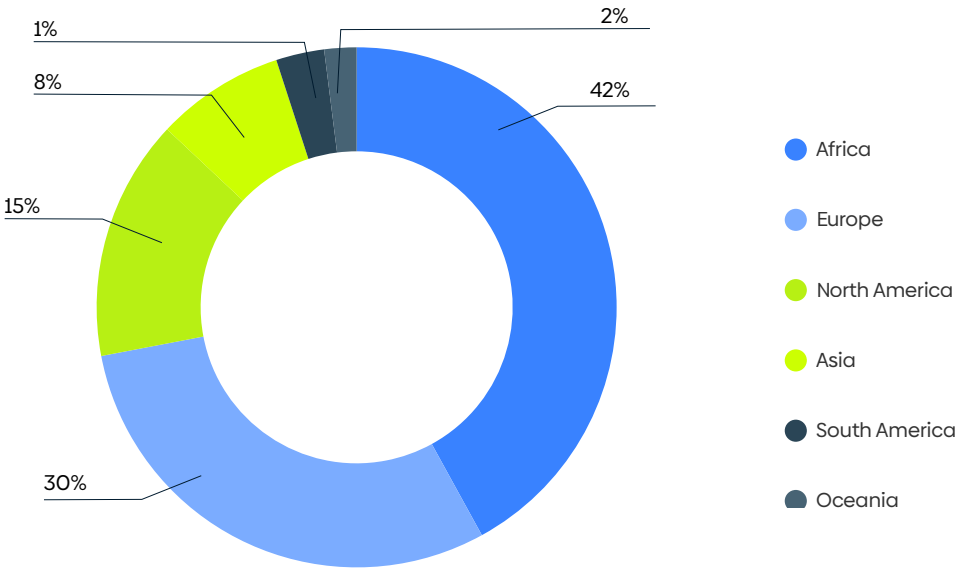
Representing **143** nationalities

767
athletes in the Registered Testing Pool

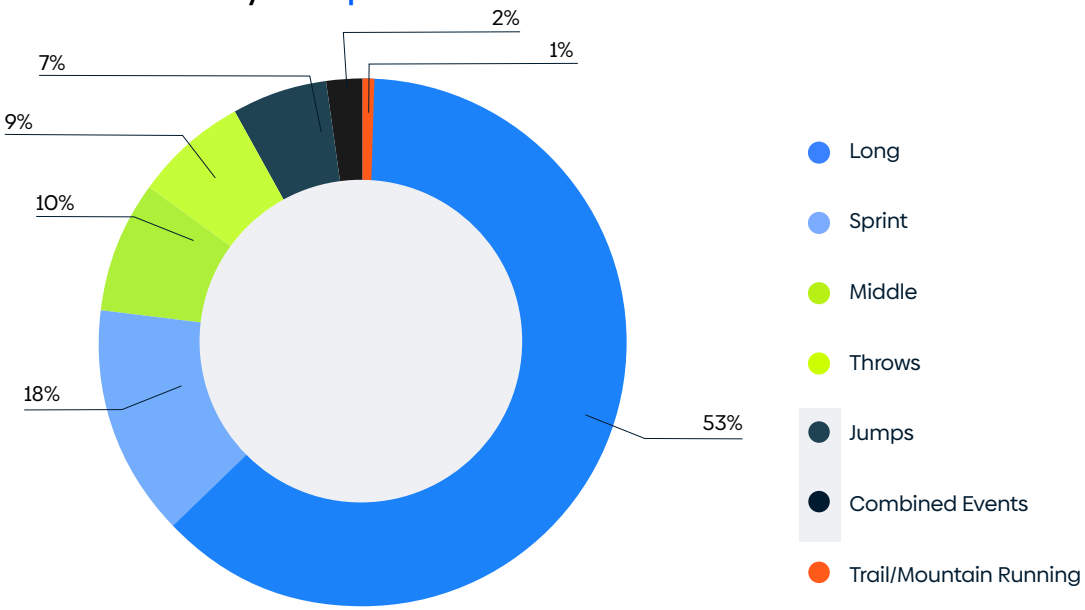
Testing conducted at **525** competitions

17,804
analyses performed

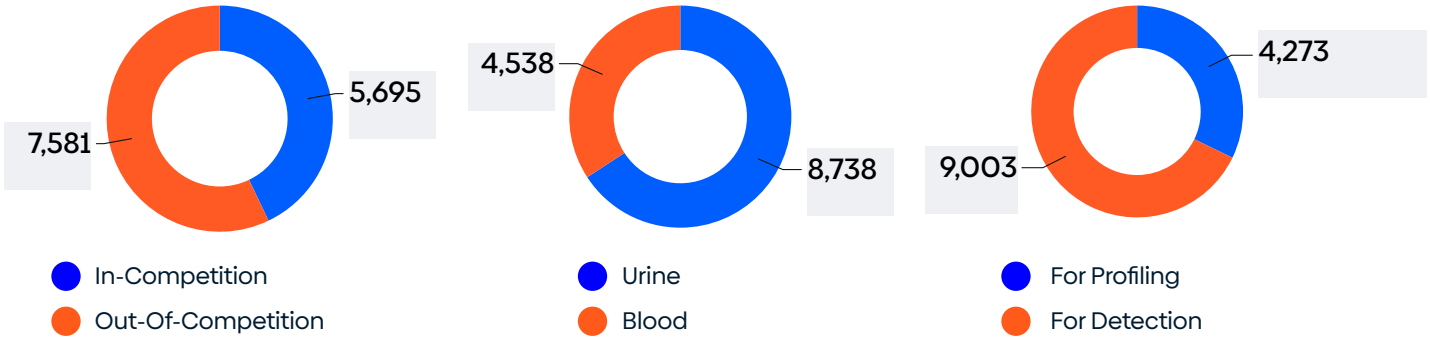
Distribution by Continent



Distribution by Discipline



Distribution of Samples



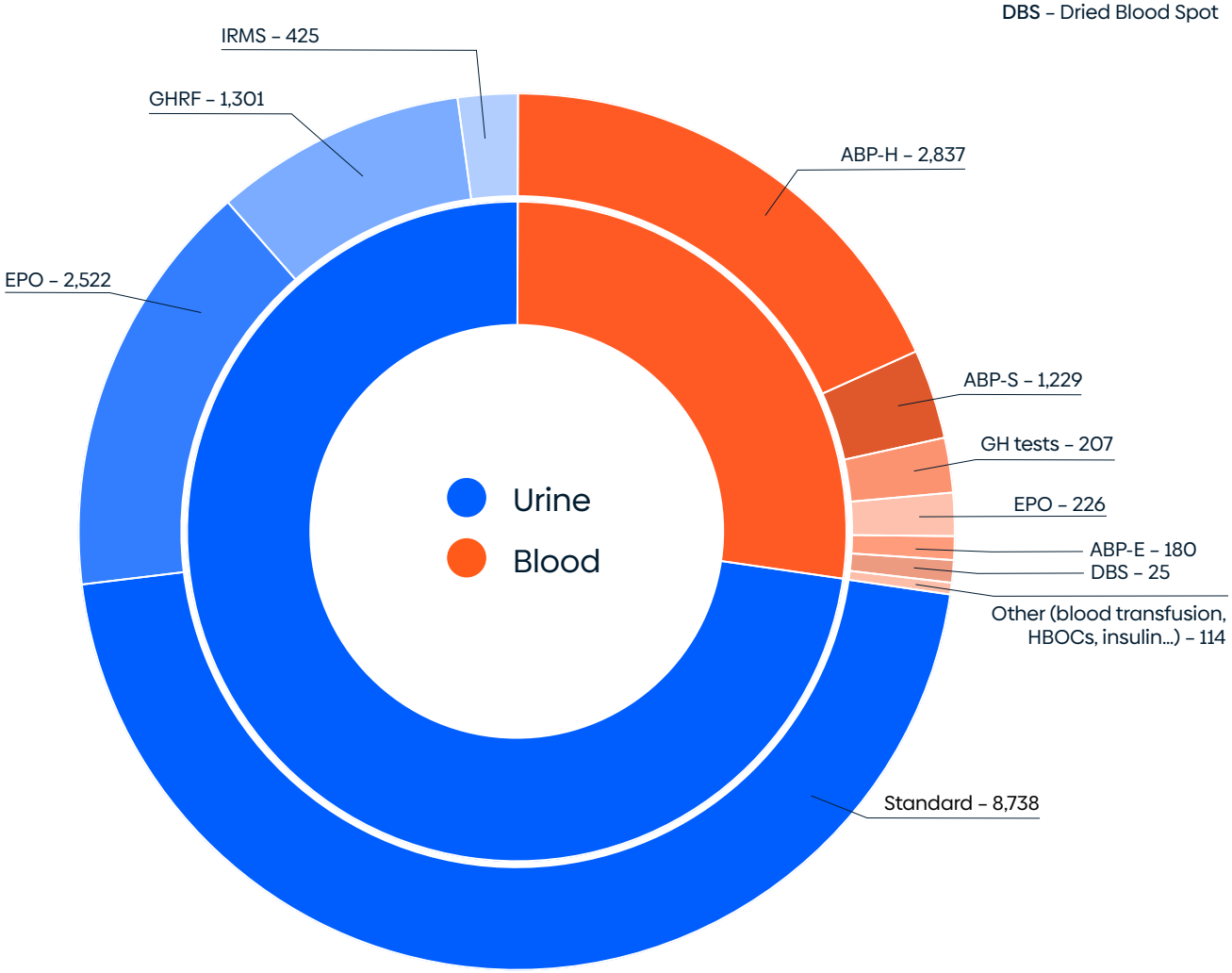
Distribution of Gender



Total: **15,276 samples**
Average of age: **28**

17,804 Analyses Performed

GHRF – Growth Hormone Releasing Factors
IRMS – Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry
DBS – Dried Blood Spot

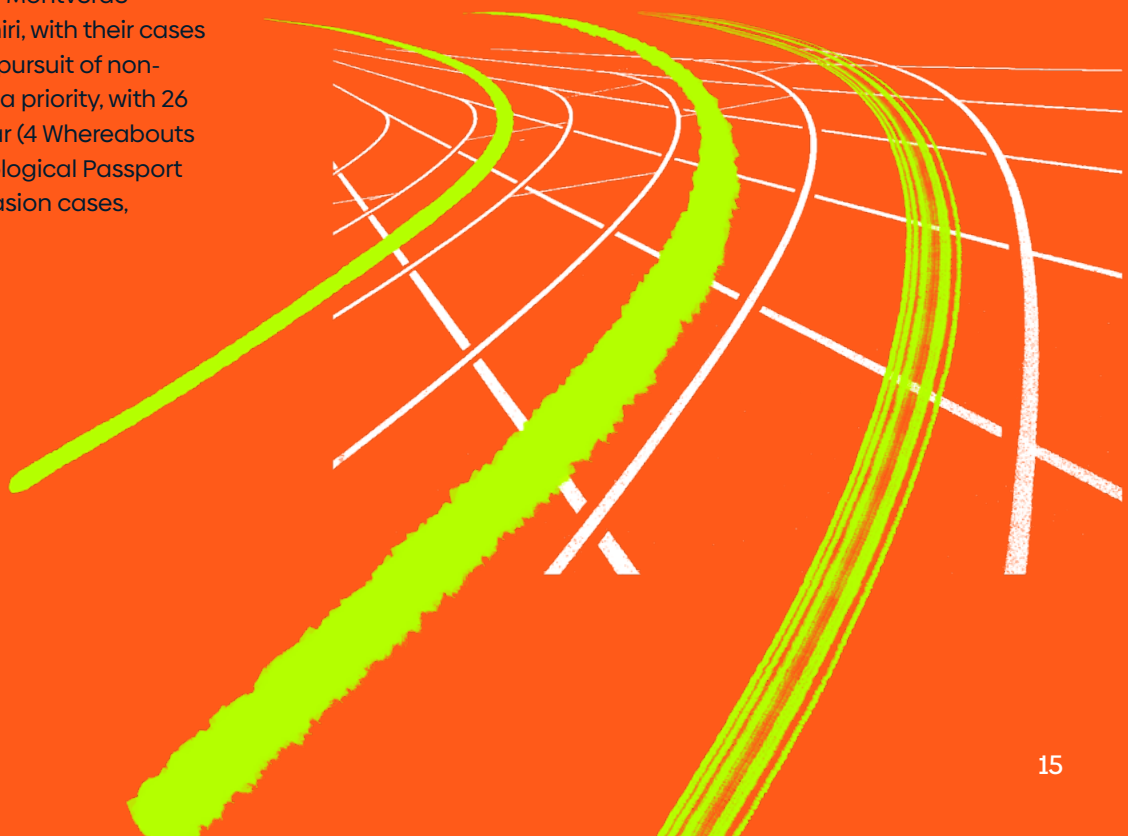


Case Management

With 2025 being a World Championships year, a significant focus for the case management team was ensuring the eligibility of the athletes who competed at the Championships. This meant expediting disciplinary cases heard at first instance and on appeal but also managing cases arising on the eve of the Championships before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). In one case (Diribe Welteji), the AIU successfully sought provisional measures from CAS to prevent the athlete from competing in Tokyo after she was cleared of a doping violation by a national tribunal a matter of days before the start of the Championships.

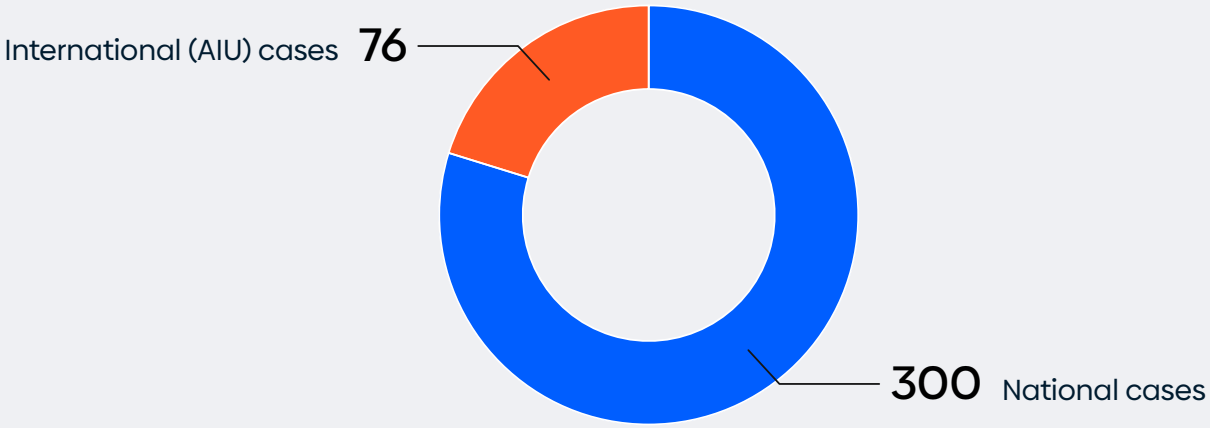
More than 70 doping cases involving International-Level athletes were decided in 2025, with cases successfully prosecuted at first instance and/or on appeal against Ruth Chepngetich, Erriyon Knighton, Mohammed Katir, Diribe Welteji, Ekaterina Poistogova, Issamade Asinga, Ahmed Abdelwahed, Wilfried Happio, Tadu Teshome, Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk and Koki Ikeda. Provisional suspensions were issued against Kibiwott Kandie, Bernard Koech and Montverde Academy coach, Gerald Phiri, with their cases to be decided in 2026. The pursuit of non-analytical cases remained a priority, with 26 cases concluded in the year (4 Whereabouts Failures cases, 3 Athlete Biological Passport cases, 4 Refusal/Failure/Evasion cases, 2 Tampering cases and 13 cases based on the LIMS/McLaren evidence). The AIU's commitment to seeking increased sanctions in cases of aggravating circumstances resulted in 17 enhanced sanctions being imposed across the year.

In addition to the doping cases referenced, 2025 saw an increase year on year in the number of non-doping cases involving International-Level athletes. Three betting-related cases were pursued to a successful conclusion, including two where breaches were committed by athletes competing at the World Championships in Tokyo. Safeguarding also remained a key focus for the AIU in 2025 - there were eight safeguarding referrals managed by the Case Management Group during the year which resulted in some of the individuals concerned being excluded from participating at the World Championships.

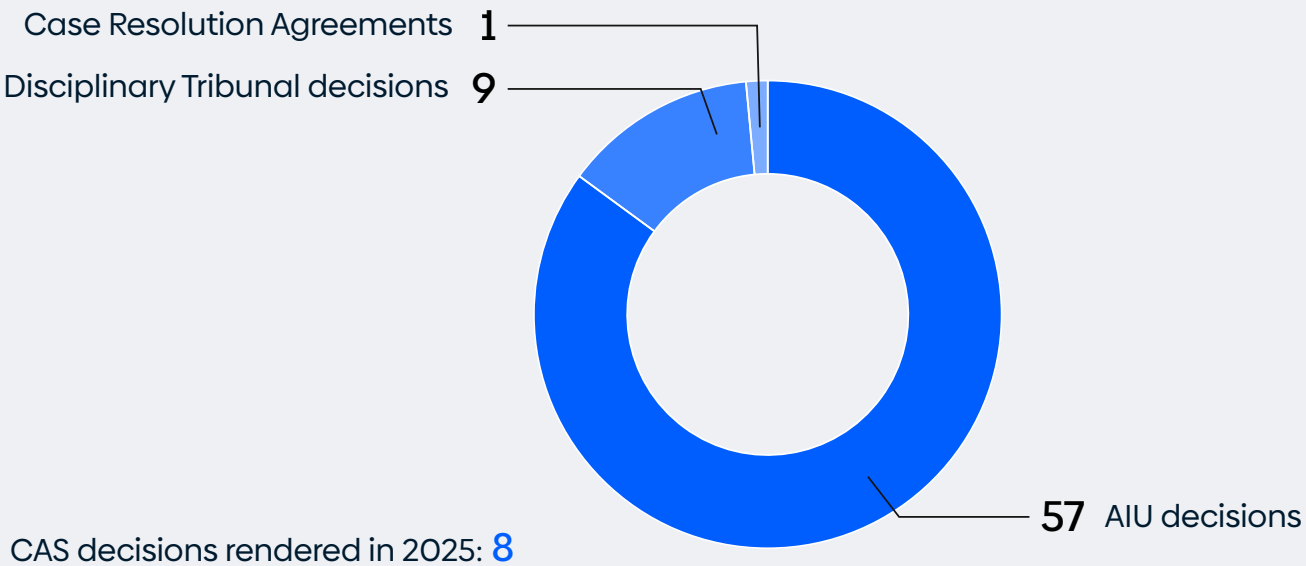


Doping

376 cases in 2025



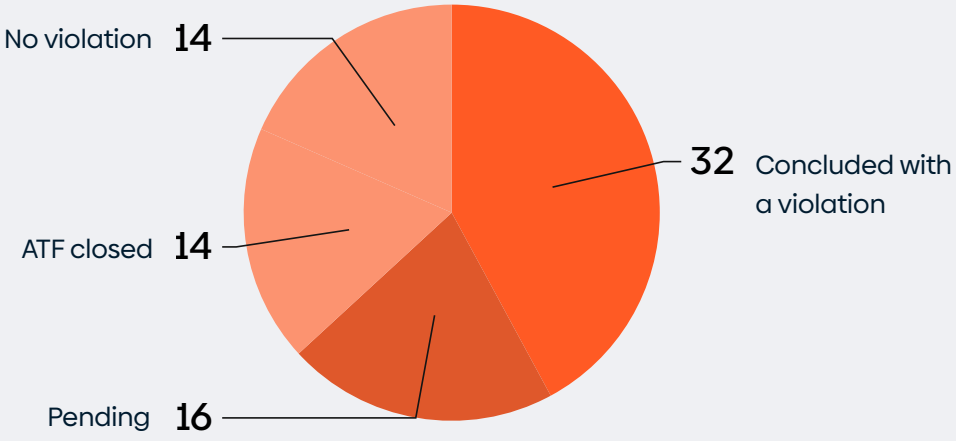
67 First Instance decisions regarding international-level athletes



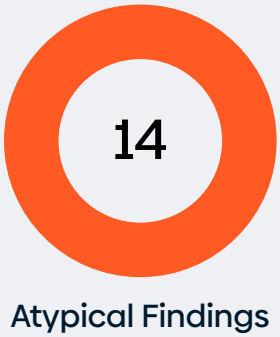
CAS decisions rendered in 2025: 8
CAS appeals (filed) in 2025: 5

76 International cases

Case Status

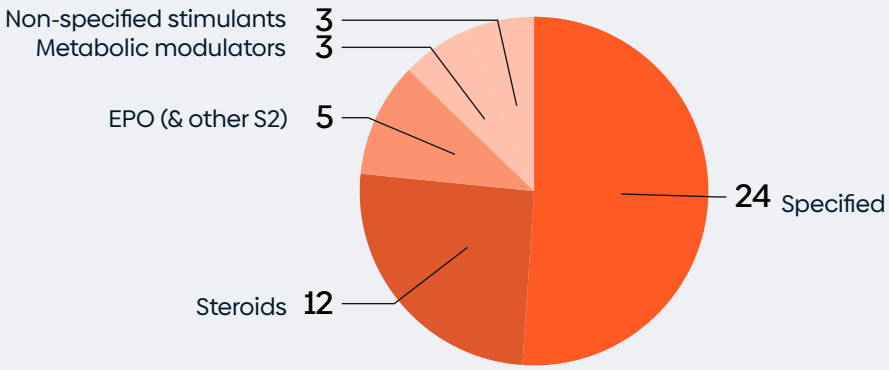


Types of Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)



Atypical Findings

Adverse Analytical Findings (47)

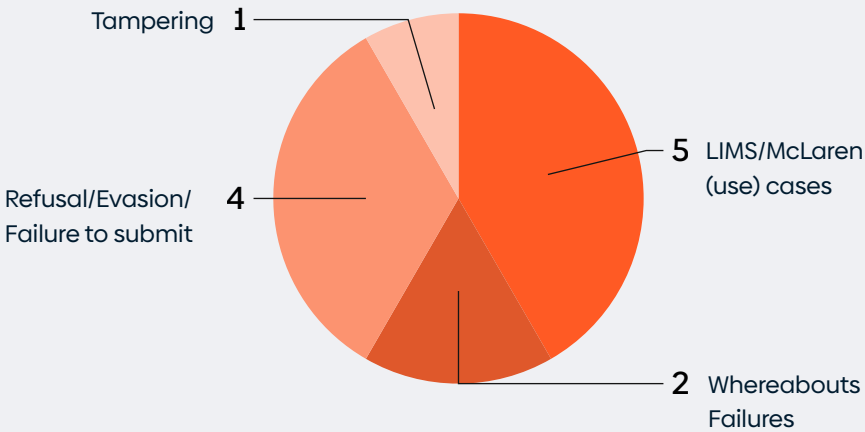


Types of ADRVs



Adverse Passport Findings

Non-Analytical Findings (12 cases)

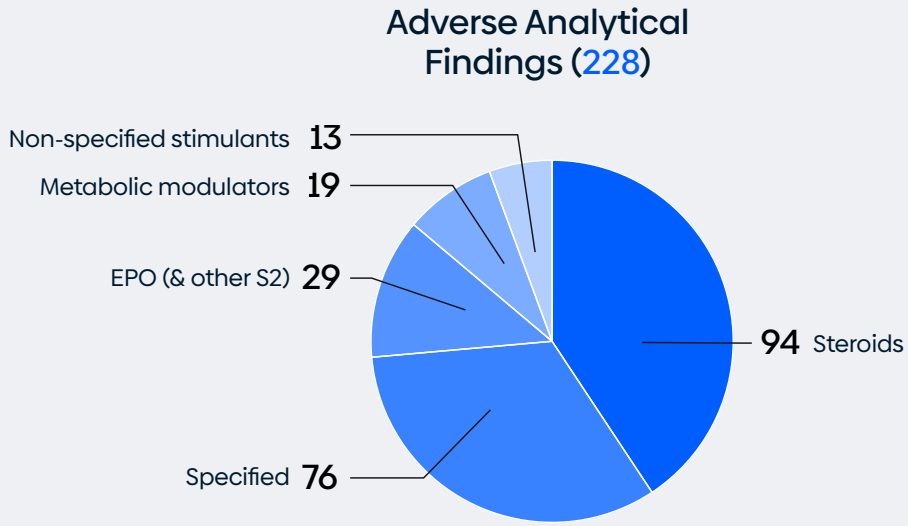


300 National cases

Types of ADRVs



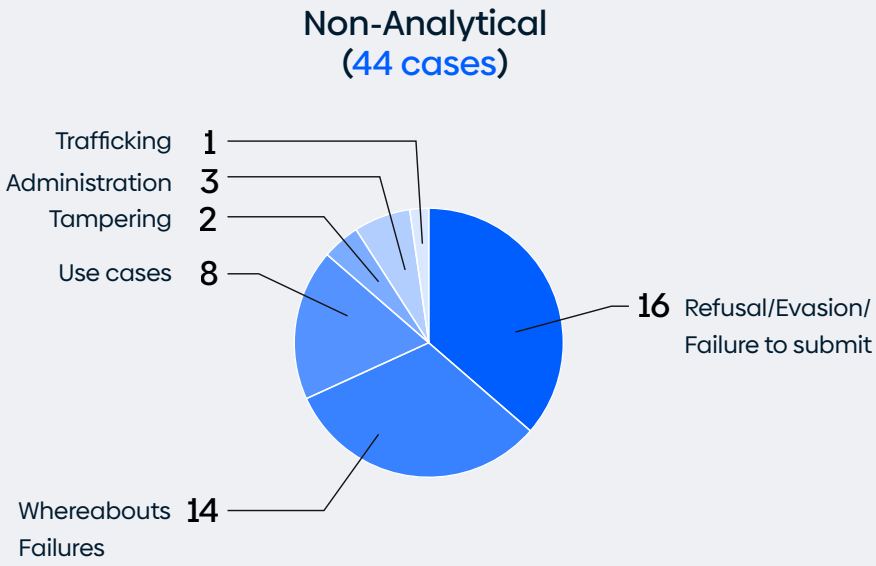
Atypical Findings



Types of ADRVs



Adverse Passport Findings



Non-Doping

3 cases in 2025

8 safeguarding referrals to the Case Management Group in 2025

Investigations & Intelligence

Throughout 2025, the I&I Department continued its focus on Age Manipulation, culminating in the World Athletics Council accepting proposed rule changes, enabling the AIU to propose individual Member Federations (MFs) to have Special Conditions imposed relating to the entry of athletes in age-restricted events. It is envisaged that these conditions, applicable to an initial four MFs, will be in place prior to the 2026 World Athletics Under-20 Championships in August 2026. The I&I Department also referred 24 athletes from these four MFs to World Athletics (WA) for consideration to annul previous results in age-restricted events.

The I&I Department played a leading role in realising three sanctions under the WA Integrity Code of Conduct (ICC) related to illegal betting in athletics, including two cases during the 2025 WCHs. These cases highlighted a lack of education and understanding of betting-related rules, which will see an increased focus on this area in 2026.

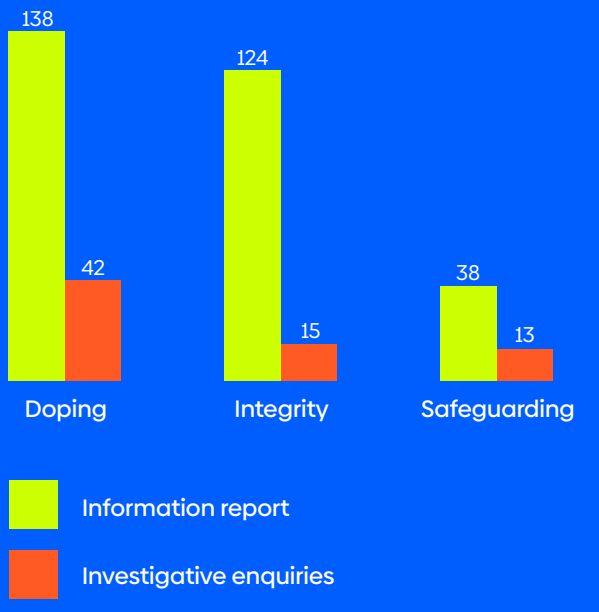
The I&I Department has significantly invested in its work on Safeguarding Concerns throughout 2025, including pursuing the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Safeguarding Certificate. The I&I Department contributed to updates to the WA Safeguarding Rules, reflecting a joint WA and AIU commitment to refine best practice in managing Safeguarding Concerns. In 2025, the I&I Department considered a total of 20 Safeguarding Concerns, six of which were ultimately - in collaboration with the Case Management Department - referred to the Case Management Group (CMG).

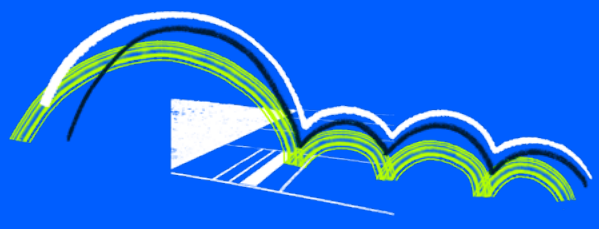
As expected, the I&I Department has continued to drive an intelligence-led approach to anti-doping throughout 2025. The major anti-doping achievement of the I&I Department in 2025 was the Ruth Chepngetich case, with I&I activity in Kenya crucial to enabling a prosecution of the ADRV of the current world record holder. Other significant cases remain under the Results Management process and will be reported on at a later date.

Underpinning the ongoing success of the I&I Department is a consistent investment in staffing. In 2025, the I&I Department recruited three additional, highly-experienced I&I staff, and undertook professional development in rapport-based interviewing to further enhance not only I&I output, but also the experience of the athletics community when engaging with I&I staff.

The I&I Department also implemented a new Confidential Reporting tool in 2025, expanding the accessibility of the Integrity Line platform to include anonymous WhatsApp messaging and anonymous Email, ensuring two-way communication can be established with Confidential Reporters at all times.

Lastly, the I&I Department continued to position itself as world-leading among partner agencies, presenting at several high-level international forums, including the Partnership for Clean Competition Conference, Play the Game Conference, the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers (AIPIO) Conference, the ANAD International Conference and the WADA World Conference on Doping in Sport.





Communications

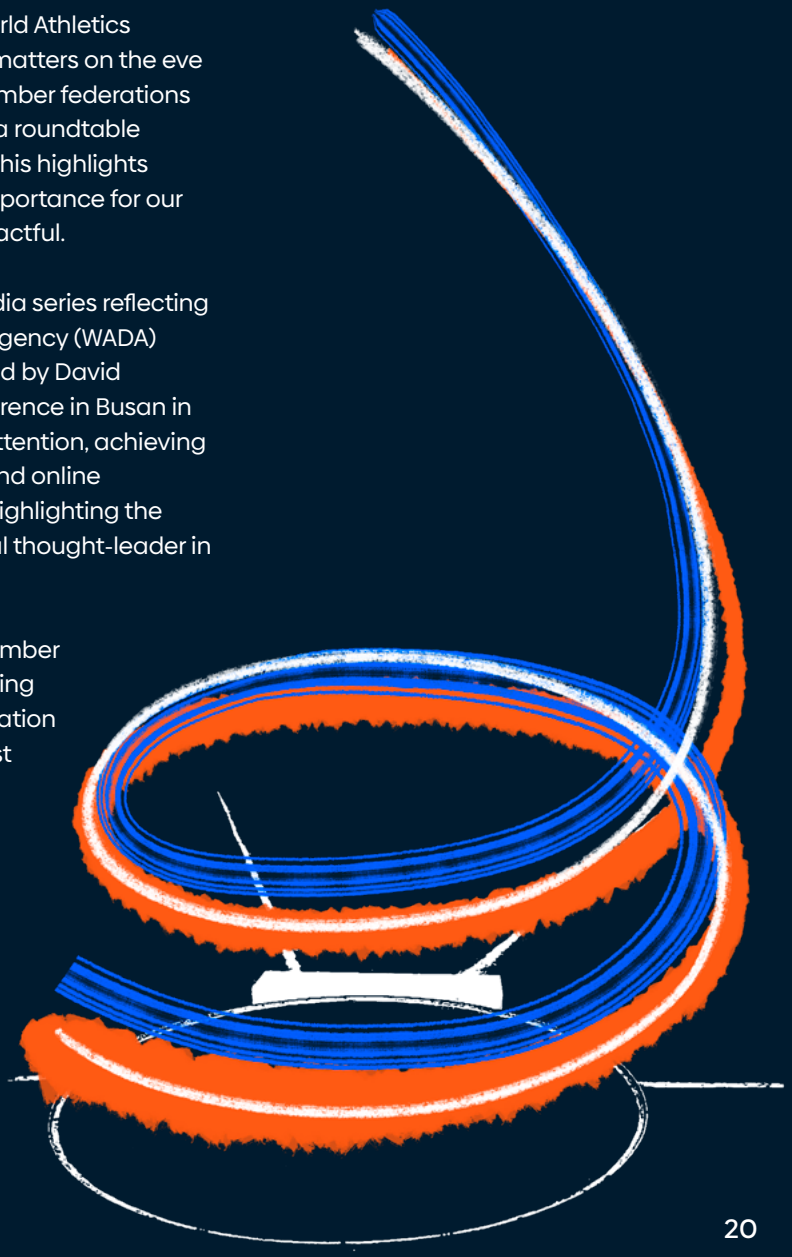
The World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code review, continued transparency in reporting high-level disciplinary matters, and enhancing AIU's relationship with Member Federations were among the vital communications output in 2025.

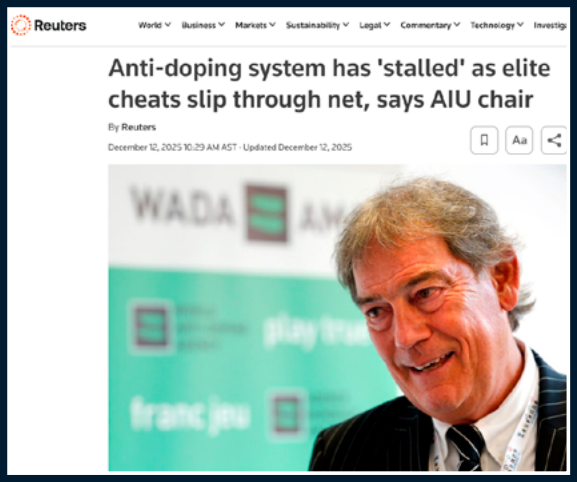
The World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25 was a key focus of the AIU Communications team in 2025. In the lead up to the Championships we supported Education efforts with key communications to athletes on regulations, promoted the AIU Call Room (the concierge helpline for athletes in the Registered Testing Pool), published a newsletter for Member Federations and launched the campaign (and on-site outreach) – "Respect for Others in Every Action".

In Tokyo, AIU Chair David Howman presented to the World Athletics Congress, we published three high-profile disciplinary matters on the eve of the championships, our leadership presented to member federations and engaged with journalists at a well-attended media roundtable which resulted in excellent news coverage for the AIU. This highlights the significance of the AIU's work and the continued importance for our communications to be clear and transparent and impactful.

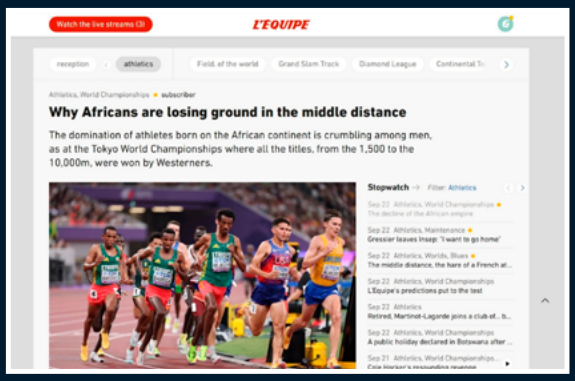
Other 2025 highlights were the deep-diving social-media series reflecting AIU's key recommendations to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regarding the WADA Code Review; and this was followed by David Howman's intervention at the World Anti-Doping Conference in Busan in December. The Chair's comments gained worldwide attention, achieving a global media reach of 12.72 million across X, Reddit and online publications, and high visibility in major news outlets, highlighting the position of the AIU and the sport of athletics as a global thought-leader in anti-doping.

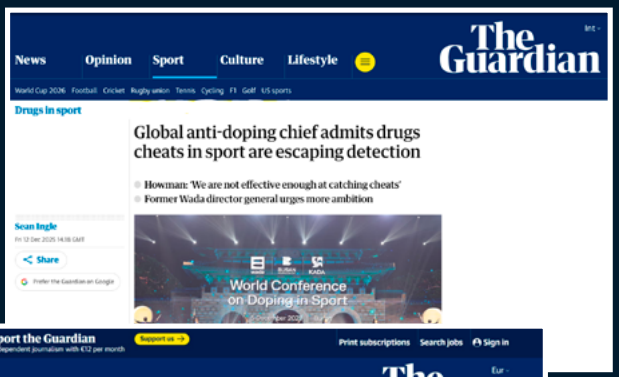
The publication of the pre-Tokyo testing records for member federations (highlighting more out-of-competition testing by National Anti-Doping Organisations) and the publication of various sanctions, including a three-year ban against marathon world record-holder, Ruth Chepng'etich, and a four-year ban against Olympic/World silver medallist, Koki Ikeda also highlighted the AIU's commitment to transparency and determination to protect the integrity of the sport.





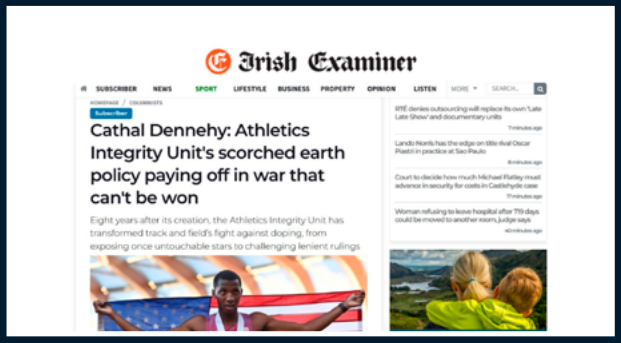












Media engagement/interviews

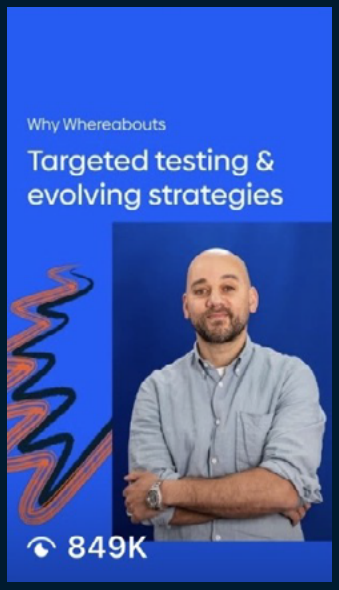
Media interest in the AIU continued to be strong in 2025, again with AIU Chair, David Howman, and AIU Head, Brett Clothier, being sought out by major media such as the UK Guardian, L'Equipe, Athletics Weekly, The Times UK and the Irish Examiner.

Social media

In 2025, the AIU's social media channels continued to grow in both reach and depth of engagement across all platforms. Instagram led this progress, with a significant increase in organic reach compared to previous years. Audience behaviour shifted towards more meaningful interaction, with content increasingly shared and saved - a strong signal that posts are seen as relevant, useful, and worth returning to, particularly on topics such as Anti-Doping Rules and Whereabouts. Video also played a key role, with stronger retention on content indicating a growing appetite for clear, accessible explanations of complex integrity topics and community connections.

X maintained steady interaction throughout the year, driven by sanction-related news, while LinkedIn quickly established itself as a channel for professional audiences following its launch in April. Across all platforms, the results demonstrate a more engaged and invested audience, with content not only reaching people but being actively shared, saved, and interacted with.

When individuals share the AIU's content, they actively contribute to the promotion of clean sport and the strengthening of trust in athletics, while sustained engagement helps ensure that the AIU's message achieves high visibility, has good impact, and is more easily recognisable.





Social media key numbers

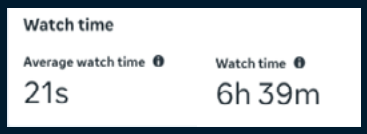
423
Shares (+442%)

415
Saves (+144%)

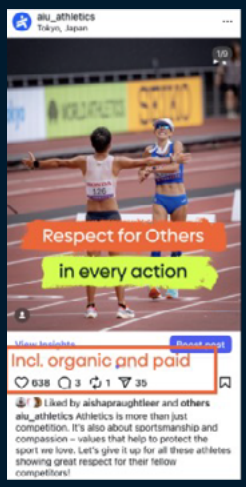
+168%
Total engagement

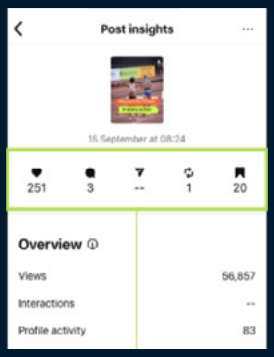
5–10 sec
Average video watch time

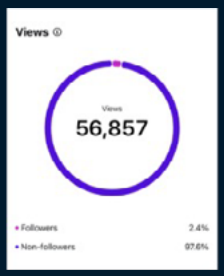
2x increase
Instagram organic reach vs 2023

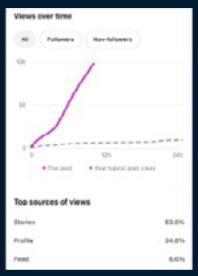


Top Organic IG (By Engagement) #1











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