International Olympic Committee

FACTSHEET

Fight against doping and health promotion

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The fight against doping

The fight against doping and the protection of clean athletes are top priorities for the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which has established a zero-tolerance policy to combat cheating and to hold accountable anyone responsible for using or providing doping products.

The IOC's fight against doping began in earnest in the 1960s. Since 2003 it has been carried out in close cooperation with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – which was created in 1999 in Lausanne under the initiative of the IOC – and with the support and participation of intergovernmental organisations, governments, administrations and other public and private bodies involved in the fight against doping in sport. Also, since 2018 the IOC has delegated responsibility for the organisation and management of doping control at the Olympic Games to the International Testing Agency (ITA).

In the last 20 years the number of tests conducted has increased (from 2,359 in Sydney in 2000 to 4,882 in Rio in 2016 and over 6,100 in Paris in 2024). While this increase serves as a demonstration of the IOC's commitment to ensuring that athletes play fair, there is a more important shift towards using more intelligent testing strategies through increased targeted out-of-competition testing, particularly since the start of the mandate of the ITA.

In 2017, the IOC Executive Board established 12 principles for a more robust and independent global anti-doping system to protect clean athletes. The IOC has called on all International Federations to follow these steps and fully delegate their entire testing programmes to the ITA and sanctioning to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division.

To that end, the IOC asks that IFs and NOCs intensify their testing and other anti-doping efforts in the build-up to the Games through the pre-Games expert group coordinated by the ITA.

In addition, under the World Anti-Doping Code, samples collected during each edition of the Games since Athens 2004 have been stored for future reanalysis. This reanalysis programme can take advantage of more sensitive or sophisticated detection methods and any relevant intelligence that becomes available. The programme greatly increases the deterrent factor in the fight against doping.

The IOC has taken advantage of this possibility of reanalysis to further protect the clean athletes and has extended the availability of sample retention and additional analysis through programme administered by the ITA. This programme is targeted at samples collected from Olympic athletes in the months before the Olympic Games. During the 2021-2024 Olympiad, the Olympic Movement provided USD 319 million to combat doping, of which USD 160 million was from the IOC.

During the Olympic Games

The fight against doping during an Olympic Games falls under the responsibility of the IOC according to the World Anti-Doping Code. Urine and blood samples are collected in compliance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Since March 2016 the IOC has delegated the decisions on alleged anti-doping rule violations during the Olympic Games to an independent body, namely a new Anti-doping Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The CAS Anti-Doping Division has now replaced the IOC Disciplinary Commission to hear and decide on doping cases at the Olympic Games.

Number of anti-doping tests carried out during the Olympic Games

Olympic Winter Games

Year	Place	Number of tests
1968	Grenoble	86
1972	Sapporo	211
1976	Innsbruck	390
1980	Lake Placid	440
1984	Sarajevo	424
1988	Calgary	492
1992	Albertville	522
1994	Lillehammer	529
1998	Nagano	621
2002	Salt Lake City	700
2006	Turin	1,200
2010	Vancouver	2,149
2014	Sochi	2,453
2018	PyeongChang	3,149
2022	Beijing	2,300

Olympic Summer Games

Year	Place	Number of tests
1968	Mexico City	667
1972	Munich	2,079
1976	Montreal	2,054
1980	Moscow	645
1984	Los Angeles	1,507
1988	Seoul	1,598
1992	Barcelona	1,848
1996	Atlanta	1,923
2000	Sydney	2,359
2004	Athens	3,667
2008	Beijing	4,770
2012	London	5,051
2016	Rio	4,882
2020	Tokyo	5,033
2024	Paris	6,130

Summary of anti-doping procedures during the Olympic Games

During the Games period (from the Opening of the Village to the Closing Ceremony), all athletes taking part in Olympic Games may be tested before or at a competition, whether inside the Olympic Village, inside or outside Olympic venues, or anywhere in the world. Testing, analysis and case management are administered by the ITA and carried out in accordance with the IOC Anti-Doping rules and in compliance with the relevant International Standards.

Paris 2024

During the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, a total of 6'130 samples from over 4'770 doping controls were collected, and for the first time almost 39% of the participating athletes were tested at least once.

Milan Cortina 2026

The Anti-doping Rules applicable to the Olympic Winter Games Milan Cortina 2026 are accessible at this link.

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