ATHLETICS
INTEGRITY
UNIT



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



"DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS THE AIU CONTINUED TO ADAPT TO THE NEEDS OF THE ATHLETICS COMMUNITY, LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED IN THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR FAIR SPORT."

DAVID HOWMAN

BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on world sport in 2021. The highlight of another difficult year was the conclusion of a safe and successful Olympic Games in Tokyo, which gave hard-working and dedicated athletes a chance to shine. I believe that the AIU played its part by enforcing the rules without fear or favour to promote a level playing field for athletes at the Games.

Given the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the AIU reduced its planned expenditure by approximately 10% in 2021. Although a temporary measure, this was a very significant challenge. We re-aligned our priorities without compromising our core objectives by reducing our workforce where possible and putting on hold some projects that could be postponed, whilst also expediting digital transformation across the range of our activities – case management, intelligence and education.

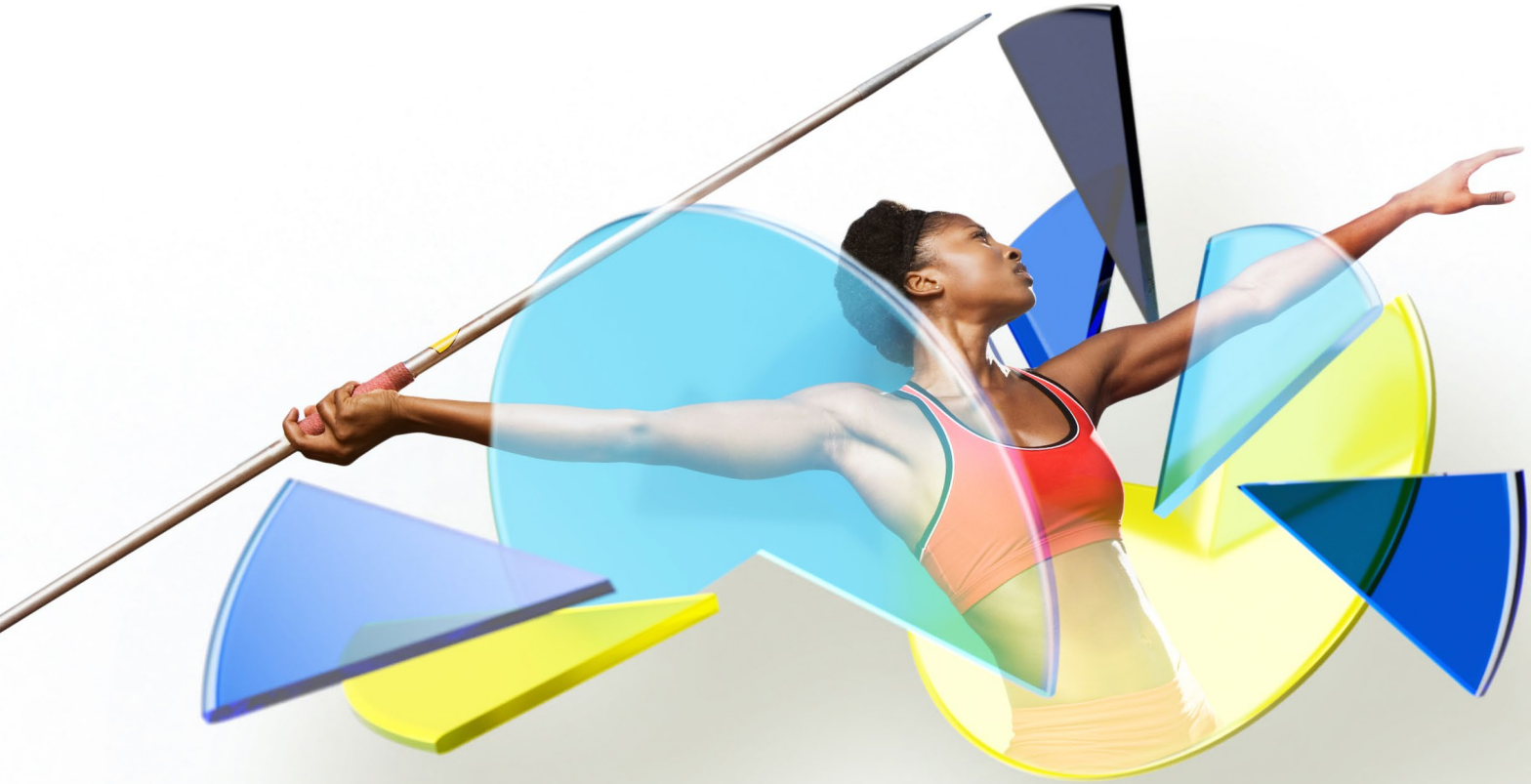
During the past 12 months the AIU continued to adapt to the needs of the athletics community, leaving no stone unturned in the ongoing fight for fair sport.

The primary objective for 2021 was protecting the integrity of the athletics events at the Tokyo Olympic Games. In the lead-up to the Games, we resolved several important anti-doping cases. The sanctions imposed on Christian Coleman (USA), Shelby Houlihan (USA), Danil Lysenko (RUS), Brianna McNeal (USA), Salwa Eid Naser (BRN), Blessing Okagbare (NGR) and others show that irrespective of their stature, the participants in this sport will be held accountable.

The rulings provide compelling illustrations of how an effective anti-doping programme, combined with a strong investigation capacity, operates in practice. While it is disappointing whenever top athletes breach the rules, these decisions have brought much credit to the sport of athletics, protected the integrity of the sport at the Olympic Games and sent a strong message to clean athletes that everyone is held accountable to the same integrity standards.

In addition to the individual cases, in the lead-up to Tokyo, the AIU also strictly enforced the anti-doping obligations placed on 'Category A' Federations (those deemed to be at highest doping risk) under the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules. For the year 2021, the seven identified 'Category A' National Federations were: Belarus, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, and Ukraine.

At the recommendation of the AIU, the rule governing National Federation Anti-Doping Obligations, came into force in January 2019. Under this rule, 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.



In the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic Games, the 'Category A' Federations, in partnership with their respective National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs), generally made significant progress with respect to their domestic testing programmes, meaning the athletes representing these Federations were tested far more than for any Olympic Games ever held before:

- In 2021 over 1600 out-of-competition tests were conducted in the domestic programmes of these Federations (in addition to AIU tests on their athletes in the International Registered Testing Pool).
- This increased testing resulted in 6 adverse analytical findings at the national level.

Despite these outcomes, appropriate application of the rules by the AIU Board meant that 20 athletes from five nations were not eligible to participate at the Olympic Games because the minimum testing requirements for each athlete were not met by the relevant Federation. While this outcome was unfortunate for the athletes involved, a strong stance was required to ensure fairness for all athletes competing at the Games.

Our impact on the integrity of the sport at the Tokyo Olympic Games went beyond anti-doping. In the qualification period, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) received 17 referrals for investigation of suspicious qualifying performances. The referrals were from 16 countries and included 31 athletes and five relay teams.

As a result of the AIU's investigations, eight qualifying performances for the Olympic Games were not recognised by World Athletics and the relevant athletes denied a place at the Games. The reported concerns covered unreliable photo-finish pictures, the short measuring of courses, illegal use of pacers, use of unauthorised field instruments and incorrect timings, among other things. Several cases were identified by the AIU for further investigation to determine if fraudulent conduct was involved and these investigations are ongoing. This work was very important in protecting the integrity of the qualification process and the fair allocation of competition places for athletes at the Olympic Games. The results showcased the broad mandate of the AIU to cover all areas of integrity.

In the five years since the AIU was established, we have established and reinforced innovative structures, policies, and processes to protect the integrity of athletics. Our work around the Tokyo Olympic Games demonstrated the effectiveness of the measures developed in the previous years.

The AIU Board updated our strategic plan in early 2021, and we will continue to drive the organisation forward, seeking even greater effectiveness, efficiency and impact from our team. We are pleased that we achieved many good outcomes in a very difficult year, but we recognise there is more to be done. We would like to thank all the athletes and participants in the athletics community for their support.

WORDS FROM THE HEAD



"THE PROOF OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR APPROACH WAS BORNE OUT AS WE RESOLVED A NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE CASES IN THE LEAD-UP TO TOKYO."

BRETT CLOTHIER

HEAD OF THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

Despite the necessity for budget cuts, the AIU still made a significant impact on the integrity of the sport in 2021. We were determined not to 'tread water', but focused on our core work, aiming to do more with less.

In anti-doping, our core work is to rigorously apply a sophisticated, intelligence-led anti-doping programme to the very top athletes to ensure that our elite-level competitions are conducted with integrity.

In all, we collected 7,108 samples from 2,229 athletes representing 119 countries this year, with 70 percent of those samples out-of-competition. These statistics are a 67 percent increase from 2020, marking a return to pre-pandemic testing numbers. However, the numbers are far less important than the quality of the testing work. Our is aim is to have an intelligence-based testing programme where no test is wasted, and each is conducted at the right place and time with the right type of analysis.

The proof of the effectiveness of this approach was borne out as we resolved a number of high-profile cases in the lead-up to Tokyo.

The AIU is continuing to develop our knowledge and capability in non-doping integrity matters. Behind the scenes we have conducted much research to assess threats to the sport in areas like age and competition manipulation, illegal betting, bribery and corruption, harassment and abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and transfers of allegiance. There is a significant amount of investigation and intelligence gathering work now happening in these areas and we will start to see prosecutions during 2022.

Besides the progress made in areas of testing, intelligence, investigations and prosecution, in 2021 the AIU also developed a long-term Education strategy based on behavioural science. Through a pilot programme of 19 dedicated audience engagement programmes offered in 10 languages via Zoom, we managed to engage with more than 700 athletes and Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) in 80 countries. The valuable insights gathered through the pilot programme were instrumental in informing the development of the new strategy which supports a key vision of the AIU - to foster a culture of integrity in the sport reflected in the behaviours of participants.

Heading into 2022, we are looking forward to putting resources back into our programmes, building on the progress we have made and continuing to advance the integrity and reputation of the sport. We thank the entire athletics community for the support we receive from you on a day-to-day basis.

FINANCES

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

TESTING PROGRAMME	$ 3,401,089
DISCIPLINARY/LEGAL	$ 1,205,550
COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION	$ 108,301
INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE	$ 123,454
SUPERVISORY BOARDS	$ 69,293
ADMINISTRATION	$ 516,489
STAFF COSTS (GROSS INCLUDING SOCIAL INSURANCE)	$ 3,385,186
TOTAL	**$8,809,362**

January to December 2021. 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, ASICS, ADIDAS and Nike ($717,000) and expenses that are recoverable from the Russian Athletic Federation under its reinstatement conditions ($506,212).
- These figures are the amounts recorded in the 2021 WA Financial report.
- The Head of the AIU was remunerated as follows in 2021: Gross Salary of €270,000 ($307,017); Housing allowance of €80,004 ($90,973). Conversion to U.S. dollars, based on 31 December 2021 exchange rate.
- The annual remuneration for the independent board members was as follows: $25,000 for the Chairman; $15,000 for the independent board members.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 IN NUMBERS

Intelligence-led testing, conclusive case management and robust investigation work during an ongoing pandemic formed the bulk of the AIU's work this year. The decision to focus on the upper echelons of the sport was strategic, in keeping with our promise to root out cheating at the highest level and make sure our athletes in athletics are supported by the best integrity programme in international sport. This is reflected in the quality of cases brought forward and concluded in 2021.

Rapid strides were made in expanding our education programme, while an increased social media footprint furthered the goal of making sure participants in our sport know and understand the rules and requirements.



TESTING

AIU testing numbers increased in 2021 as the world cautiously emerged from the pandemic and athletes began to gather again for international competitions. The figures represent close to pre-pandemic levels of sampling and testing.

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM ATHLETES REPRESENTING **119** NATIONALITIES





SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM **2,229** DIFFERENT ATHLETES IN **85** COUNTRIES

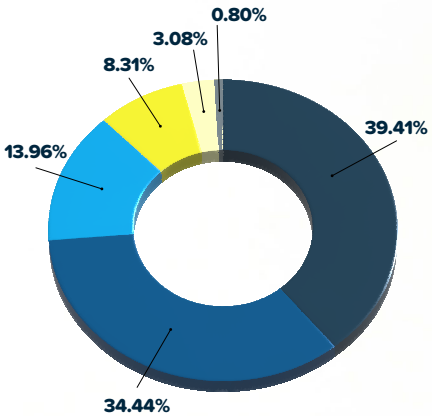
839 ATHLETES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTERED TESTING POOL IN 2021
(including Road Running athletes)

FROM **85** NATIONALITIES

144 COMPETITIONS SANCTIONED BY WORLD ATHLETICS WHERE SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED

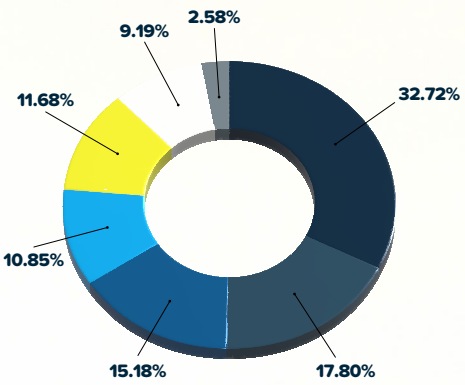
7,108 TOTAL SAMPLES COLLECTED

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES COLLECTED

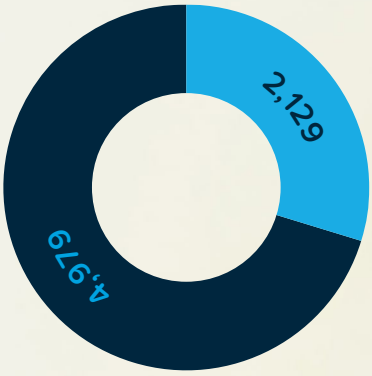


- AFRICA – SAMPLES – 2,801
- EUROPE – SAMPLES – 2,448
- NORTH AMERICA – SAMPLES – 992
- ASIA – SAMPLES – 591
- SOUTH AMERICA – SAMPLES – 219
- OCEANIA – SAMPLES – 57

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES COLLECTED BY DISCIPLINE



- LONG DISTANCES – ROAD RUNNING – DISCIPLINES – 6
- LONG DISTANCE – TRACK AND FIELD – DISCIPLINES – 9
- SPRINTS – DISCIPLINES – 10
- MIDDLE DISTANCES – DISCIPLINES – 4
- THROWS – DISCIPLINES – 8
- JUMPS – DISCIPLINES – 8
- COMBINED EVENTS – DISCIPLINES – 2



SAMPLES COLLECTED IN COMPETITION

SAMPLES COLLECTED OUT OF COMPETITION

MALE 3,723 — 52.38%

FEMALE 3,385 — 47.62%

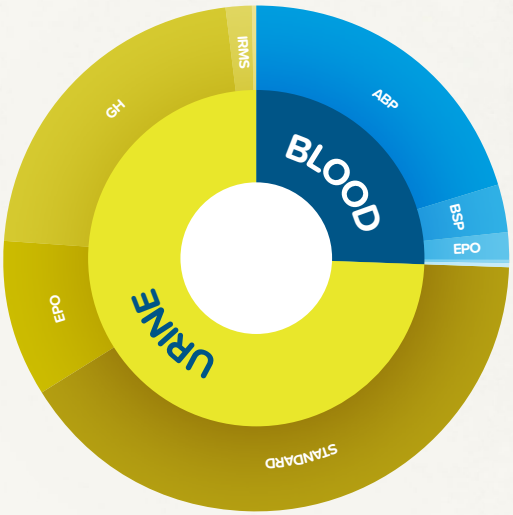
BLOOD SAMPLES COLLECTED 2,717 — 38.22%

URINE SAMPLES COLLECTED 4,391 — 61.78%

10,902

ANALYSES COMPLETED

TYPES OF ANALYSES



STANDARD – 40.5%
4,391 SAMPLES

ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO) – 10.0%
1,091 SAMPLES

GROWTH HORMONES (GH) – 22.0%
2,384 SAMPLES

ISOTOPE-RATIO MASS SPECTROMETRY (IRMS) – 1.75%
166 SAMPLES

OTHERS – 0.1%
16 SAMPLES

ATHLETE BIOLOGICAL PASSPORT (ABP) – 20.5%
2,213 SAMPLES

BLOOD STEROID PASSPORT (BSP) – 3.0%
313 SAMPLES

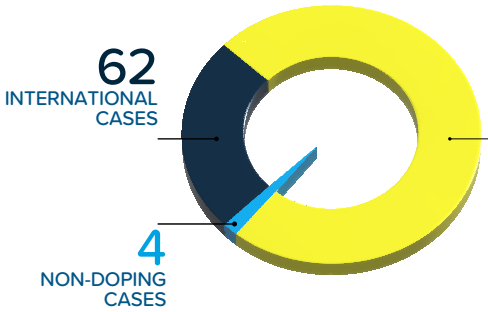
ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO) – 2.0%
191 SAMPLES

GROWTH HORMONES (GH) – 0.05%
35 SAMPLES

OTHERS – 0.1%
102 SAMPLES

CASE MANAGEMENT

251
TOTAL DISCIPLINARY CASES BROUGHT BY AIU AND AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN 2021

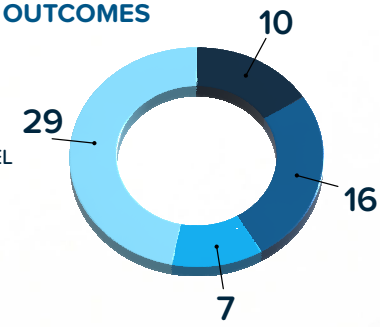


CONCERNING ATHLETES FROM **55** NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

62 NEW AIU DOPING CASES INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL ATHLETES AND ASP

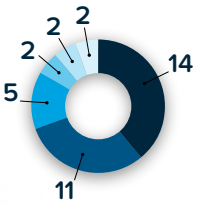
ATYPICAL FINDINGS
NO VIOLATION
SANCTION
PENDING

OUTCOMES



TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS
(INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES AND ASP)

36 ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



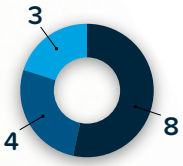
SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES
STEROIDS
EPO
GROWTH HORMONE
PROHIBITED METHODS (INCLUDING MANIPULATION OF BLOOD AND MANIPULATION OF BLOOD COMPONENTS)
OTHER SUBSTANCES

1 ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDING



SANCTION

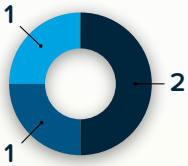
15 NON-ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



USE CASES (7 LIMS/MCLAREN CASES)
WHEREABOUTS
TAMPERING

4 NON-DOPING CASES

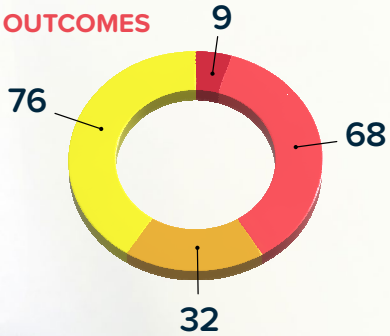
COMPETITION MANIPULATION
FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH AN INVESTIGATION
ELIGIBILITY



185 NATIONAL CASES INVOLVING NATIONAL-LEVEL ATHLETES AND ASP

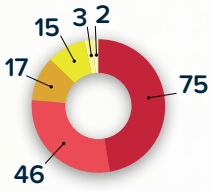
ATYPICAL FINDINGS
NO VIOLATION
SANCTION
PENDING

OUTCOMES



TYPES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS
(NATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES AND ASP)

158 ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS



STEROIDS
SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES
OTHER SUBSTANCES
EPO
GROWTH HORMONE
PROHIBITED METHODS (INCLUDING MANIPULATION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD COMPONENTS)

17 NON-ANALYTICAL FINDINGS

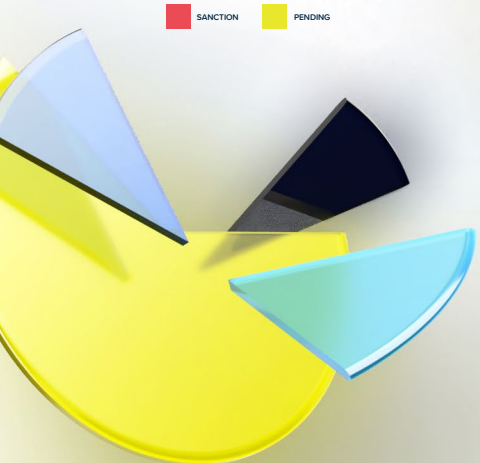


EVASION/REFUSAL TO COOPERATE
USE OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE OR METHOD
WHEREABOUTS FAILURES
TAMPERING
COMPLICITY
PROHIBITED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATION

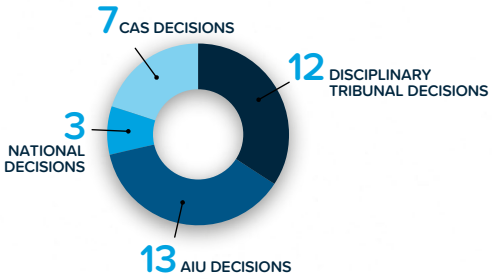
1 ADVERSE PASSPORT FINDING



SANCTION



35
FIRST-INSTANCE DECISIONS RENDERED IN AIU CASES IN 2021
(included cases initiated prior to 2021)



14 CAS APPEAL DECISIONS RENDERED IN 2021

INVESTIGATIONS AND 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
- ELIGIBILITY
- AGE MANIPULATION
- COMPETITION MANIPULATION
- SAFEGUARDING

94 TOTAL NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS
(situations at varying stages)

INTEGRITY – 53
41 ONGOING | 12 CLOSED

DOPING – 41
21 ONGOING | 20 CLOSED

1 ATHLETE QUESTIONNAIRE

TOPIC
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

250 RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM **6** AREA ASSOCIATIONS

EDUCATION

The AIU made substantial progress in its education efforts during the course of the year. Building on from 2020, the AIU Education team organised a number of online education sessions in mutiple languages in the lead-up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The sessions focused on building awareness of integrity threats such as doping, competition manipulation, among others, and helping athletes and athlete support personnel understand and rise to their responsibilities.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

25,000+ ATHLETES COMPLETED E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES

ADEL BY WADA

'I RUN CLEAN' BY EUROPEAN ATHLETICS

13,800 ATHLETES AND ASP EDUCATED THROUGH PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL FEDERATIONS OBLIGATIONS RULE.

124% INCREASE IN ATHLETES AND ASP EDUCATED THROUGH EFFORTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND RECOGNISED E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES COMPARED TO 2020.

ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

EDUCATION POOL

- Track and field RTP (Registered Testing Pool) athletes
- Road Running RTP athletes
- Non-RTP international athletes
- ASP, predominantly managers and coaches

19 SESSIONS CONDUCTED

ORGANIZED BY ZOOM

10 LANGUAGES

Amharic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili

35 HOURS DEDICATED TO SESSIONS

8 HOURS DEDICATED TO Q+A

500+ ATHLETES REACHED

FROM **80** COUNTRIES

6 SESSIONS FOR ASP

300+ ASP REACHED

AIU BEHAVIOURAL STRATEGY

The AIU board approved a new four-year education strategy, co-developed with the UK-based Leeds Beckett University. Underpinned by Behavioural Science, the new strategy is highly innovative and is at the forefront of current thinking. It supports one of the key visions of the AIU.

VISION

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPORT OF ATHLETICS EXHIBIT AND SUPPORT INTEGRITY & GOOD VALUES IN THEIR BEHAVIOUR.

1. A HIGHLY TAILORED BEHAVIOURAL APPROACH, SPECIFIC TO AUDIENCE.
2. COMMUNITY, SOLIDARITY AND COMMON VALUES AT ITS CORE.
3. FORGING AN AUTHENTIC AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AIU AND THE COMMUNITY.

BASED ON BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

THE FRAMEWORK OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE WILL HELP THE AIU ACHIEVE THE VISION THROUGH EVIDENCE-INFORMED ACTIONS.

A graphical illustration of AIU Behavioural Strategy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2 MEMBER FEDERATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

10 SESSIONS CONDUCTED BASED ON REQUESTS FROM MEMBER FEDERATIONS AND AREA ASSOCIATIONS

3 MEETINGS WITH WORLD ATHLETICS ATHLETE COMMISSION

2 EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

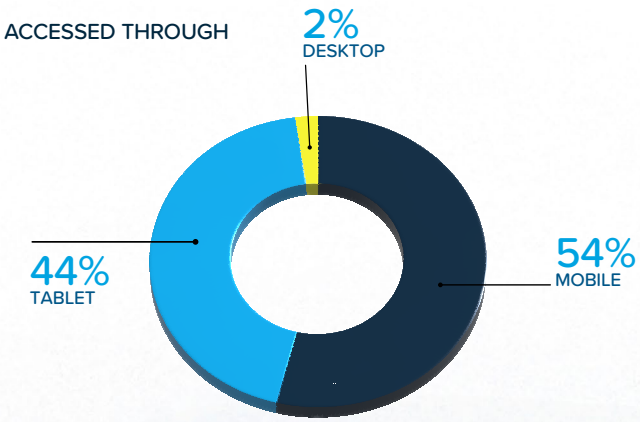
COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

71,558 USERS

197,595 SESSIONS

212 COUNTRIES



SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
4,924
FOLLOWERS
UP 8.6%

TWITTER
7,333
FOLLOWERS
UP 30.5%

INSTAGRAM
1,442
FOLLOWERS
UP 32.4%

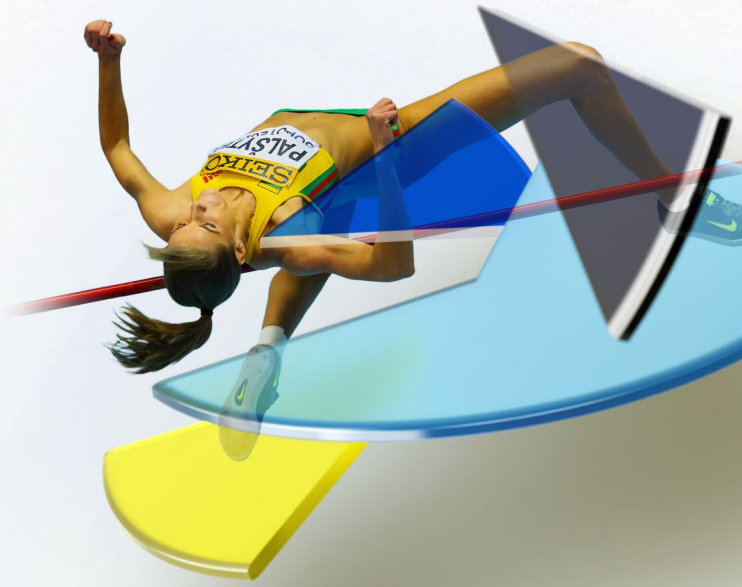
NEWSLETTERS

#MYSPORTMYINTEGRITY

2	2,688	69	50%
EDITIONS	RECIPIENTS	COUNTRIES	OPEN RATE

ATHLETICS INTEGRITY WATCH

1	1,032	97	44%
EDITION	RECIPIENTS	COUNTRIES	OPEN RATE





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INTEGRITY
UNIT

MEDIA@ATHLETISINTEGRITY.ORG
ATHLETICSINTEGRITY.ORG

aiu_athletics aiu_athletics aiu.athletics

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