



TENGLAND BOXING ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF CLEAN SPORT / ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES 2021

A good amount of Clean Sport/Anti-Doping activity has been done this year. This report will explain that activity under the four headings of Education, Communications, Projects and Testing.

Education

A variety of work has been done during the year to review and then update the EB Clean Sport/Anti-Doping education and information materials.

England Boxing released its anti-doping film, 'Don't cheat, don't dope, report it!' in April of this year. This is available to view on the Clean Sport/Anti-Doping pages on the EB website, the EB Facebook account and on YouTube (see https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=don%27t+cheatr+don%27t+dope).

There is a shortened version on Instagram: see https://www.instagram.com/p/COLAgQNF_3T/?utm_medium=copy_link.

This film forms the centrepiece of EB's attempts to get relevant messaging, with a specific boxing context, to members. It was originally planned for release in late 2020 – in advance of the start date of the new WADA Code and 2021 Rules.

Unfortunately, filming and production was frustrated by the COVID-19 epidemic and the associated disruption caused by successive lock-downs and restrictions. It was originally intended to have various people speaking to different messages within the film. The introduction was to be given by a professional World Champion male boxer and a prominent female boxer.

EB members, boxers and coaches, were to speak about the various potential rule violations and senior executive and non-executive staff were to speak to EB's formal requirements. Sadly, that all had to be postponed and then, because of time and the uncertainty of how long lockdown and restrictions would last, cancelled altogether.

The production was revised to ensure that the same messages could be included but differently produced.

The website was rewritten in October 2020 to take account of the requirements of the new WADA 2021 Code, the 2021 AIBA and UK Anti-Doping rules and to provide a better, easier explanation of the obligations that are imposed by the Code, as well as the rights of members relating to the anti-doping rules. Equally important was the update to show the 2021 Prohibited List and provide sign-posting for additional information sources.

Minor adjustments have been made to the website since then to take account of the newly issued advice of UKAD in its Clean Sport UKAD Assurance Framework. An update has been provided to signpost the publication of the 2022 WADA Prohibited List, together with the WADA issued explanatory document that explains the changes from the 2021 list.

The Compliance Manager, who is the EB Clean Sport/Anti-Doping lead, together with the lead on these matters from the Legal, HR and Compliance Sub-committee, and other people across the organisation, have reviewed and revised a variety of educational materials for delivery to different audiences.

The aim is to develop a library of materials each of which is focused on specific audiences. For example, working with the Acting Talent Pathway Manager, has resulted in an augmentation and development of the materials that can be used in the Talent Pathway Handbook, the face-to-face sessions during the Induction meetings and then throughout the programme's training camps thereafter.

Audience specific initial education sessions have been held, e.g., for executive staff, including the Club Support Officers, as part of their Continuing Development Programme, and another for Regional Safeguarding Officers.

A variety of executive staff, including those on the Talent Pathway and the Club Support Officers, have been encouraged to complete the new UKAD 'Introduction to Clean Sport' and or 'Clean Sport Advisor' web-based education courses in advance of the introduction of the EB Clean Sport Education Strategy. The board will note that there are various requirements in the Clean Sport/Anti-Doping Education Strategy for staff and volunteers, including coaches, to complete UKAD Clean Sport courses.

The Compliance Manager has completed the UKAD Clean Sport lead course and the new UKAD 'Introduction to Clean Sport course' to augment his education even though he had previously completed previous versions of a variety of courses offered by UKAD.

Communications

In addition to the points made above about communications, it should be noted that the focus on Clean Sport/Anti-Doping messaging in the past has been predominantly focused on those involved in and associated with the Talent Pathway programme.

Ordinarily, that would centre on face-to-face sessions with boxers, their parents/guardians and with coaches during the induction days and then during training camps. This would be augmented by messaging using various platforms peculiar to the various groups within the programme, as well as the programme's Handbook. That has obviously been affected by the lack of boxing caused by COVID. There has been little or no boxing for the last 18 months.

Messaging to other members not in the programme – the bulk of EB members - has historically been lower key and then, information and awareness based, centring on the website pages.

It is of note that that will change in future years to better and more frequently promote Clean Sport/anti-doping messaging across the organisation as set out in the EB Clean Sport Education Strategy and its implementation plan, which is to be published early in 2022. There is, for example, a plan to have a monthly thematic focus on a Clean Sport/Anti-Doping issue using various social media platforms, including Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, to get short, pithy and meaningful messages across.

The reintroduction of boxing this year has also enabled a resumption of Clean Sport/Anti-Doping messaging to those at the higher end of competition, albeit that boxers have still yet to be officially invited onto the Talent Pathway. Clean Sport/Anti-Doping email communications have been sent to those athletes who were selected to represent England Boxing at the European Youth Championships, after initial discussions with them during a pre-tournament training camp.

Unfortunately, the face-to-face education session that was originally planned for them was cancelled when the team was withdrawn from the competition because of government travel restrictions. Clean Sport/Anti-Doping email messages have been given to the 'Schools and 'Juniors' boxers attending the Champions Day' events following the national championships. The EB 'Don't cheat, don't dope, report it!' film was also promoted among these groups.

Otherwise, a variety of different platforms have been used to send messages and information to all members about Clean Sport/Anti-Doping. These include the EB website news pages, the EB Facebook pages, Instagram and Twitter, as well in meetings between executive staff and regional and or club officials. To give a few examples

- A reminder message was sent in January 2021 pointing out that the new WADA Code 2021 came into effect and that this affected the EB Anti-Doping Rules: see https://www.englishboxing.org/news_articles/be-aware-of-boxings-new-anti-doping-rules-for-2021/
- The list of banned substances and methods that underpin the WADA Code and the anti-doping rules are updated each October: see for example https://www.englishboxing.org/news_articles/world-anti-doping-code-changes-and-2021-prohibited-list/. That article also informed members of the introduction of the new WADA Code and provided a link to the webpage where the changes were explained. As mentioned above, information has been sent out about the 2022 Prohibited List and associated explanatory documents. For the most recent notification about the 2022 list see ‘Boxers encouraged to study new WADA Prohibited List for 2022’ at https://www.englishboxing.org/news_articles/boxers-encouraged-to-study-wadas-new-prohibited-list-for-2022/ and the tweet of 5th October 2021.

Projects

Much of the activity early in the year was focused on getting the ‘Don’t cheat, don’t dope, report it!’ film produced and released. That was a time-consuming task given the frustrations around the disruption caused by COVID.

Attention then moved onto preparing for and then responding to what has proved to be the mammoth task of completing and submitting the information required by UKAD for its Clean Sport Assurance Framework. This has been an extremely useful, educating and necessary process but it has been resource-intensive, and at a time when the organisation was seeking to organise the return to boxing following COVID.

The focus has now shifted to preparing to implement the various strands of the Education Strategy and to address the issues that the Assurance Framework work highlighted as requiring reconsideration of existing policy and or procedure. These include a variety of membership policy and practice related issues.

EB has initiated a regular meeting of the lead Clean Sport/Anti-Doping officers from the home nations boxing governing bodies: BABA/GB Boxing, Boxing Scotland. England Boxing and Welsh Boxing. This is proving to be an invaluable resource to better inform each other about and seek to coordinate Clean Sport/anti-doping initiatives and resources.

Testing and Results Management

There have not been any Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) (a positive test for a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) or any Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) (a finding by a panel that a person has committed a breach of the anti-doping rules) by an EB member. There have been no reports to, or information received by, the Compliance Manager of any active anti-doping investigations. It should be noted that UKAD and other regulatory bodies take the confidentiality of their investigations seriously and are unlikely to inform any NGB other than at the conclusion of an investigation. There has been one allegation made to the Compliance Manager about an anti-doping issue. UKAD has been informed by the Compliance Manager.

Six boxers competing in December at the National Championships were randomly tested by UKAD officials. It should be noted that it is not possible, given the way that UKAD and other regulatory bodies publish their statistics, to discern how many other tests have been conducted on England Boxing boxers. UKAD, for example, publish in their quarterly testing reports the number of tests conducted by reference to national governing body, National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) or international federation. None have been conducted on boxers under the auspices of England Boxing during the last year.

The figures, for example, for April-June 2021 show that there were 17 tests conducted on boxers under the heading “GB Boxing”.¹ The figures for January-March 2021 show that 1 test was conducted under the heading ‘AIBA’ and 16 under “GB Boxing”. Some of these may have been, and it is likely that they were, conducted on England Boxing members who are part of the GB Boxing squads.²

Note: The WADA testing figures refer only to the sport, i.e., boxing, albeit categorising Olympic Sports separately from others.³ The WADA statistics relating to ADRV’s show the results by sport and then by member country to WADA, the United Kingdom of Great Britain in our case.⁴

1 See UKAD (2021) ‘UKAD National Anti-Doping Programme Results department (Legal) Quarter 1 2021-2022’- April-June 2021, at page 6. [Online] Available at: <https://www.ukad.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-08/2021-22%20Q1%20Quarterly%20Report.pdf> ; UKAD (2021) ‘UKAD National Anti-Doping Programme Results department (Legal) Quarter 4 2020-2021’, at page 6.

2 UKAD (2021) ‘UKAD National Anti-Doping Programme Results department (Legal) Quarter 4 2020-2021’ Jan-March 2021, at pages 5 & 6. [Online] Available at: <https://www.ukad.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-06/Quarter%204%20-%202020-21%20Report.pdf> . Note that the full year figures for 2020-2021 show that a total of 57 tests were conducted under the heading of GB Boxing: see page 6.

3 WADA (2019) 2019 ANTI-DOPING TESTING FIGURES, Table 1 Total Samples Analyzed in ASOIF Sport Disciplines (Urine and Blood), P..6. [online] available at https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2019_anti-doping_testing_figures_en.pdf

4 WADA (2018) ‘2018 Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) Report’, Pp.25 & 34. [Online] Available at: https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2018_adrv_report.pdf: