

CCES Submission to 2027 International Standard for Education Review Third Consultation Phase

In response to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) request for comments as part of Phase 3 of the 2027 International Standard for Education consultation process, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) submitted the following comments.

General

The CCES feels that the tone of the language used should reflect certain assumptions and priorities that have been expressed at prior Global Education Conferences and are supported by existing and emerging research: first, that we assume that athletes are clean and intend to train and compete clean, and second, that our role involves reducing clean athlete anxiety by equipping them with the knowledge, tools, and resources to engage in clean sport behaviours.

Article 5.0

The CCES notes that a standardized definition for or criteria to identify “those most vulnerable and at risk” would help Signatories prioritize those learners in our education pools and education plans.

Article 5.1

The CCES would suggest removing, “identification of competitions or Events where national teams participate” as an example. The other examples effectively outline the relevant national context, and the creation of this list would be potentially burdensome to capture all competitions for all national teams.

Article 6.1.1

The CCES recommends considering the removal of “Athletes receiving notification of potential ADRVs” from the athletes that shall be included in the education pool. The intent of capturing this group may be covered already by “Athletes serving/returning from a period of Ineligibility.”

Article 6.1.1

The CCES recommends defining or providing additional context for “talented-level” athletes.

Article 7

The CCES notes that the independent development of a curriculum can be a heavy lift for under-resourced or less-developed Signatories, and WADA has access through the global anti-doping community to significant curriculum development expertise. We therefore recommend developing a universal curriculum template that demonstrates minimum standards and including it in the guidelines or its appendices, with a reference in the notes to Article 7.

Article 14.3

The role of the Major Event Organizations (MEO) described in this article appears to duplicate work already being completed by anti-doping organizations (ADO) and international federations (IF) during a pre-Games period. It is therefore suggested that the MEO's role be focused on the timely and clear publication of rules and guidelines to allow ADOs to adequately educate their event-bound teams prior to Games. Should this not change, the CCES would suggest emphasis on timeliness and publication of clear rules and guidelines to assist ADOs. When publication occurs after athletes begin to travel, it can pose challenges for both athletes and ADOs.