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## 20 MINUTOS

18/03/2019

### Ministro polaco plantea propuestas para dirigir AMA

AP - El ministro del Deporte de Polonia afirmó el lunes que los pasos que ha dado para combatir el dopaje en su país le han otorgado la experiencia necesaria para convertirse en el próximo titular de la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje.

En entrevista con The Associated Press, Witold Banka aseguró que en sus tres años como ministro cambió la ley para empezar un panel independiente que decidió sanciones por dopaje, elevó las regulaciones polacas antidopaje a los máximos estándares mundiales y creó la agencia antidopaje polaca, POLADA, con un fuerte órgano investigador.

Aumentó el presupuesto para pruebas y mejoró el laboratorio antidopaje de Polonia, haciéndolo independiente de órganos gubernamentales del deporte. La nueva ley establece que quien proporcione sustancias prohibidas a un atleta podría enfrentar hasta tres años de prisión y aquellos que cometen dopaje de manera consciente enfrentarían consecuencias económicas.

“Estoy seguro de que yo no estaría en el lugar donde me encuentro de no haber cambiado algunas cosas en Polonia y si no las hubiese hecho bien”, sostuvo Banka, de 34 años, respecto a ser elegido en enero para representar a Europa en esta elección.

Banka ve la necesidad de una mejor educación de las figuras deportivas contra el dopaje y su mayor participación para combatirlo. Cree que solía haber un “acercamiento negligente” dado que los atletas no eran educados apropiadamente sobre las diversas consecuencias del dopaje.

Otro candidato, el dominicano Marcos Díaz, sugirió que el próximo presidente de la AMA debería provenir de su región, donde las mejoras son necesarias en las pruebas y el combate al dopaje. “Tengo las soluciones necesarias y entiendo los problemas de la región”, dijo Banka en respuesta.

Banka agregó que, de ser electo, establecería un Fondo de Solidaridad Antidopaje bajo el cual los patrocinadores contribuirían al desarrollo de una red mucho más amplia de laboratorios capaces de examinar muestras. Existen en la actualidad 30 laboratorios semejantes alrededor del mundo y sólo uno en África, lo que hace lento y costoso el proceso de analizar las muestras.

En cuanto al escándalo de dopaje en Rusia que llevó a una suspensión de tres años a su agencia antidopaje, RUSADA, Banka comentó que el “tema aún no está cerrado” ya que la información recibida por la AMA desde Rusia aún necesita ser “analizada en detalle”.

Ver más en: <https://www.20minutos.com/deportes/noticia/ministro-polaco-plantea-propuestas-para-dirigir-ama-145822/0/#xtor=AD-1&xts=513357>

## LA GUÍA DEL CICLISMO

18/03/2019

Elia Viviani: “Me asusta que alguien aún pueda pensar en doparse”



Foto: Santos Tour Down Under

- El italiano saltó al profesionalismo en 2010, cuando ya se hacía mucho hincapié en los equipos del peligro de caer en el dopaje.
- "Hace diez años, fue un momento en que el ciclismo había cambiado. Tengo la suerte de ser parte de esta generación".

### Manuel González

A **Elia Viviani** (Deceuninck-QuickStep) el simple hecho de vincular ‘dopaje’ y ‘ciclismo’ le da miedo. Un binomio que cada cierto tiempo hace tambalear a este deporte, cuyas bases se asientan sobre todo lo contrario. Sobre el esfuerzo, el trabajo y el dar lo mejor de cada uno.

Viviani, campeón de Italia en ruta, ha admitido en el portal **Cyclingnews** que solo pensar que algunos ciclistas aún se puedan estar dopando, a pesar del Pasaporte Biológico, le deja “asustado”. Le preocupa que todos los integrantes de un equipo puedan perder su trabajo por las acciones de una persona.

“Lo que me asusta es que alguien todavía pueda pensar en hacerlo”, dice un Viviani que hoy en día es la bandera del ciclismo italiano. Un ganador nato que suma **más de 70 victorias en su carrera profesional**, que sigue siendo una referencia en el Quick-Step y un ejemplo para tantos y tanto ciclistas que sueñan con brillar en el World Tour. “Sé que todo un equipo podría retirarse si sucediera algo, por lo que no entiendo cómo alguien puede pensar hacer algo así”.

### **OPERACIÓN SANGRÍA**

La llamada ‘**Operación Sangría**’ ha destapado una larga trama de dopaje en Austria y Alemania que ya se ha cobrado las carreras de **Stefan Denifl y Georg Preidler**, y que ha dejado una amenazante nubarrón sobre el pelotón profesional.

Sin embargo, Viviani dice sentirse afortunado de ser parte de una generación que se convirtió en profesional después de lo que se considera la peor era del ciclismo profesional: “Me siento afortunado de haberme convertido en profesional en 2010. Hace diez años, fue un momento en que el ciclismo había cambiado. **Tengo la suerte de ser parte de esta generación**”.

Elia saltó al **profesionalismo en 2010 (Liquigas)**, en pleno ocaso de **Lance Armstrong**: “Todo el mundo estaba asustado de hacer algo porque los equipos dejaron claro que, si alguien lo hacía, podría haber significado el final para todos” – recalca el de Isola della Scala. “Como siempre he dicho, creo que el hecho de que los jóvenes puedan ganar, es una señal de que el pelotón está limpio”.

Viviani reveló que ha pasado **controles** fuera de competición desde el inicio de la temporada actual, sin problema, como otra labor más de su profesión: “No estoy preocupado por las pruebas. No es un problema, el problema es que alguien, después de todo lo que acabo de decir, incluso puede pensar en intentar hacer algo”.

<http://laguiadelciclismo.com/actualidad/2019/elia-viviani-me-asusta-que-alguien-aun-pueda-pensar-en-doparse/>

**LA TERCERA (Chile)**

19/03/2019

**“Duco no podía apelar al TAS”**Autor: [Ignacio Leal Castillo](#)

Antidopaje dice que Lausana se declarará sin jurisdicción con la atleta: increíblemente no figura con Nivel Internacional en IAAF.

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Hace dos semanas, Natalia Duco anunció en redes sociales su decisión apelar ante el TAS su sanción de tres años por dopaje (dio positivo por GHRP-6, un liberador de hormona del crecimiento). Lo hizo, según dijo, para demostrar que no hizo trampa. Pero, según la Comisión Nacional de Control de Dopaje (CNCD), lo ha hecho para nada. “No podía apelar al TAS”, sostiene Luis Alberto Santacruz, miembro del organismo chileno. Y añade que, por tanto, el castigo será definitivo.

La Comisión apoya su tesis en que el TAS, en sus Reglas de Procedimiento, establece quiénes y cómo pueden solicitar una apelación. Son específicamente los artículos R47º, R55º y R58º los que lo determinan. Una de las condiciones fundamentales para hacerse cargo de esta apelación es que el deportista posea el Nivel Internacional. Pero Natalia Duco, sorpresivamente, no tiene ese estatus. O no lo tenía en el momento en el que fue sometida al control antidopaje que arrojó positivo (18 de abril de 2018).

La CNCD consultó a la IAAF si la deportista contaba con la categoría internacional. Y la respuesta fue categórica: no pertenecía. “Ella no participó en una competencia internacional a cargo de la IAAF, ni era parte del Grupo de Control Fuera de Competición. Esa información ya fue corroborada por la Federación Internacional, así que no puede ir al TAS”, asegura Luis Alberto Santa Cruz, representante del COCh en la CNCD. En Chile, la Ley establece que esta categoría internacional la entrega la federación internacional de cada disciplina y, en el atletismo, el reglamento es específico para determinar a quién se considera de Nivel Internacional: “Atleta incluido en el Grupo Registrado de Control establecido a nivel

internacional por la IAAF, o que participa en una competición internacional según el Artículo 35.9". Duco, no cumplía con ninguna de las dos al momento de su control.

¿Y su presencia en los Odesur? Fue posterior a la toma de la muestra, afirma Santacruz, y además no es evento IAAF como tal. ¿Y su participación en la Diamond League de Marruecos, que sí es un evento IAAF? Ya estaba suspendida y no pudo participar.

No sería la primera vez que un deportista chileno apele al TAS, pero finalmente echen abajo su reclamación por que el tribunal se declara incompetente por esta razón. El 4 de diciembre pasado, el TAS se declaró sin jurisdicción ante la apelación del maratonista Daniel Estrada (que representó a Chile en Río 2016), cargándole incluso las costas del juicio al viñamarino. Estrada fue sancionado dos años por adulterar sus muestras (la del frasco A no coincidía con la del B).

Este diario preguntó sobre el particular a los abogados de Duco que encabezan su defensa, pero no hubo respuesta.

<https://www.latercera.com/el-deportivo/noticia/duco-no-podia-apelar-al-tas/576259/>

## THE CONVERSATION

18/03/2019

### Whistleblowing: athletes shouldn't have to choose between their careers and the truth

1. [Kelsey Erickson](#)
2. [Susan Backhouse](#)

Kelsey Erickson received funding from the World Anti-Doping Agency to conduct this research.

Susan Backhouse received funding from the World Anti-Doping Agency to conduct this research.

Athletes should not feel like they have to choose between their careers or telling the truth about doping in sport. Yet, our [new research](#) shows that this is (too) often the reality for many involved in the sporting world. Telling the truth isn't always rewarded. Instead, speaking up – whistleblowing – is too often followed by [retribution](#).

Our new research shows that whistleblowing on doping in elite sport can (and does) come at a cost to the whistleblower. As we discovered, for both US and UK doping whistleblowers, coming forward with information requires ongoing personal sacrifice – emotional, financial and relational.

Contrary to common belief, whistleblowing on doping is generally not a simple matter of report and move on. Rather, it is a series of steps – each accompanied by complex decisions – that exist from the moment of witnessing the questionable behaviour to well beyond the act of actually whistleblowing.

We spoke to three people who had reported doping in elite sport to gather insights into their unique whistleblowing experiences. Collectively, their accounts stressed that whistleblowing is a process that is often accompanied by myriad consequences for the whistleblower.

#### The difficulties

[Previous research](#) shows that athletes are generally hesitant to report doping despite being opposed to personally using banned substances. As an athlete, do you report doping behaviour to protect the integrity of sport, or keep quiet to protect a fellow sportsperson's career, reputation and well-being?

Most athletes avoid publicly consuming illegal substances or engaging with banned methods. So doping whistleblowers do not necessarily have direct evidence of a specific doping incident. Instead, they are often privy to a series of incidents or events that collectively equate to doping.

The (potential) whistleblower therefore has to connect the dots and determine that the act(s) has indeed broken anti-doping rules. This on its own is challenging, but then add in the possibility that the person actually breaking the doping rules is someone you have a relationship with – and the prospect of whistleblowing becomes that much more complex.

Once doping has been identified, the whistleblower has to determine how and to whom they are going to report doping. Who can they trust with the information? Also, do they want to voluntarily take responsibility for (likely) altering the career trajectory of the athlete who has doped? These are weighty questions – whistleblowing on doping is complicated. Yet, sportspeople are increasingly expected to do it through such channels as the World Anti-Doping Agency’s [Speak Up! Platform](#).

### Support needed

Our research shows that whistleblowing can and does have life-altering implications for whistleblowers. The emotional burden of knowing that you have potentially ended someone’s athletic career can weigh heavy. At the same time, voluntarily risking such things as your reputation, financial stability and athletic career is a daunting prospect. It’s not surprising then that some athletes are [reluctant to speak out](#).



It must be easier for athletes to speak out, without fearing reprisals. Shutterstock

It is clear that further support is needed to enable more people to report doping in sport. For this to happen, whistleblowers need practical and emotional support at every step in the whistleblowing journey. Evidence-based whistleblowing policies – with explicit protections for whistleblowers and clear guidelines on when and how to report – are a key starting point for this and should be implemented and enforced. And while anonymous reporting hotlines like the World Anti-Doping Agency’s Speak Up! platform and accompanying [Whistleblower programme](#) are a huge step in the right direction, research has not kept pace with these advances in policy and practice

Whistleblower education must also be provided, signposting people to available whistleblowing platforms and how to use them – as well as informing them about their rights as whistleblowers. An independent person – such as an ombudsman – to contact for advice and support should also be offered. Providing a sport ombudsman was listed as a “priority recommendation” in the 2017 Duty of Care in Sport [Report](#) regarding the handling of general welfare issues in UK sport. We suggest an ombudsman should be provided to support doping whistleblowers specifically.

The athlete voice is getting [louder](#) – with athletes rallying together and demanding a say in how global sport is run. Yet, it seems the current doping whistleblowing culture is more likely to deter athletes from speaking up than encourage them. But on the positive side, athletes also hold the key to understanding what changes need to be made to shift this culture towards one that empowers whistleblowers to come forward – which will ultimately help to protect the integrity of sport.

<https://theconversation.com/whistleblowing-athletes-shouldnt-have-to-choose-between-their-careers-and-the-truth-112349>

CYCLING NEWS

18/03/2019

Idealism is more important than all-out success, says Sunweb doctor

'Some teams are afraid to lose a sporting edge' says Boelens



Tom Dumoulin on the front for Team Sunweb at Tirreno-Adriatico

(Getty Images)

The last few weeks have highlighted two key moments in the ongoing anti-doping fight. Firstly, the UCI has taken the initiative and banned the powerful and controversial painkiller tramadol, with the [first batch of tests taken during Paris-Nice](#). While these measures have been widely applauded by riders and teams, the damaging revelations of a [doping ring in Austria](#), with two rider confessions and the possibility of more to follow, have stripped bare the notion that cycling's dark arts have been eradicated entirely.

The [ban on tramadol](#), which carries its own rules on suspensions separate to those typically associated with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), came after almost half a decade of lobbying from bodies and agencies such as the Movement for Credible Cycling (MPCC).

This collection of teams from the WorldTour and below has, at times, faced criticism, but their core intention has always been centred around 'doing better' and looking to improve the culture within the sport. [Team Sunweb](#) were one of the founding members of the movement and their doctor, Anko Boelens, was one of the leading voices calling for the sanctions over tramadol.

"I know that the cycling world isn't completely clean yet," Boelens tells *Cyclingnews*.

"Almost everyone that works in cycling will have to acknowledge that, but we also have become cleaner, and we've created a mentality that's a lot better than a few years ago."

Boelens heralds the tramadol ban as a 'welcome' advancement but adds that Sunweb have banned the substance internally for a number of years. In fact, if riders on the squad break rank and use tramadol, either in training or racing, they risk having their contracts dissolved.

Sunweb, according to Boelens, are likely to treat the use of tramadol like any other major doping violation.

"Even before the MPCC banned it, we didn't use it at all. It's a painkiller and it's one that you need if there's a serious problem. For us, it was never a question if someone could ride with Tramadol. We never did it. In the interests of having a clean and credible sport and in the interest of having a safe sport, it's good that it's banned in-competition," he says.

"Our riders are not supposed to use it and if they do it behind our back then it would be a serious violation, which we would probably treat as a doping violation internally. We don't bring it to races - we don't and we won't. Our riders could be fired if they took it intentionally. They could only do it behind our backs and that would be an ultimate breach of confidence."

### **The Biological passport**

While the idea of a team taking a strong stance over a controversial and dangerous painkiller should enhance the notion of a cleaner sport, the reality is that cycling - like all professional sports - is still facing major hurdles in the fight against doping.

In March, the news of a blood doping cell in Austria sent shockwaves through cycling. Blood bags were seized, arrests were made and, at this point, two riders have confessed to being part of the programme. One of them was Georg Preidler, who rode for Sunweb from 2012 until 2017, at which point he moved to the French outfit, Groupama-FDJ. [His confession](#) stated that in 2018 he only extracted blood without re-injecting it but, like the earlier confession from Stefan Denifl, it raised legitimate questions over the culture of the sport and the biological passport.

Boelens stresses that the UCI's leading weapon in the fight against doping still had the support of Sunweb, and the Dutch doctor explained that, though the system has flaws, it remained an important tool.

"If you look at the history of doping in sport, the passport had a huge influence on how riders behaved. You just need to look at the blood samples that were collected. It immediately became a deterrent and meant that doping wasn't used on the same scale as it was at before. For that reason, the passport still has value because it means that people can't be blatant."

What the passport has seemingly struggled with is the concept of micro-dosing and other variables, which Boelens admits are still 'weaknesses'.

"It's all a matter of what you expect," he says. "Maybe some expect too much from the passport. They expect that if those that dope once, then the passport will prove beyond doubt that the athlete is cheating. That's not how it works. That said, it's still an important tool in the hands of the anti-doping authorities."

Boelens highlights that it is imperative that riders from all teams, no matter their stature or status, should be tested thoroughly. Although riders should be tested based on targeted information and science, the athletes struggling for jobs were just as susceptible as those chasing the biggest prizes in the sport.

"Just because it's not perfect, you shouldn't discard it," he says. "We want our riders tested as much as possible by an independent body. We want the anti-doping agencies to test our riders as much as possible. Not just the top riders, but also the low profile riders; the ones that are

struggling to find new contracts; the ones who dream of being leaders one time. It's just as important to test those riders.

"For me, it's never enough. If it was up to me I'd have every rider of my team tested once a month."

### **Grey areas and a level field**

The examples over the biological passport and tramadol highlight two important sides to the anti-doping war but there are a number of issues in the centre of the battlefield that remain complex, to say the least. For example, it's telling that the UCI has implemented recommendations from the MPCC over tramadol and the no needle policy, yet the membership of the MPCC does not extend to every WorldTour team. The MPCC is not an extension of WADA, so teams are not obliged to join.

Team Sky, Deceuninck-QuickStep, and Astana are three noticeable absentees from the list of members, although the latter were somewhat token members until an issue in 2015 led to them dropping out rather than starting the Tour de France with one less rider. In 2016 the MPCC stated on record that Katusha, Lampre-Merida, and Astana had only joined the movement out of 'opportunism'.

Having a sport in which two sets of teams compete in the same events yet one half holds themselves to different and potentially higher standards is somewhat difficult to understand and Boelens admits that MPCC teams, while striving for idealism, may put themselves at risk - even marginally - when it comes to nullifying a competitive edge. The prime example: banning tramadol internally while other teams prescribed it to their riders.

"We like to think so," he says when asked if MPCC teams race on a level field. "Obviously there's a reason why there has been abuse in the past but I think that we can win and compete at the same level as other teams.

"Maybe someone would say that we put ourselves at a disadvantage but if there's a disadvantage then it's a small one. It's one that we think is the right thing for us and for cycling. You have to start somewhere."

When it comes to the grey areas, Sunweb utilizes a set of questions borrowed from the Dutch national federation. They request a rider asks themselves three questions: is it performance enhancing, is it possibly harmful, and is it against the spirit of sport?

"You can wildly interpret the last one but if the answer is yes for two out of three then morally it's better not to take it. So every time there's a situation with that grey area we try and fall back to that stance.

"There's a reason why we want to eliminate the grey area. There's a reason why some seek out that grey area to get bit of an advance but I think that our riders can still perform at the highest level, can still win races, and I think it doesn't outweigh our conviction that if you want to have a sustainable future then you need to eliminate the grey areas. We happily accept that there's a chance we hurt ourselves sportingly, and it's slight, but there is a grey area for a reason but that doesn't outweigh a more sustainable cycling world. Call it idealism. We feel that's more important. Idealism is more important than all-out success or working within the grey areas."

The wider question is why other teams are still unwilling to join the MPCC, even when the UCI repeatedly use the movement's work to enhance their own arsenal against doping.

"It's pure speculation because they've not told me but I'm guessing it's because they're not ready, because they're afraid to lose a sporting edge. But even MPCC teams can find themselves in grey areas. If you crash hard and take 600mg of ibuprofen, that's a question. You can never say it's not going to happen with you."

<http://www.cyclingnews.com/features/idealism-is-more-important-than-all-out-success-says-sunweb-doctor/>

## THE OLYMPIAN

14/03/2019

### Correction: WADA-New President story

*THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

Olivier Niggli, left, Director General of the world anti-doping agency (WADA), and Craig Reedie, right, President of the WADA, attend the opening day of the 2019 WADA annual symposium at the Swiss Tech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 13, 2019. **KEYSTONE VIA AP JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT**

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

In a story March 14 about the candidates for president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, The Associated Press reported erroneously that Witold Banka voted to reinstate Russia's anti-doping agency last September. Banka was not present when the vote was made and a person representing him abstained.

A corrected version of the story is below:

Doping watchdog WADA mulling 3 presidential candidates

The World Anti-Doping Agency will get a new leader this year while still rebuilding trust with athletes, and after the extreme stress test of a years-long Russian doping scandal

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — After the extreme stress test of a years-long Russian doping scandal, the World Anti-Doping Agency will get a new leader this year while still rebuilding trust with athletes.

The six-year presidency of IOC member Craig Reedie began with the steroid-tainted Sochi Olympics and will end in November with likely dozens of Russian doping cases unresolved in the ongoing fallout.

"This has been a complicated period," Reedie acknowledged Wednesday on the sidelines of WADA's annual hosting of anti-doping experts in the Olympic family's home city.

WADA has been hit from all sides during what the Scottish official described as "one of the biggest political stand-offs in world political affairs" of recent years.

Still, Reedie believes he hands over an organization that "comes out of it with very substantial credit, and if some of that bounces back on me then I will be happy to take it."

The next WADA president will be picked by the public authorities, which jointly fund the global anti-doping watchdog, and take turns holding the presidency with the Olympic movement.

Europe nominated Poland's sports minister, Witold Banka, and the Americas proposed Marcos Diaz of the Dominican Republic. Both former athletes are members of WADA's executive committee.

A third candidate is Linda Helleland, the WADA vice president and its most vocal critic of Russia. The Norwegian lawmaker remains in the race without a formal nomination.

All three candidates were at the WADA conference Wednesday, though no campaign event was held with key stakeholders from laboratories, anti-doping agencies, athlete groups and sports governing bodies.

Reedie would not speculate on how the job has evolved in his time, but added: "I am sure a new president will have his own priorities."

Here's a look at what the candidates are focusing on:

#### WITOLD BANKA

Poland's 34-year-old sports minister entered politics after a career as a world-class runner. He got a bronze medal in the 4x400-meter relay squad at the 2007 world championships.

He recalled how his Polish relay colleagues were denied gold medals at the 1999 worlds by "some cheaters" among the United States quartet which was later stripped of the title.

He said he would create a solidarity fund to help pay for more testing laboratories, especially outside Europe.

Asked about the Russian case, he pivoted to suggest "we are forgetting about anti-doping blank spots."

Banka said almost 10 percent of the medals from the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics — 306 events in total — went to countries with a "very weak anti-doping system."

"For my opinion, this is the biggest problem," he said, noting there is just one WADA-accredited laboratory in Africa. It is in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

"We should have equal treatment for all countries. Russia, Poland, USA, all European countries (should) respect the rules," he said.

#### MARCOS DIAZ

The former marathon swimmer is president of CADE, the pan-American group of government sports ministries.

WADA has had three white, male presidents from Anglo-Saxon countries since it was created in 1999. Now, Diaz believes it is time for a leader from "not only the Americas but a third-world country."

"Leaving that part of the world behind creates doping havens," he said.

Diaz cited work to rebuild links with the IOC. He voted on WADA's ruling committee to reinstate Russia's anti-doping agency last September before the country met the mandatory conditions laid down.

He suggested Helleland could step aside before a May 14 meeting of WADA's public authority delegates choosing the next president. Then, in Montreal, they hope to find a consensus candidate who will shadow WADA leaders before formally replacing Reedie at a Nov. 5-7 conference in Poland.

Asked about Helleland finding a late nomination proposal, Diaz said: "Will a country do that and break the gentlemen's rule? I hope not."

#### LINDA HELLELAND

Running against two former athletes, Helleland is the candidate pressing hardest to include athletes in decision making.

"It hurts me that they tell us they lost trust in anti-doping," said the former minister for children and equality from Norway's conservative party.

Helleland's public questioning of an apparent rush to reinstate Russia last year riled influential people in the Olympic establishment while gaining respect from many athletes.

"They appreciate that someone is talking to the IOC and talking to Russia without any fear of their position later," she said, adding she was "fighting for the right values and what is necessary for WADA in future."

<https://www.theolympian.com/sports/article227678109.html>