



[Gresca patética entre dos héroes olímpicos.](#) **EL PAÍS**

[AIU to extend blood steroid profiling strategy for Doha 2019 World Athletics Championships following key CAS decision.](#) **INSIDE THE GAMES**

[Scientific progress defended after Howman critique of anti-doping system.](#) **INSIDE THE GAMES**

[Why is UK Anti-Doping so active in testing youth footballers?](#) **BBC**

[Shock as banned Kenyan athlete competes in race.](#) **DAILY NATION**

[Premiership in denial despite four players testing positive for cocaine.](#) **THE GUARDIAN**

[New study points to systemic shortfalls of scientific integrity in anti-doping.](#) **PLAY THE GAME**

[Haile Gebrselassie claims Mo Farah row began when he refused doping scandal suspect Jama Aden access to his hotel as he insists Brit was 'trained' by disgraced Somalian coach.](#) **DAILY MAIL**

EL PAÍS

25/04/2019

Gresca patética entre dos héroes olímpicos

Los maratonianos Mo Farah y Gebrselassie se enzarzan en acusaciones mutuas y chantajes por un robo en un hotel

CARLOS ARRIBAS



En vídeo, las declaraciones de Mo Farah y Gebreselassie. VÍDEO: AP-EPV

Las carreras de fondo se corren a ritmo pero se resuelven al sprint, se dice siempre. O en un cuadrilátero, a mamporros, se añade ahora cuando se contempla la gresca terrible y patética en la que se han enzarzado Haile Gebrselassie y Sir Mo Farah, dos de los más venerados atletas de fondo.

El mundo del atletismo asiste con la boca abierta, entre sorprendido y dolido, a una pelea entre campeones cuyas razones nadie entiende, que no se sabe dónde acabará y que se inició el miércoles en la conferencia de prensa previa a la maratón de Londres, que se disputa el domingo y en la que Farah es uno de los favoritos. En ella, sin venir a cuento, sin que nadie le preguntara, Farah, británico de 36 años, comenzó contando que se había preparado durante tres meses en Etiopía pero que el día de su cumpleaños, el 23 de marzo pasado, le robaron de la habitación del hotel Yaya Village 3.000 dólares, dos teléfonos y un reloj Tag Heuer que le había regalado su mujer. “Y lo peor”, añadió, “es que Gebrselassie, que es el dueño del hotel, no hizo nada por ayudarme. Ni respondió a mis mensajes. Y solo quiero que asuma la responsabilidad del robo”.

Al ataque directo, que consideró gratuito, Gebrselassie, de 46 años, respondió pocos minutos después con un comunicado en el que desmentía que se hubiera evaporado. Contó que colaboró con la policía y que tuvo que aguantar el enfado de sus empleados porque cinco de ellos estuvieron detenidos durante tres semanas en comisaría hasta que se demostró su inocencia. También dijo que Farah era un ingrato al que hacía un descuento del 50% por ser él quien era y que encima se había ido sin pagar los extras de su estancia, que ascendían a 3.000 dólares. “Y el único mensaje que recibí de él parecía antes que nada una amenaza, un chantaje”, añadió. “Me decía: ‘Querido Haile, quiero informarte de que estoy muy decepcionado de que no hayas hecho ningún esfuerzo para encontrar ni dinero robado ni, especialmente, el reloj... Tienes que saber que no soy responsable de lo que diga en la

conferencia de prensa de Londres ni de cómo pueda influir en tu personalidad o en tus negocios. Saludos de un amigo muy decepcionado. Sir Mo”.

Y, no contento con ello, Gebrselassie, uno de los más grandes de la historia del atletismo etíope, de la estirpe de Abebe Bikila y Kenenisa Bekele, y exitoso hombre de negocios, prolongó con dureza su contraataque recordando cómo, precisamente, él le había salvado a Farah de una detención policial unas semanas antes. Cuenta Gebrselassie que estando en el gimnasio un día de enero, Farah se mosqueó con una pareja y agredió a patadas y puñetazos a ambos. “La policía le quería detener, pero les pedí que no lo hicieran”.

Las relaciones de Farah, héroe de los Juegos de Londres, con la prensa británica no se podrían definir como fluidas. Al atleta, que llegó de Somalia, huyendo de la guerra, cuando era un niño, se le ha recordado últimamente que le gusta rodearse de personalidades sospechosas por sus vínculos con el dopaje, tales como Alberto Salazar, el entrenador con el que se prepara en California, o Jama Aden, el técnico de origen somalí detenido hace unos años por los Mossos en Sabadell en una operación contra el dopaje. A la acusación de haber agredido a una pareja, Farah respondió por medio de su abogado: “Un etíope se estaba burlando de los ejercicios de Mo en el gimnasio e intentó agredir a su compañero de entrenamiento. Mo le defendió soltando el puño, pero luego se tuvo que defender de una mujer, que le atacó armada de unas mancuernas”.

La afición acostumbra a medir a sus héroes por sus marcas y por sus títulos, a recordar el maratón en 2h 3m 59s de Gebre, en 2h 5m 11s de Mo; los cuatro títulos olímpicos y seis mundiales en 5.000m y 10.000m del británico, los dos y cinco del etíope. Ahora, perpleja, olvida los cronómetros y las medallas, y espera reteniendo el aliento a ver quién da el golpe de KO.

https://elpais.com/deportes/2019/04/25/actualidad/1556208279_653835.html

INSIDE THE GAMES

25/04/2019

AIU to extend blood steroid profiling strategy for Doha 2019 World Athletics Championships following key CAS decision

- By [Michael Pavitt](#)



The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has announced plans to extend its blood steroid profiling strategy ahead of the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships, following a landmark decision.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) endorsed the method used by the AIU in a decision announced by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The case saw blood steroid profiling used to determine cases against Ukrainian sprinters Olha Zemliak and Olesia Povh, who were banned based on testosterone measurements in blood.

Both athletes had appealed the decisions to CAS, having been sanctioned after samples taken prior to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games were found to contain an excessive concentration of testosterone.

They were provisionally suspended ahead of the 2017 World Championships in London.

The appeals were largely based on the method used, with their defence claiming their samples had been “wrongly used for research” and arguing it had not been approved by WADA.

These assertions were rejected by WADA.

The CAS decision, referring to the method used, stated there “can be no doubt on the evidence in these appeals that it is scientifically valid, and this in itself was not disputed on behalf of the athletes”.

Zemliak was handed an eight-year ban from the sport, with the Ukrainian having served a two-year doping sanction in 2009 following a positive test for norandrosterone.

Povh, a bronze medallist in the men’s 4x100m relay at the London 2012 Olympics and Daegu 2011 World Championships, was hit with a four-year ban.

Both athletes have been retrospectively disqualified from the Rio 2016 Olympics.

AIU chair David Howman welcomed the CAS verdict and stated the body would intensify its use of the blood steroid profiling ahead of this year's World Championships in Qatar's capital city Doha.

"We take note of the CAS decision which is a confirmation that our profiling strategy to detect the use of exogenous testosterone was scientifically valid and robust," said Howman.

"We are also very grateful for WADA's support of our blood steroid profiling strategy and their important role in defending the appeal before CAS.

"Our success in this case, from detection to prosecution should act as a deterrent to anyone in any sport considering trying to cheat in this way."

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1078388/aiu-to-extend-blood-steroid-profiling-strategy-for-doha-2019-world-athletics-championships-following-key-cas-decision>

INSIDE THE GAMES

25/04/2019

Scientific progress defended after Howman critique of anti-doping system

- By [Michael Pavitt](#)



Former World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) director general David Howman has been criticised for his claim anti-doping is stuck in the past by the director of a WADA-accredited laboratory in Ghent.

Howman, who worked for WADA from 2003 to 2016 and is now chairman of the Athletics Integrity Unit, critiqued the anti-doping system last week at a Partnership for Clean Competition (PCC) Conference in London.

He claimed some of the processes, such as urine testing, are almost the same today as they were in the 1970s.

The New Zealander stated the number of positive cases remained the same each year and claimed real cheats were not being caught by current testing methods.

In particular, Howman claimed urine testing had not advanced much and that it was easy for athletes to deceive urine tests.

"We've worked out other ways of doing forensic science in terms of solving crime," he said.

"Why aren't we doing something more innovative?"

"My worry is that we still do it because it's the way to build up numbers, not the way to catch the cheats.

"There's a misguided view that perhaps it's deterring people.

"Well, it's catching the stupid ones because they just are stupid.

"But it's not catching the real cheats."



AIU chair David

Howman criticised a lack of innovation in testing in a speech last week ©Getty Images

In an interview with *Reuters*, Professor Peter van Eenoo claimed it was “incredible that somebody said this”, asserting that progress had been made.

The laboratory director claimed cheats had adapted to advances in science by using different substances or reducing doses.

He claimed the rise in athletes being caught in retesting of samples from Olympic Games also highlighted how science had advanced.

"There were about 10,000 samples, 25 positives," he told *Reuters*.

"What they've done is stored all those samples and re-tested 1,000 of these negative samples.

"Out of those 1,000 samples, 100 at re-testing later turned out to be positive.

"That is only through scientific progress, because nothing has changed, it's the same urine.

"And because they know we can now detect substances for a longer period, they switch to other substances or take them in smaller doses.

"They adapt everything and that is only pushed by scientific progress."

Belgian van Eenoo claimed urine testing would continue to prove essential in the analysis process, although other methods of detection were being invested in as well.

It is claimed that around 700 blood samples will be taken from athletes prior to the World Championships, which are due to take place from September 27 to October 6.

The samples will be used for the purpose of continuing to build athlete biological passport profiles which, the AIU stated, will be used to detect doping.

WADA has praised the efforts of the AIU, who initiated the case, and added the samples had been analysed at laboratories at Lausanne in Switzerland and Seibersdorf in Austria.

The organisation claims the measurement of testosterone levels in blood serum will serve as a further tool to detect and prosecute doping, even where urine samples might be reported as negative.

“WADA welcomes this decision by CAS, which could have a long-term positive impact on clean sport,” said Olivier Niggli, WADA director general.

“I would also like to commend the AIU for their excellent work which led to this outcome.

“The decision sets an important precedent and this new method of detecting doping represents another way for Anti-Doping Organisations to secure Anti-Doping Rule Violations against those who choose to cheat.

“It is a significant victory for clean sport and for athletes around the world.”

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1078392/scientific-progress-defended-after-howman-critique-of-anti-doping-system>

BBC

24/04/2019

Why is UK Anti-Doping so active in testing youth footballers?

By Tom Garry & Andrew Aloia

BBC Sport



Testing figures in the FA Youth Cup were obtained through a Freedom of Information request

It is a competition for teenagers that has been scrutinised by drugs testers more than some of England's top leagues.

The FA Youth Cup, which features Liverpool and Manchester City in Thursday's final, had 375 samples collected from players - aged between 15 and 18 - by UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) last season.

That is more than in each of the top divisions in English rugby union, rugby league and county cricket - and more than [all major women's team sports combined](#).

A further 313 samples were collected from Division One of the Premier League 2 Under-23 competition.

BBC Sport takes a look at why football's youth competitions come under such focus.

'Vulnerable' emerging talent

In the UK, footballers are the [most heavily tested](#) athletes in team sports.

Teaching emerging talent of the pitfalls and dangers of doping is at the forefront of the agency's strategy, says Ukad's head of education and athlete support Amanda Hudson.

And exposure to drugs tests is very much a learning experience.

"Athletes start sport clean, and our job is to keep them that way. That's got to be the first line of defence," Hudson told BBC Sport.

"The challenge we have is athletes become increasingly more vulnerable as they enter in to a performance environment.

"Whether that's the 16-year-old joining an academy or people going for trials or working with sports scientists for the first time, that's the moment when, potentially, athletes could be vulnerable.

"What we've got to do is make sure, when athletes' morals are intact, when they're not under pressure, when they're not feeling vulnerable, to try to top up as best we can that sporting character.

"So if they're faced with the wrong coach or environment, we have a stronger place that we're starting from. Athletes are more able to cope if they have a strong starting DNA."

'We're not just the sport police'

Hudson, who is also part of the World Anti-Doping Agency's education committee, says "navigating the anti-doping system" makes the life of any aspiring athlete "even more challenging".

"What we've been doing at Ukad is trying to build an education system where an athlete - from 10, all the way up to the Olympics or Paralympics - has the opportunity to meet up, be educated and build a positive relationship with us, not see us as just the sport police," she said.

"I've been an athlete and - many, many years ago - the perception was that Ukad were the sport police and their job was to catch the cheats.

"But we're just trying to help them navigate some of the challenges, particularly around inadvertent doping.

"It's far cheaper to educate a lot of athletes, because the majority of athletes have no intention of cheating. It's easy to forget that."

How are Premier League clubs educating youngsters?

Athletes need to be raised to think critically about what what they put in their body, says Crystal Palace academy director Gary Issott.

"It's the duty of care that you have to the players," he said. "Part of their induction is around the doping rules and regulations. We've got full-time medics and doctors in the academy who are checking and challenging the players on a weekly basis.

"I think it's a cultural thing where you instil it into the players so, before they take anything, you want them to be in a position where they're asking the question: 'Is it OK to take this?'

"Whatever they get prescribed by a GP or anybody else, it's the first question, as an athlete, to think: 'Can I take it?'

"That's the culture you have got to develop and the mindset you have to instil in the club, just so no one makes a genuine mistake."

The fact that errors can cost careers is not something that is understated - but the clubs' educational work also goes well beyond anti-doping.

"For the large majority of players that enter the programme, they won't get a career in football," said Issott.

"So you're trying to educate for life skills away from football, but also, the lads that do survive in the game, you're trying to give them the best chance of having as long a career as possible.

"We're aware of certain players that have lost their careers through match fixing or taking substances they shouldn't have taken, and you've got to remember these are young men, so they will make mistakes.

"You're trying to minimise the mistakes they make through the education programme.

"We educate the boys on a number of issues, from leaving football, to addictions, to finance, to betting and the use of social media.

"We try to educate the players continuously, along with their parents."

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/48017418>

DAILY NATION

22/04/2019

Shock as banned Kenyan athlete competes in race



Kenya's Irene Jeptoo Kipchumba (Middle) receiving her cheque from the race organisers after finishing third at the Turkish Airlines KL Tower International Towerthon Challenge in Kuala Lumpur on April 21, 2019. PHOTO | COURTESY |

- “But it would mean the event organisers did not follow the established protocol since our National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADO) had made the sanction public both to IAAF and World Anti-Doping Agency(Wada),” explained Rugut, who said he will confirm with the Department of Immigration how Kipchumba managed to travel.
- AK president Jackson Tuwei vowed action. “We shall seriously follow up tp conclusion. Let us work together to eradicate this menace,” said Tuwei.

By AYUMBA AYODI

Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (Adak) and Athletics Kenya (AK) will investigate the circumstances that led to convicted doping cheat Irene Jeptoo Kipchumba competing in a race in Malaysia last weekend.

Kipchumba, whose ban was due to elapse in September this year, finished third in the Turkish Airlines KL Tower International Towerthon Challenge in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

It’s an athletics manager, Aman Yusof, who blew the whistle on his Facebook page, questioning why AK allowed Kipchumba to compete, while she was still serving her two-year ban.

Kipchumba finished the race third in 13 minutes and 05 seconds, losing the battle to compatriot Ann Njihia, who won in 12:36, as Danielle Nanty from New Zealand settled second in 12:37.

Kipchumba got to pocket Malaysian Ringgit 2,000 (Sh 50,000), while Njihia and Nant Sh 100,000 and Sh 75,000m respectively.

Kipchumba was banned on September 22, 2017 after she was found guilty by Adak for having used prohibited substance Prednisolone. Her ban was due September 22 this year.

“Kipchumba is still on our sanctions list and both AK and the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) are aware,” said Adak chief executive officer Japhther Rugut, adding that no one on doping list is allowed to compete.

“But it would mean the event organisers did not follow the established protocol since our National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADO) had made the sanction public both to IAAF and World Anti-Doping Agency(Wada),” explained Rugut, who said he will confirm with the Department of Immigration how Kipchumba managed to travel.

AK president Jackson Tuwei vowed action. “We shall seriously follow up tp conclusion. Let us work together to eradicate this menace,” said Tuwei.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/sports/athletics/Shock-as-banned-Kenyan-athlete-competes-in-race/1100-5083140-c0pp20/>

THE GUARDIAN

23/04/2019

Premiership in denial despite four players testing positive for cocaine

- League denies problem after revelations over last season
- Rugby union is the most sanctioned sport by UK Anti-Doping

[Gerard Meagher](#)



‘With 300-plus tests, covering three to five months- worth of use, if this was a broader problem we would see more positives,’ said Premiership Rugby’s Phil Winstanley. Photograph: David Rogers/Getty Images

Four top-flight players tested positive for cocaine last season but Premiership Rugby has denied there is a “broader problem” with use of the drug.



Empty seats leave Champions Cup licking its wounds and looking at rejig

The Rugby Football Union’s report has attributed the cases to players suffering “dislocation” from their clubs owing to injury or falling out of favour and said that the rise – there were three positive tests for the recreational drug the previous season – was a reflection on society. “All of the positives were associated with alcohol abuse and reflect the risk that 18- to 35-year-

olds are exposed to when they go out socially,” said the RFU’s medical services director, Dr Simon Kemp.

Under the RFU’s illicit drugs programme, first-time offenders are guaranteed anonymity, fined and required to undergo psychiatric treatment. This month, the Sale prop Jake Pope became the first player to breach the programme for a second time and was named, fined and banned for six months. “With 300-plus tests, covering three to five months worth of use, if this was a broader problem and it hadn’t been a disincentive, we would see more positives,” said Premiership Rugby’s Phil Winstanley.

The report also outlines the RFU’s anti-doping programme that shows an alarming number of Premiership players went through last season without being tested. While 739 tests took place across the professional game in the 2017-18 season, fewer than 250 were carried out in the Premiership, which contains around 500 players.

The Breakdown: sign up and get our weekly rugby union email.

Some of those were tested while on international duty but considering the total of 739 tests includes a number of players being tested on multiple occasions, as well as those carried out in the Championship, at academy level and in sevens and women’s programmes, at least half of the Premiership’s players may not have been tested at all. The RFU’s anti-doping and illicit drugs programme manager, Stephen Watkins, said: “If a player expected one test a season that would be too predictable a programme. It’s about running something that players don’t expect.”



Warren Gatland set to return as Lions coach for 2021 South Africa series

Last season there were two anti-doping violations in the professional game – Wasps’s Ashley Johnson and Brandon Staples of Yorkshire Carnegie. Both offences were made public at the time of the failed tests with Johnson handed a six-month suspension for taking a banned diuretic and Staples given a four-year ban after testing positive for steroids.

Three bans were handed out as part of the RFU’s community anti-doping programme (all levels below the Championship), which helps explain why rugby union is the most sanctioned sport by UK Anti-Doping. Of the 66 bans on its current list, rugby union accounts for 23, with league second on 11 – no other sport has more than seven.

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/apr/23/four-premiership-rugby-players-tested-positive-cocaine>

PLAY THE GAME

25/04/2019

New study points to systemic shortfalls of scientific integrity in anti-doping



Photo: Philippe Delavie/Pixabay

25.04.2019

By [freelance journalist Lars Jørgensen](#)

A new research paper launches critique of the current anti-doping system and calls the regulation under WADA 'arbitrary and too often not grounded in a solid foundation of evidence'. But while scientific rigor and robustness are of primary importance to WADA, there is more to managing an anti-doping case than science, says WADA, commenting on the critique.

A new study by professor Roger Pielke Jr. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, and professor Erik Boye from Oslo University Hospital, Norway, claims to document "a growing body of evidence which indicates that anti-doping regulation under WADA is sometimes arbitrary and too often not grounded in a solid foundation of evidence".

In their research paper '[Scientific Integrity and Anti-Doping Regulation](#)', which was published earlier this month by International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics, the two scientists focus on a key element of anti-doping policy implementation; the role of scientific evidence in anti-doping.

Based on a wide array of cases they conclude that WADA systematically falls short of basic standards of scientific integrity in anti-doping regulation:

"In the absence of reliable evidence, decision-making often becomes arbitrary, inconsistent and irreproducible, which threatens the integrity of anti-doping decision-making, the due process rights of athletes and the sustainability of anti-doping efforts," they say.

“To the extent that we are correct in this assertion, it would be highly problematic because the entire structure of a successful anti-doping regime is based on securing scientific integrity.”

Their study focuses on shortfalls in standards of scientific integrity in four contexts:

- The prevalence of doping,
- Performance benefits and health risks,
- Errors and inconsistencies in accusation,
- The evaluation of anti-doping policies.

No reliable estimates of prevalence

The latest major research on the prevalence of doping estimated that about 50 percent of the athletes competing at the 2011 IAAF World Championship and 12th Pan Arab Games had doped.

But according to Pielke and Boye, neither WADA nor the International Association of Athletics Federations, IAAF, who commissioned the research, allowed the results to be published until six years later following substantial negotiations and a British parliamentary inquiry. Another recent study from 2015 estimated a prevalence of 14-39 percent.

“The prevalence of doping in elite sport is a key parameter in order to scale and formulate evidence-based anti-doping regulations. However, reliable estimates are not available and have been avoided and obstructed by anti-doping authorities,” Pielke and Boye say and argue that it would not necessarily be very costly to implement a rigorous programme to assess doping prevalence and how it changes over time:

“Whatever the total needed, it is miniscule in comparison to the now dated estimate of 130 billion US dollar in revenues from elite sports and 350 million US dollar devoted to drug testing.”

Prohibited List is arbitrary

WADA’s list of prohibited substances is regulated by rules given in the WADA Code and forms the basis of anti-doping regulation.

According to The Code, a substance or method shall be considered for inclusion on the list if WADA determines that the substance or method meets two of three criteria: If it has the potential to enhance or enhances sport performance, if it represents an actual or potential health risk to the athlete, or if it violates the ‘spirit of sport’.

“With respect to performance-enhancement or health risk, the language of The Code states explicitly that evidence is needed to meet the criteria. However, the third criterion, the ‘spirit of sport’, cannot be considered to be evidence-based,” the two scientists argue and conclude that “there is considerable evidence that the composition of the Prohibited List, which now totals more than 300 substances and methods, is neither rigorously evidence-based nor transparent”.

To illustrate their point, the two scientists give a number of examples in the paper, i.e.:

Tramadol is not on the Prohibited List, its performance-enhancing benefits are unknown, but it has clear health risks. Meldonium is banned, but its performance-enhancing benefits and its

health risks are unknown. Letrozole is banned, but it has no performance-enhancing benefits and little health risks.

“At a minimum, these inconsistencies strongly suggest that decision-making with respect to including or not these drugs on the Prohibited List is arbitrary. Because WADA does not reveal the processes or evidence that it uses in making judgements about inclusion on the Prohibited List, it is impossible to know what, if any, evidence was used to support such decisions,” the two authors write.

False accusations

In the paper, Pielke and Boye present other alleged errors and inconsistencies in the current anti-doping regulation which they conclude have had profound impacts on many athletes’ careers.

One of the most severe examples involves the Saudi Arabian footballer Alaa Al-Kowaibki. In 2010 he was suspended one year for doping. But the WADA laboratory in Malaysia that had performed the analyses was subsequently suspended by WADA for producing numerous false positive test results.

The Malaysian lab protested the suspension and appealed the decision to CAS. WADA won the case based on evidence in the cases of six athletes wrongly accused of doping based on flawed analyses conducted by the lab. One of the six athletes was Alaa Al-Kowaibki. But neither WADA nor the Saudi Anti-Doping Organization told the footballer that his sample was considered a false positive and that he had wrongly served a doping suspension.

“Remarkably, it was only in 2017 that Al-Kowaibki learned that he was in fact cleared years ago by CAS. This case shows that the anti-doping system requires more than just solid evidence, it also requires that such evidence be used to secure the due process rights of athletes who are occasionally falsely accused,” Pielke and Boye argue.

A profound bias

Pielke and Boye also point to another example of what they argue is an unfair differential treatment in WADA’s International Standards for Laboratories.

While negative doping samples can be stored and re-tested years after they were taken if a new testing method is developed, positive drug tests only need to be stored for three months or until the completion of any immediate challenge or investigation of the testing result.

For this reason, athlete claims of innocence cannot be validated with a re-examination of the original sample if new information or testing procedures are developed later-on.

“This situation creates a profound bias against athletes and the use of science to resolve anti-doping disputes,” Pielke and Boye say, calling for symmetrical demands for the storage of doping samples.

Guilty until proven innocent

As in most democratic systems of jurisprudence, athletes are presumed to be innocent of doping until proven guilty. But this presumption reverses to guilty until proven innocent when an athlete tests positive, the two scientists point out.

WADA’s International Standards for Laboratories presume that the labs have conducted sample analyses and custodial procedures in accordance with the standards and explain what this means: The burden is on the Athlete or other person to establish, by a balance of

probability, a departure from the International Standards for Laboratories that could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding.

“If anti-doping administration cannot afford to maintain the same presumption of innocence for athletes typically found in common law, then anti-doping regulation is to some extent sacrificing the rights of some false accused athletes in order to facilitate the sanctioning of those who test positive, whether innocent or not,” Pielke and Boye argue.

Lack of evidence and research

Furthermore, the two scientists claim that policy interventions preferred by anti-doping organisations to fight doping among athletes do not rest on a firm foundation of evidence. Despite the lack of evidence, education is often highlighted as a key approach to anti-doping.

“In 2007, WADA supported a review of evidence of the efficacy of educational strategies in response to doping in sport. That review does not support the contention that anti-doping education is an effective strategy of motivating anti-doping behaviors,” Pielke and Boye state and note that a follow-up assessment commissioned by WADA in 2015 also concluded that little is actually known about what works.

“Without reliable information on doping prevalence and how that metric changes over time, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at a robust understanding of what works in anti-doping policy.”

Actions are needed

Pielke and Boye recommend the formation of a formally recognised group of independent scientists monitoring the prevalence of doping with its results and methods routinely and rapidly published in the public domain:

“Until anti-doping organizations take prevalence monitoring seriously, it will be difficult to take anti-doping organizations seriously.”

The two scientists also recommend a reduction of the size of WADA’s prohibited list and to strengthen due process by equal treatment of positive and negative samples, maintenance of the presumption of innocence throughout the arbitration and sanctioning process, a balancing of the weight of evidence presented by the WADA-accredited laboratories with independent expertise, and the creation of mechanisms to correct flawed sanctions when evidence indicates that mistakes were made:

“There are structural and procedural biases against athlete rights found in WADA procedures for sample storage, presumption of innocence and burden of proof.”

They also find that there should be more attention to the consequences when organizations violate the anti-doping rules, and that actions are needed to conduct a more rigorous policy evaluation:

“If anti-doping is in fact to work then it should be able to not just quantify prevalence of doping, but to quantify the effects of various interventions designed to manage or even reduce doping in sport.”

Not just science

Play the Game has asked WADA to comment on Pielke and Boye’s critique.

“Scientific rigor and robustness are of primary importance to and a constant priority for WADA. As a matter of course, WADA consults external experts to consolidate the scientific basis of cases prosecuted by the Agency in front of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS,” says Maggie Durand, WADA’s manager of Media Relations and Communications, in an email.

“Beyond science, it is important that the unique contexts and legal dimensions of each case being managed are taken into account. It should be noted that WADA is not always a party to cases and therefore reviews such cases for consistency with the rules of the Code and not necessarily from a scientific perspective.”

Maggie Durand also points out that the scientific elements underlying the anti-doping system, including the inclusion of substances on the Prohibited List, the establishment of decision limits, analytical methods, etc., are devised and revised by commissions of independent world-leading scientists.

“Indeed, decision limits and analytical methods are routinely subject to peer review and, pursuant to the World Anti-Doping Code, only benefit from presumption of scientific validity if that is the case.”

According to Durand, challenges to the scientific elements underlying the Code are frequently made but rarely succeed:

“WADA has in recent years successfully defended many scientific challenges before CAS. On the very rare occasions where CAS has upheld any aspect of a scientific challenge, WADA has reviewed the situation and undertaken any necessary action to provide the scientific information required and, if necessary, adjusted the regulation, International Standards or technical Documents, in order to reflect the decision.”

Scientists: Disappointing

Even though Maggie Durand also notes that WADA since 2001 has committed more than 80 million USD “to help researchers around the world develop breakthroughs in anti-doping science”, the two scientists behind the new research paper are disappointed with WADA’s reply:

“They do not address our items of critique, but present a general statement about how good they are,” says Erik Boye.

“The issues that we raise are legitimate and supported by evidence. It is disappointing that WADA refuses to acknowledge these issues, but WADA’s failure to engage them helps to confirm our concerns about scientific integrity in anti-doping,” says Roger Pielke Jr..

https://www.playthegame.org/news/news-articles/2019/0564_new-study-points-to-systemic-shortfalls-of-scientific-integrity-in-anti-doping/

DAILY MAIL

25/04/2019

Haile Gebrselassie claims Mo Farah row began when he refused doping scandal suspect Jama Aden access to his hotel as he insists Brit was 'trained' by disgraced Somalian coach

- Haile Gebrselassie has claimed Jama Aden was refused entry to Mo Farah's hotel
- Farah has always distanced himself from Aden, who has been linked with doping
- Gebrselassie and Farah have been involved in a furious back-and-forth recently

By [RIATH AL-SAMARRAI](#) and [MATT LAWTON](#) and [GUY ADAMS FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

Haile Gebrselassie has made the extraordinary claim that his row with [Mo Farah](#) started when Jama Aden, a coach linked to a major [doping](#) investigation, was refused entry to his hotel.

Farah has always gone to lengths to distance himself from Aden, who is being pursued by Spanish authorities and Interpol after his arrest following a drugs raid in 2016.

Yet after two days of furious back-and-forth between Farah and Gebrselassie over the Brit's stay at the Ethiopian's Yaya Village Resort near Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian has made the astonishing assertion that their falling out originated when Aden was 'forbidden' from entering his resort.



Haile Gebrselassie has claimed Jama Aden was refused entry to his hotel with Mo Farah

Gebrselassie, who was head of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation at the time, says he refused Aden admittance and made the further claim that Aden, a Somalian, was involved in Farah's training.

It is unclear when the alleged incident happened but Gebrselassie said it occurred while he was Ethiopian Athletics Federation president, his tenure of which ran between November 2016 and November 2018.

Giving an interview to an Ethiopian journalist working for *Sportsmail*, Gebrselassie said: 'His grudge against me started when I denied access to Jama Aden to the hotel and forbid access.

Jama Aden was conducting training with him at the time. I was head of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation at the time. He was angry with me at the time... and looking for ways to revenge for that.'

After a request from *Sportsmail* for comment, a spokesperson for Farah on Thursday night dismissed the claims as 'utter nonsense' and reasserted that 'Jama Aden has never trained Mo'.

Farah has previously played down his involvement with Aden, who is wanted by Spanish police and Interpol to stand trial in Spain but was reported last year to be in Qatar.



'His grudge against me started when I denied Aden access to the hotel,' Gebrselassie said

He could face up to four and a half years in prison after police swooped in June 2016 on several premises in the Catalan town of Sabadell where Aden and his athletes were staying.

The banned drug EPO and multiple syringes were found. None of the athletes present - around 30 - were reported to have been found positive after subsequent testing. An Athletics Integrity Unit investigation will follow the conclusion of the police investigation.

Aden, whose star athlete is Ethiopia's multiple world-record holder Genzebe Dibaba, was described by British Athletics in 2016 as an 'unofficial facilitator' for Farah when he trained in Ethiopia in 2015, saying his role was to hold a stopwatch and call out lap times.

They were also photographed together in 2016. Farah added at Rio 2016, where he won the third and fourth of his Olympic gold medals, that Aden wanted a 'selfie'.

A spokesman for Farah's media representatives, Freud Communications, said in 2016: 'Mo is always with a British Athletics person and of course they will speak to Jama and be courteous if they bump into each other but Jama has no input into Mo's training whatsoever.'



Farah has previously played down his involvement with Aden, who is wanted by Spanish police

Farah's previous coach Alberto Salazar is still the subject of a lengthy US Anti-Doping investigation. Farah left Salazar's group in 2017 after starting their medal-rich relationship in 2011.

His remarkable row with Gebrselassie became public on Wednesday when Farah unexpectedly detailed the theft of his belongings at the Yaya Village Resort.

He claimed he had a watch, two phones and £2,600 in cash across four currencies stolen from his room on March 23 – his 36th birthday.

Farah went on to angrily criticise Gebrselassie for not returning multiple messages for help over the incident, before an explosive response from the double Olympic champion, who accused Farah of blackmail and 'disgraceful conduct' and made a vague allegation that Farah had 'attacked a married athlete' in the hotel gym two months ago. He said it was his mediation that led to police dropping the matter.

Gebrselassie expanded on that to allege Farah punched and kicked at a married couple – Ethiopian athletes, Dagmawit Kibru and her husband Sisay Tsegaye.

Farah's coach Gary Lough, who was present in the gym, said there was an altercation, but insisted Farah acted in self-defence.

Lough told the Evening Standard: 'I turn round and this guy comes over threateningly as if he's going to attack (Abi) Bashir (Farah's training partner) and Mo tries to defend Bashir and hits the other guy.'

'So, they're grappling a little bit and the woman comes running and Mo turns round not knowing who it is and she got hit on the arm. She had two five kilogram weights in her hands and was threatening to throw them at him.'

'Hotel security did nothing. She's in the local police so she runs to them but we got the chief of the federal police involved. There were lengthy statements and police reports, and Haile's just relying on hearsay as he wasn't there.'

Mo Farah claims his hotel room was robbed in Addis Ababa

Lough added: 'Haile's been exposed for what he is and he's fighting with low blows and lies. It's mistruths and exaggerations.'

Sisay Tsegaye himself admitted the incident was not serious, saying on Thursday: 'Police came to the scene but it was resolved with mediation by the marathon runner Feyisa Lelisa (who got a silver medal in marathon in Rio).

'However, it was not Haile's mediation as claimed by him. In all of this my wife was not hit as claimed by some people. I'm in good terms now with Mo.'

The escalation between Farah and Gebrselassie, two of the world's most renowned distance runners, has been extraordinary. It is believed that the initial call to go public was made by the Farahs more than his management group. It is a curious decision in light of what it has provoked ahead of Sunday's London Marathon.

In further comments to Sportsmail's reporter in Ethiopia on Thursday, Gebrselassie said he doubted Farah's original claim to have been robbed.

He said: 'He wanted to blackmail me. Last Saturday he asked to be paid for the alleged robbery and when we kept quiet he started defaming me and my hotel. With all what he said, I now doubt that he was robbed in my hotel in the first place.

'I helped him while at our hotel. We gave him a 50 percent discount and was paying \$52 per day on a full board basis, but he has various issues at hotel. All of us were shocked with his behaviour. I will seek a legal remedy for this defamation that he done towards me and my hotel.'

The instructor at the hotel gym, Chala Diriba, revealed Farah had previously been aggressive on a stay a year earlier.

Diriba said: 'It happened one year ago. Mo alleged I was copying his program and training other Ethiopian athletes with it. On that date, he pushed and shoved me...and then grabbed me around my neck and pushed me out of the gym.

'I left the place crying. Since then, I have never been at the gym when he is training there.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/othersports/article-6960831/Haile-Gebrselassie-insists-row-Mo-Farah-began-Jama-Aden-refused-entry-hotel.html>