

ACTIVITY REPORT SUMMARY



AFLD

AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE LUTTE CONTRE LE DOPAGE



Béatrice Bourgeois
President of the AFLD

2023 marked a new stage in the development of the French Anti-Doping Agency (AFLD).

In the space of just a few years **the AFLD has scaled up completely**. Its assignments and ways and means for taking action have been expanded considerably. Today, the AFLD has four departments, each with a broad range of skills and the appropriate human and financial resources, to carry out efficient testing at scale, deploy a wide range of educational and preventive actions aimed at athletes and their managers, gather information and carry out in-depth investigations, and conduct diligent disciplinary proceedings in full compliance with athletes' rights. It has also developed a particularly active international policy, deepened its collaboration with all the players who, in one way or another, can contribute to the fight against doping,

strengthened its presence in the media and on social networks in order to reach an ever-growing audience, and modernized its tools, both internally and externally, making them more accessible and effective.

This report covers the full range of the AFLD's operations, and it is my hope that it will illustrate the progress we made in 2023. In this respect, I would like to pay tribute to everything that was accomplished under the presidency of Dominique Laurent, whom I succeeded in July 2023 and who, during her six-year term in office, never ceased to pursue the goal of making the AFLD a benchmark anti-doping organization.

I believe it is important to emphasize that this increase in magnitude has been coupled with **a profound change in the way anti-doping policy is conceived and implemented**. The importance of prevention has never been overlooked. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that the fight against doping has long been essentially characterized by its repressive aspects and embodied in the – still essential – activities of testing and disciplinary procedures. Today, however, another dimension is emerging as an essential element. It is usually referred to as "education", but it could probably be more aptly described as "support", to encompass all of its many facets.

Every step of the way, **the AFLD aims to support athletes who must comply with anti-doping rules** which are indisputably demanding. This support begins upstream, with the idea that testing should never be the athlete's first encounter with the world of anti-doping. To this end, the AFLD has developed an ever-growing range of content, accessible via a dedicated platform and backed by educational initiatives aimed at athletes and managers, to explain the dangers of doping and how to protect against them. Because, let's not forget that, far from the stereotype, the athletes who find themselves sanctioned are not necessarily involved in elaborate doping protocols.

There are cases where tests reveal the presence of a prohibited substance that is detrimental to fair competition, and where the cause is not malicious intent, but rather negligence or a lack of knowledge.

Supporting athletes therefore means providing them with all the information they need to protect themselves against unintentional doping, as well as helping them to comply with the restrictions they are subject to, such as mandatory advance disclosure of location information for athletes in the 'registered testing pool' or 'testing pool'.

Supporting athletes also means listening to them, ensuring that tests go as smoothly as possible, explaining procedures and continuing to work with those who have been sanctioned throughout the duration of their suspension.

All of the AFLD's departments are committed to achieving this goal. What's more, they can now rely on a vast network of anti-doping agents, educators, testers and chaperones to support their work, as well as increasingly close collaboration with sporting organizations and the athletes themselves.

Of course, I could not conclude this introduction without mentioning the Olympic and Paralympic Games. 2023 was the final relay hand-off before the finish line.

The Paris Games have undeniably accelerated the deployment of anti-doping measures in France. This was no doubt because they revealed that French anti-doping policy was not up to the standard it should have been for a country like France, in terms of both its sporting reputation and compared to international requirements. Thanks to this heightened awareness, the anti-doping system was reinforced and, in 2023, the AFLD reached the same level of standards as anti-doping organizations in countries such as Germany and the United Kingdom, with which it must be compared.

In 2024, for the first time, the organizing committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will rely on a service contract with the host country's national anti-doping organization. While the testing program is defined by the *International Testing Agency* (ITA), being duly authorized by the International Olympic Committee, as well as by the International Paralympic Committee, the AFLD will play a major operational role, alongside Paris 2024, in carrying out the required testing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will also bring its investigative powers to bear in the field.

The AFLD is now ready to rise to this challenge. Beyond that, it is ready to maintain the efforts it has made over the last few years to ensure that, even after the Paris Games, it remains at the level it has reached today as it is the only body capable of guaranteeing compliance by all with the rules of sporting and fair competition.

Now, I invite you to explore our 2023 activity report, in the hope that it will provide you with useful information and answer any questions you may have about anti-doping.

KEY FIGURES FOR 2023

EDUCATION & PREVENTION



200

trained and certified anti-doping educators as of January 1, 2024

+73

trained and certified anti-doping educators

30%

of educator training sessions organized outside Paris

366

educational activities carried out by anti-doping educators



132

anti-doping agents in Olympic and non-Olympic federations

3

federations audited for compliance with their legal anti-doping obligations



60

informational or prevention videos posted on Instagram

235,000

accounts reached on Instagram by AFLD posts

TESTS

12,044

samples collected from athletes as part of the AFLD's Annual Testing Program
→ **10,212 in 2022**

105

adverse analytical findings (AAF), representing **0.87%** of samples collected as part of the AFLD's Annual Testing Program
→ **72 AAF/0.71% in 2022**

50%

out-of-competition testing
→ **53% in 2022**

75%

samples collected from national and international athletes
→ **76% in 2022**

301

samples collected from athletes with disabilities
→ **230 in 2022**

1,976

samples collected on behalf of other anti-doping organizations
→ **1,810 in 2022**

301

samples collected abroad
→ **140 in 2022**



164

Doping Control Officer (DCO) as of January 1, 2024

+83

trained (DCO)

223

trained chaperones as of January 1, 2024

75%

of chaperone training sessions organized outside Paris

+160

trained chaperones



TOP 3

MOST FREQUENTLY DETECTED SUBSTANCES

1.

Anabolics (**24%**)

2.

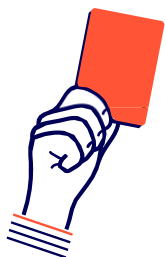
Stimulants (**18%**)

3.

Diuretics and masking agents / Glucocorticoids (**11%**)



SANCTIONS



141

disciplinary cases
filed
→ **92 in 2022**

39%

of foreign athletes
charged

42%

of proposed administrative
settlements accepted by athletes
→ **49% in 2022**



**SANCTIONS
IMPOSED
OR ACCEPTED**

70

sanctions imposed
or accepted
→ **70 in 2022**

53%

of sanctions less than or equal to 2
years' suspension
→ **60% in 2022**

20%

of sanctions between 2- and 4-
years' suspension
→ **15% in 2022**

27%

of sanctions greater than or equal
to 4 years' suspension
→ **25% in 2022**



238

TUE (Therapeutic
Use Exemption)
applications received

67%

admissible TUE applications
granted by a committee of
medical experts

1/3

of retroactive TUE applications
accepted

21%

of TUE applications
admissible

INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE

192

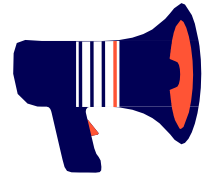
doping incidents reported to the AFLD
→ **127 in 2022**

8

investigations opened into non-analytical anti-doping rule violations
→ **11 in 2022**

11

judiciary or administrative reports in connection with anti-doping reports or investigations



THE AFLD

48

full-time work contracts

4.5

average years of service

44%

women

40

average age



€12.6M

operating budget

1.3%

of the budget devoted to funding research projects to advance the fight against doping

11.6%

operating revenue from services provided on behalf of other anti-doping organizations



JOINT INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENTS

with AFLD President Béatrice Bourgeois and
ITA President Valérie Fourneyron



Béatrice Bourgeois,
President of the AFLD



Valérie Fourneyron,
President of the ITA

Valérie Fourneyron, could you remind us of the role of the International Testing Agency (ITA) in the fight against doping, and how its actions fit in with those of the other players involved in the fight?

Valérie Fourneyron: The *International Testing Agency* was created in 2018, after the Russian doping scandal, at the behest of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and with the support of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The primary objective was to avoid any conflicts of interest, real or perceived, between the organizer of an international event, an International Federation and the anti-doping program to be deployed. The secondary objective was to assure organizers that the program would comply with the World Anti-Doping Code issued by the regulator responsible for setting the rules, WADA. Finally, in the context of an increasingly complex regulatory framework with the World Anti-Doping Code and its expanding standards, another objective was to pool our resources and create a center of expertise for the implementation of anti-doping programs on an international scale, with a guarantee of compliance, independence and complete transparency.

As a non-profit foundation, our partners – who, today, include over 60 international federations and major event organizers – financially cover the independent anti-doping activities we carry out on their behalf. In 2023, the ITA was the world's largest organization implementing anti-doping programs, with over 40,000 samples collected across 185 countries, and 320 cases referred to the competent authorities.

We have also signed partnership agreements with 35 national agencies, including, of course, the AFLD, to cooperate on their territories. This enables us to avoid double testing, share testers, train them internationally, collaborate on events for which we provide testing, and share information on investigations. For the Olympic Games, collaboration with the AFLD has been underway for many months, so that together we can put in place the best possible anti-doping program for the Games in my home country.

As the national anti-doping organization, does the AFLD work closely with the ITA on a day-to-day basis?

Béatrice Bourgeois: Anti-doping, like sport itself, has a very broad international scope. This applies both to the drafting of the applicable rules and to their enforcement in practice, which relies on the efforts

of all the players working in this field. National anti-doping organizations, present in most countries, are the key players in this policy at national level. To carry out their mission, they rely on close partnerships with international players in anti-doping.

"ANTI-DOPING, LIKE SPORT ITSELF, HAS A VERY BROAD INTERNATIONAL SCOPE."

Béatrice Bourgeois

As Valérie Fourneyron pointed out, the ITA is a major player on the international scene, and the AFLD therefore collaborates with it on a regular basis on a variety of issues, including the monitoring of top-level athletes, the organization and implementation of testing, or on investigations and information exchange. While this cooperation will be particularly visible during the Paris Games, it is very present on a day-to-day basis as well. Having the ITA as a single point of contact instead of the many international federations that have delegated their anti-doping responsibilities to it makes dialogue and the implementation of joint action much easier. The fact that international federations have granted anti-doping authorities autonomy, as individual Countries have done through their national anti-doping organizations, is a very positive thing.

What roles will the ITA and AFLD play during the 2024 Paris Games?

VF: For Paris, as for all the Summer, Winter and Youth Games since 2018, the IOC has delegated the development of the anti-doping program to the ITA. The aim of this delegation is not only to support athletes competing at the highest level of sport through independent clean sport initiatives, but also to develop and transmit expertise for the implementation of the highest quality anti-doping programs for the Games from one edition to the next. Another advantage is that the ITA is responsible for the anti-doping programs of more than 80% of the Summer Olympic Games' international federations and, consequently, covers the clean sport initiative of their athletes throughout the year and during the Games.

The implementation of the doping control program during the Games is a truly collaborative effort between the ITA, Paris 2024, the AFLD and the Paris anti-doping laboratory. Each partner brings its own expertise and skills to the table, without which

the deployment of a project of this scale would not be possible – whether in terms of strategy and management, logistics, the organization of doping tests and the management of the large team of doping testers, chaperones and other anti-doping personnel or, finally, in terms of analysis.

The anti-doping program for Paris 2024 is not limited to performing doping tests during the Games, it's a multi-year undertaking, ranging from the planning phase, through long-term storage and re-analysis of samples, to the roll-out of the pre-Games program, which aims to fill gaps in pre-Games testing and ensure that all participating athletes undergo rigorous testing. For the ITA, our commitment stands before the Games and after the Games – which is why we have a unit dedicated to major events,

made up of experts with many years' experience in the field of clean sport for international events.

BB: For the first time, the organizing committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will rely on a service contract with the host country's national anti-doping organization. It's an exciting innovation, which I hope will set a precedent for future Games, insofar as it enables the organizer to benefit from the national organization's expertise in the various fields of anti-doping, as well as from the strength of the teams working within them.

For the Olympic Games, the AFLD will participate in the implementation of the test allocation plan as drawn up by the ITA. Nearly 6,000 samples are expected to be collected. For the Paralympic Games, it will be up to the International

Paralympic Committee to draw up the testing program, which should lead to the collection of over 2,000 samples. Like the ITA, the AFLD's work began well before the start of the Games, from anti-doping education for the future French delegation, to athlete monitoring,

to scheduling and performing pre-Games inspections, to taking disciplinary action in response to any violations detected, to carrying out investigations.

During the Games, the AFLD will play a key role in coordinating doping tests. It will be responsible for overseeing operational aspects, assisted by representatives of other anti-doping organizations (20 national agencies and two international federations have been called upon by the AFLD). To carry out these inspections, some 300 testers, trained in conjunction with the ITA, including more than a hundred from the AFLD's network, will be deployed. The AFLD will also be involved,

alongside the ITA and the IPC, in planning and running the anti-doping investigations likely to be carried out throughout the Games.

Over and above the practical aspects, hosting the Games has led France to change its legislation on several points, notably through the introduction of the possibility of carrying out genetic testing. As President of the ITA, you defended this change in French law at a hearing before the Senate. Why do you think this was so important?

VF: Any country wishing to organize an international event, let alone the biggest of them all, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, must comply fully with this collective rule. This program is not *à la carte*! You cannot pick and choose what to implement and what not to. In France, ever since the first World Anti-Doping Code in 2003, we have chosen to transpose

international rules into French law, via the French Sports Code.

**"TO BE
EFFECTIVE, THE FIGHT
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*Valérie
Fourneyron,*

As the Code's requirements grew in number, we had to adapt, set up an independent disciplinary commission and affiliate the new laboratory with the University... But the possibility of carrying out genetic tests had still not been transposed into French law. To be effective,

the fight against doping must always pre-empt any cases of "cops and robbers". We know that, unfortunately, attempts to modify genes have already been made, and we need to be able to detect potential cheats when in doubt. Let's not forget – and this is the doctor speaking – that one of the three conditions for including a procedure or drug on the list of prohibited substances or methods is the risk to health. The health consequences of altering genetic material in order to cheat are still unknown, so the athlete, once again, becomes a laboratory guinea pig. Recognition of the athlete's DNA can also be useful in cases of cheating via blood transfusions with blood other than their own. In short, if there are strong suspicions,

The laboratory's sole aim is to identify the genes that influence performance, not to map the athlete's DNA.

How do the changes to the legal framework represent a step forward in the fight against doping?

BB: Generally speaking, to be effective, the fight against doping must adapt constantly. Just as it would be unthinkable to not make continuous scientific progress in order to be in the best position to detect substances and methods likely to have an impact on athletes' performance, so, too, is it necessary to regularly update the legal framework and adapt it so as to continue to take effective action

in the fight against doping. And, of course, effective action must not be taken at the expense of athletes' rights. Legal developments must therefore always strike the right balance between these two aspects.

This year, WADA is celebrating its 25th anniversary, Valérie Fourneyron, with your experience and commitment to anti-doping, how do you look back on this quarter-century?

VF: The creation of WADA was the most relevant decision taken in 1999 by the sport movement and national governments in the fight against doping. Doping knows no borders. What was needed was a single regulator to determine a single set of rules for all sports and all countries, acting as a new and innovative organization with shared financing and governance that allows everyone to feel involved and invested. International committees of experts provide it with a highly rigorous scientific vision.

For my part, I was responsible for representing the European continent on WADA's Foundation Board and Executive Committee, and for chairing its Health, Medical and Research Committee. Over the years, as a result of the difficulties and cases encountered (Armstrong, Sochi, among others), WADA has evolved and become more "muscular", with an increasingly expert staff.

Now supported by independent governance, it has guided the anti-doping community through successive revisions of the Code, the introduction of intelligence and investigation, education and other innovations in the fight against doping, establishing a Compliance Review Committee, conducting research projects in the medical and social sciences, searching for partnerships with pharmaceutical laboratories to pre-empt the abuse of certain compounds, increasing budgets, supporting continents or countries with limited resources. The roles of athletes and national anti-doping organizations in our governance have now been recognized, and that is essential.

Béatrice Bourgeois, you joined the AFLD in July 2023. What stands out the most for you in terms of anti-doping policy?

BB: I am particularly impressed by the degree of professionalism and organization we can see in the fight against doping and the way in which the various national and international players have managed to coordinate their actions. Over the past twenty years, the anti-doping landscape has been completely transformed. The

national organizations are truly the "linchpins" of anti-doping. They have developed an unprecedented level of expertise and skill in their day-to-day work in the field. At the same time, the fight against doping has been enriched and strengthened by a broader understanding of the problem. While the aim is, of course, always to sanction those who break the rules, by constantly improving the efficacy of tests, athlete support through anti-doping education has also become an essential element of the fight against doping. Prevention goes hand in hand with repression, now more than ever. The two aspects are absolutely complementary, and their joint implementation, I believe, will give anti-doping policy a new face, one that listens more closely to the athletes for whom the whole system was built.



ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES

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SANCTION



EDUCATE AND PREVENT

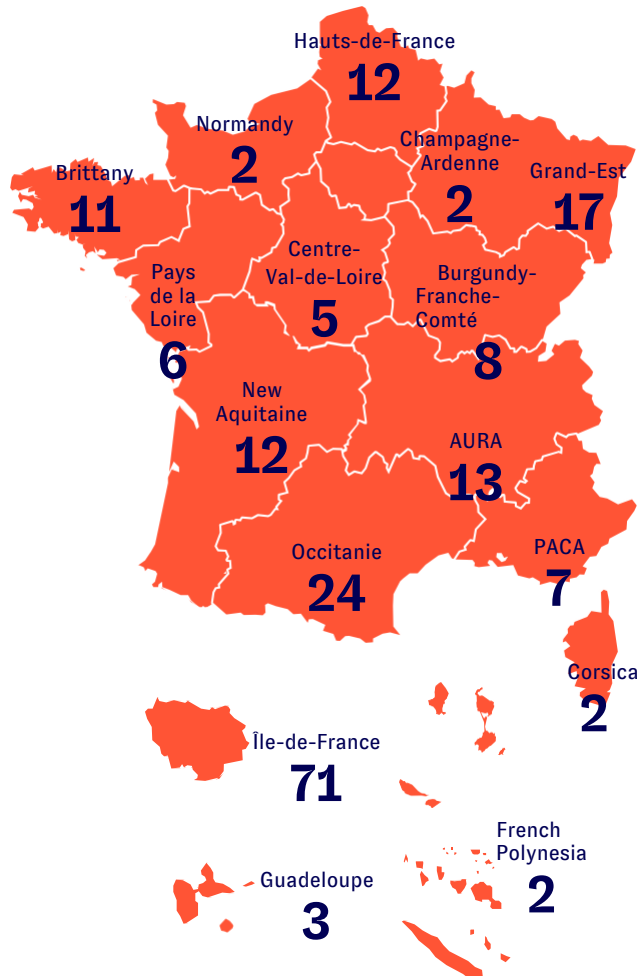
In 2023, the AFLD continued to develop its anti-doping education program, with an increase in activity linked, in particular, to events in 2024 such as the Global Education Conference or campaigns related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In line with the AFLD's strategy, our network of anti-doping educators has been expanded with three decentralized training courses at Grand INSEP network facilities. By the end of 2023, the AFLD could count on a network of over 200 anti-doping educators trained since 2021, supported and monitored by a

team from the Education and Prevention Department which has now been expanded to include seven employees.

New schemes and resources have been added to the wide variety of tools at the AFLD's disposal, to better meet the educational needs of priority groups. In 2023, the AFLD launched its own e-learning platform called Podium, which already hosted two training courses (for training anti-doping educators and athletes in the registered testing pool or testing pool) by the end of 2023.

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF CERTIFIED EDUCATORS SINCE 2021 (16 regions represented)





PROCESS THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS (TUEs)

Since the 2019 abolition of the "duly justified medical reason", Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) are the only legal avenue to justify the presence of a banned substance via an unauthorized route of administration.

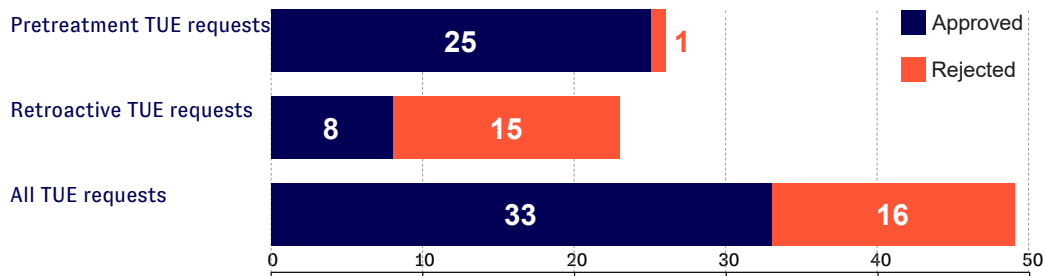
In this area, 2023 confirmed the upward trend seen in recent years (+20%), with 238 referrals compared to 196 in 2022, while the number of admissible requests remained stable and limited. One third of admissible requests were rejected.

However, the rejection rate varied widely depending on whether the request was made prior to treatment or retroactively.

While non-national-level athletes can submit requests retroactively at any time, national-level athletes are required to submit requests prior to treatment, barring rare exceptions due to special circumstances. Of the 16 refusals in 2023, 15 were for retroactive requests.

As in previous years, the top four classes of substances for which a TUE was requested were glucocorticoids, stimulants, hormone modulators and beta2agonists, which appear in 77% of cases. The main pathologies remained the same: musculoskeletal (21.8%), nervous system (19.3%), respiratory (18.5%), endocrinological (13.4%) and circulatory (7.6%).

BREAKDOWN OF THE RESPONSES TO THE 49 ADMISSIBLE TUE REQUESTS





SUPPORT RESEARCH

The AFLD continues to support research, mainly by funding projects in the field of anti-doping.

In this area, it maintained its target of devoting over 1% of its budget to this objective in 2023, which enabled the support of three new research projects, in addition to the continuation of ongoing research projects, notably at the French Anti-Doping Laboratory (LADF) from the end of 2022.

Following the 2022 reorganization, the AFLD's Scientific Steering Committee (COS), made up of French-speaking academics working in France and abroad (Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, etc.), launched a call for projects, which ended with three projects being selected. Two research projects awarded before 2023 are still underway, and one has been completed with the submission of a report by the research team led by Fabien Ohl.

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF DOPING IN MMA

At the suggestion of its Scientific Steering Committee, the AFLD financed a study by the University of Lausanne's Institute of Sports Science on the use of performance-enhancing substances in Mixed Martial Arts. The survey was conducted between 2019 and 2023 under the direction of Fabien Ohl, professor of sociology, via a questionnaire distributed among more than 250 registered members of the FMMAF (*French MMA Federation*), the federation created by the French Boxing Federation to ensure the representation, management and coordination of MMA activities over which it was given authority.

Made up of 92% men, the sample studied averaged 10 hours of practice. The majority of them were not professional fighters who could claim to be able to live solely on the income from their sport. With regard to the fight against doping, three-quarters reported

that they felt like doping was very present in MMA and wanted more testing done. Two-thirds of the fighters surveyed stressed that doping is not without health risks, and that fighting against an athlete who is doping is dangerous.

The study identified several types of fighters, and the priority educational initiatives to target each of them. In their conclusions, Fabien Ohl and his team recommend building on the positive perception of testing in France to spread anti-doping culture among fighters and coaches. The survey also highlighted the need for coaches to be better informed about training, nutrition and the risks associated with dietary supplements.



ASSESS FEDERATIONS' ANTI-DOPING OBLIGATIONS

Since the Decree of April 21, 2021 came into force, the AFLD has been responsible for ensuring that sports federations comply with their legal obligations in terms of anti-doping. These include prevention and education initiatives, cooperation in the fight against doping, vigilance in the application of disciplinary sanctions, and the training of anti-doping chaperones for in-competition testing.

Following an evaluation questionnaire sent to the federations in autumn 2022, the AFLD's board decided to audit three federations that represented the diversity of the French sporting landscape: the Athletics, Judo and Rugby League Federations.

After an initial phase of analysis of the federations' documents, a total of forty people were interviewed by the AFLD's audit teams. Summaries of the final reports are available on the *Agence pour l'information du public et du monde sportif* website.

This unprecedented exercise reveals contrasting situations, depending not only on the resources available to each federation, but also on the state of progress in their systems, whether in terms of collaboration on testing or education and prevention initiatives. Implementation of the recommendations will be monitored at the end of 2024.



AUDIT FEEDBACK WITH STÉPHANE NOMIS, President of France Judo

What did you think of the content of the questionnaire sent to you by the AFLD on your legal obligations in terms of anti-doping?

The questionnaire provided us with a basic framework to structure the way we think about doping. We are a sport that is not necessarily endemically impacted by doping, but we remain vigilant in order to prevent illicit practices like these. The content of the questionnaire is sufficiently comprehensive to cover all aspects of doping prevention and testing.

How did the audit interviews with the AFLD go?

The interviews went very smoothly and efficiently. I was able to conduct the first interview in the company of the federation's anti-doping agent, Éric Buonomo, who supervised the case very well. The federation's departments were very responsive and quickly proposed a very condensed schedule to the AFLD, while at the same time involving many direct players: the Legal, National Technical, Sports, and Communications Departments. A complete overview of federation resources and strategies was provided.

What areas for improvement have you identified that could help you contribute even more effectively to the defense of clean sport?

Certain areas for improvement were already included in the initial program of the mandate, namely the federation's fight against breaches and violence. Doping is one of these areas, and it was important to formalize the initiatives that France Judo has taken. For example, the creation of an Anti-Doping Working Group headed by an ExCo member, and the formalization of the Federation's Doping Prevention Plan, which will guide the Group in their work.

Have you already begun implementing some of the recommendations made in the audit report?

This Olympic year, the priority has been to step up the information and training given to athletes who fit the profile for taking part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as monitoring them throughout their careers. We also quickly put a number of initiatives in place: we took stock of the current situation, made changes to the bylaws, appointed an anti-doping expert doctor and a federation anti-doping agent and educator. A federation anti-doping prevention plan has been approved by France Judo's Board of Directors and will serve as a "roadmap" for federation projects in this area. We also have initiatives to finalize and formalize in the medium term like deploying a network of anti-doping educators and formalizing the role of anti-doping chaperones among our population of volunteer athlete committee members.

TEST

For the first time, the AFLD carried out an Annual Testing Program (ATP) that reached 12,000 samples over the course of the year. For the pre-Olympic period, based on risk analysis, testing targeted the top level of competition, which accounted for nearly three-quarters of the samples collected, thanks to a marked strengthening of cooperation with other anti-doping organizations.

In the run-up to the Paris Games, the direction aimed at for this ATP was facilitated by a broadening of the definition of national-level athletes, which in 2023 included around 11,000 athletes. For this athlete population, unannounced testing carried out by the AFLD, including outside of France, was made possible thanks to the location information available to the AFLD for athletes in the registered testing pool or testing pool, and information sent by federations and clubs.

BREAKDOWN OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN 2023 BY TIME PERIOD AND TYPE

Tests	In-Competition	Out-of-Competition	TOTAL
Urine	5,986	5,301	11,287
Blood	2	246	248
Biological Passport	0	463	463
DBS	42	4	46
TOTAL	6,030	6,014	12,044

2023 was also marked by constant monitoring of sub-national athletes, as illustrated by the first DBS sampling operation. For these athletes, who account for a quarter of the samples taken, targeting was based on information gathered and processed, in particular from whistleblower reports. Nearly half of the reports that reached the AFLD in 2023 involved this category of athlete.

THE FIRST DRIED BLOOD SPOT (DBS) SAMPLING OPERATION

This type of capillary blood sampling (*Dried Blood Spots*) differs from traditional blood sampling. It offers a number of advantages: it's easier to set up and less invasive for the athlete. It can be used in addition to or independently of urine sampling.

The testing department carried out its first DBS tests in June 2023 during the three days of competition at the *French Throwdown 2023*, a major CrossFit competition in France, held at the *Vélodrome National de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines*. Over the 3 days of competition, 42 competitors were tested by 4 testers who were assisted by 8 testers-in-training, all authorized to take blood samples. Of these 42 tests, 1 was positive.





BREAKDOWN IN DESCENDING ORDER OF NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Sport	Number of Samples	Total Number of Samples	Number of AAFs*	Sample Ratio	AAF/
Rugby Union (15,7)	2,354	19.55%	15		0.64%
Cycling	1,632	13.55%	14		0.86%
Athletics	1,556	12.92%	9		0.58%
Football	1,533	12.73%	6		0.39%
Basketball	495	4.11%	3		0.61%
Handball	465	3.86%	0		0.00%
Rugby League (13)	327	2.72%	4		1.22%
Volleyball	267	2.22%	0		0.00%
Ice Hockey	233	1.93%	1		0.43%
Water Sports	230	1.91%	0		0.00%
Mixed Martial Arts	218	1.81%	24		11.01%
Triathlon	187	1.55%	0		0.00%
Boxing	150	1.25%	2		1.33%
Judo	138	1.15%	4		2.90%
Tennis	134	1.11%	0		0.00%
Skiing	130	1.08%	1		0.77%
Rowing	128	1.06%	0		0.00%
Canoeing / Kayaking	123	1.02%	0		0.00%
Weightlifting	108	0.90%	5		4.63%
Wrestling	101	0.84%	1		0.99%
Strength Training	96	0.80%	3		3.13%
Fencing	87	0.72%	0		0.00%
Badminton	78	0.65%	1		1.28%
Biathlon	77	0.64%	0		0.00%
Gymnastics	72	0.60%	0		0.00%
Kickboxing	60	0.50%	3		5.00%
Muay Thai	55	0.46%	1		1.82%
Field Hockey	52	0.43%	1		1.92%
American Football	46	0.38%	1		2.17%
Roller Sports	46	0.38%	0		0.00%
Para Athletics	45	0.37%	0		0.00%
Sailing	45	0.37%	0		0.00%
Bodybuilding-Fitness	42	0.35%	1		2.38%
Sport Climbing	37	0.31%	0		0.00%
Modern Pentathlon	36	0.30%	0		0.00%
Equestrian	35	0.29%	0		0.00%
Ski Mountaineering	35	0.29%	0		0.00%
Savate French Boxing	32	0.27%	1		3.13%

*AAF: Adverse Analytical Finding



Sport	Number of Samples	Total Number of Samples	Number of AAFs*	AAF/ Sample Ratio
Karate	31	0.26%	1	3.23%
Golf	28	0.23%	1	3.57%
Squash	27	0.22%	0	0.00%
Para Cycling	26	0.22%	0	0.00%
Basque Pelota	26	0.22%	1	3.85%
Taekwondo	26	0.22%	0	0.00%
Orienteering	21	0.17%	0	0.00%
Para Rowing	20	0.17%	0	0.00%
Archery	20	0.17%	0	0.00%
Para Triathlon	19	0.16%	0	0.00%
Skateboard	19	0.16%	0	0.00%
Para Swimming	18	0.15%	0	0.00%
Para Judo	17	0.14%	0	0.00%
Wheelchair Basketball	16	0.13%	0	0.00%
Bocce Volo	16	0.13%	0	0.00%
Shooting	16	0.13%	1	6.25%
Para Canoe	15	0.12%	0	0.00%
Para Nordic Skiing	15	0.12%	0	0.00%
Wheelchair Rugby	15	0.12%	0	0.00%
Motor Sports	15	0.12%	0	0.00%
Wheelchair Fencing	13	0.11%	0	0.00%
Blind Football	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Ju-jitsu	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Para Badminton	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Para Weightlifting	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Lifesaving (Sport)	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Table Tennis	12	0.10%	0	0.00%
Para Alpine Skiing	11	0.09%	0	0.00%
Bobsleigh	8	0.07%	0	0.00%
Underwater Sports	8	0.07%	0	0.00%
Surfing	8	0.07%	0	0.00%
Para Table Tennis	7	0.06%	0	0.00%
Motorcycle Sports	6	0.05%	0	0.00%
Wheelchair Tennis	6	0.05 %	0	0.00 %
Dance	5	0.04%	0	0.00%
Para-Taekwondo-Kyorugi	4	0.03%	0	0.00%
Para Shooting	3	0.02%	0	0.00%
Para Archery	2	0.02%	0	0.00%



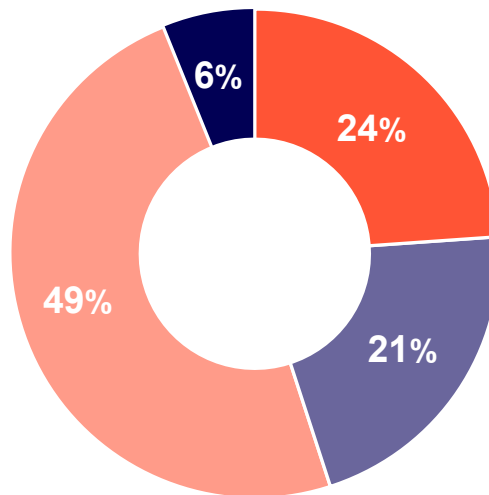
INVESTIGATE

In 2023, the AFLD continued to develop and strengthen its Investigations and Intelligence Department. Following the trend seen in recent years, the number of whistleblower reports received by the AFLD set a new record, reaching 192 in 2023 (compared to 127 in 2022 and 81 in 2021), with information increasingly focused on top-level sport.

At the end of 2023, this increased attention to information from the sporting movement was reflected in the launch of a more user-friendly "Fair-Play" platform, which should consolidate this trend. The platform is accessible in three languages and can be used to file written reports or voice recordings, anonymously or not, with a secure inbox for those wishing to keep up to date on their report without revealing their identity.

At the same time, thanks to the powers implemented since 2021, investigative activity has stabilized, with the opening of 8 new investigations in 2023, including one following a whistleblower report. The collection of information, via the reporting platform or other sources, as well as the investigations carried out, provide the basis for the now well-established information sharing with anti-doping organizations as well as administrative and judicial authorities, with 11 intelligence reports transmitted in 2023. Finally, even if investigations are dropped, this work also enables us to refine the targeting of the AFLD's testing operations and strengthen the monitoring of certain athletes.

BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS BY ATHLETE LEVEL



- National-Level Athletes (vs. 10% in 2022)
- Other Top Athletes (International Level, registered testing pool /testing pool) (vs. 9% in 2022)
- Sub-National Athletes (vs. 65% in 2022)
- Undifferentiated Athletes in the context of doping substance trafficking



SANCTION

With an increase of over 50% in the number of cases filed compared with the previous two years, disciplinary activity has surged in 2023, with 141 new cases opened (compared with 88 cases in 2021 and 92 cases in 2022).

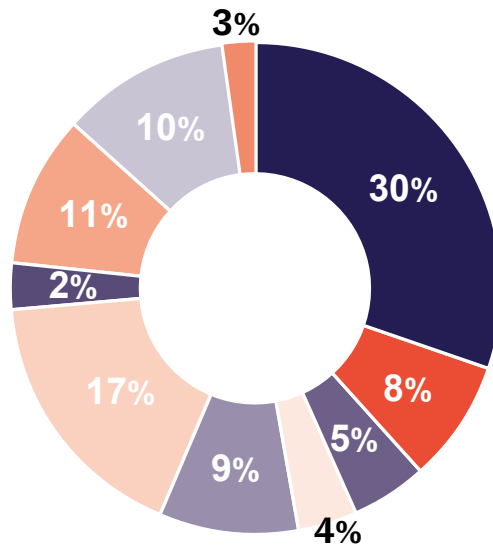
The level of disciplinary activity remained unabated, with 92 cases handled in the same year. Analytical violations (relating to an Adverse Analytical Finding) remain in the majority, with almost a third of results suggesting the presence of anabolic agents, but 25 non-analytical violations were nevertheless noted, almost half of which involved failure

to comply with doping testing (evasion, refusal, etc.).

In addition to the cases dismissed by the Board, 42% of cases involving disciplinary proceedings were resolved in a settlement with the person accused, confirming the trend seen in recent years.

Litigation remained rare in 2023, with three cases settled: two before the French *Conseil d'État* (Council of State) and one before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

ANALYTICAL VIOLATIONS BY SUBSTANCE CLASS



- S1. Anabolic Agents
- S2. Peptide Hormones, Growth Factors, Related Substances and Mimetics
- S3. Beta-2 Agonists
- S4. Hormone and Metabolic Modulators
- S5. Diuretics and Other Masking Agents
- S6. Stimulants
- S7. Narcotics
- S8. Cannabinoids
- S9. Glucocorticoids
- P1. Beta-Blockers



BREAKDOWN OF CASES FILED IN 2023

Nature of the Violation	Total	
	Number	%
Human Doping	131	93%
Analytical Violations ("Positive Tests"):	106	81%
S1. Anabolic Agents	32	30%
S2. Peptide Hormones, Growth Factors, Related Substances and Mimetics	9	8%
S3. Beta-2 Agonists	5	5%
S4. Hormone and Metabolic Modulators	4	4%
S5. Diuretics and Other Masking Agents	10	9%
S6. Stimulants	18	17%
S7. Narcotics	3	3%
S8. Cannabinoids	11	10%
S9. Glucocorticoids	12	11%
P1. Beta-Blockers	2	2%
Non-Analytical Violations:	25	19%
Evasion, refusal, failure to submit to testing	12	48%
Non-Compliance with Suspension	5	20%
Failure to Locate	4	16%
Falsification of Test Elements	1	4%
Complicity	1	4%
Possession	2	8%
Animal Doping	10	7%
Analytical Violations ("Positive Tests")	10	100%
Non-Analytical Violations (Prohibited Methods)	0	0%
Total	141	100%

When the analysis of a sample reveals the presence of substances belonging to different classes, the violation is recorded under the class of substances that appears most significant (e.g.: for an analysis that has revealed the presence of anabolic agents and glucocorticoids, the violation is recorded under non-specified substances).

When a non-analytical violation is found during a testing operation, but a sample is nevertheless successfully collected and its analysis reveals an Adverse Analytical Finding, the violation is listed as an analytical violation.

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