



Call for papers

20 years of the World Anti-Doping Code in Action

International Sports Law Journal Conference 2025

Asser Institute, The Hague

6 and 7 November 2025

The Editors of the International Sports Law Journal (ISLJ), the Asser Institute and the Research Chair on Responsible Sport of the University of Sherbrooke invite you to submit abstracts for the ISLJ Conference on International Sports Law, which will take place on 6 and 7 November 2025 at the Asser Institute in The Hague. The ISLJ, published by Springer and T.M.C. Asser Press, is the leading academic publication in the field of international sports law and governance. The conference is a unique occasion to discuss the main legal issues affecting international sports with leading academic and practitioners.

The 2025 ISLJ Conference will focus on assessing the first 20 years (2004-2024) of operation of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) since its entry into force in 2004, while also discussing its future prospects, in light of the new version of the Code due to be adopted at the Busan Conference in December 2025 and the 10th Conference of the Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, to be held in Paris from 20 to 22 October. The aim of the conference will be to take a comprehensive stock of the operation of the private-public transnational regulatory regime which emerged in the wake of the WADC. This regime is structured around a complex network of national and global institutions engaged in anti-doping work (WADA, NADAs, Ifs, accredited laboratories) and guided by an equally complex assemblage of norms at the global (WADC and the WADA Standards), international (UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport), regional (Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention), and national (various national anti-doping legislations) level. This makes for a fascinating and convoluted transnational legal construct in need of being studied, analysed and criticised by scholars.

Abstracts of 300 words and CVs should be sent no later than **1 June 2025** to a.duval@asser.nl. Selected speakers will be informed by 30 June 2025. The selected participants will be expected to submit a draft

paper by 15 October 2025. Papers accepted and presented at the conference are eligible for publication in a special issue of the ISLJ subject to peer-review. The Asser Institute will provide a limited amount of travel and accommodation grants (max. 350€) to early career researchers (doctoral and post-doctoral) in need of financial support. If you wish to be considered for a grant, please indicate it in your submission.

Reviewing 20 years of implementation of the WADC warrants a special edition of the ISLJ Conference and of the journal, which invites scholars of all relevant disciplines to reflect on the many questions and issues linked with it. We welcome proposals touching on the following subjects (and more):

- The governance of the world anti-doping regime
 - o The public-private nature of this governance
 - o The transparency of this governance
 - o The legitimacy of this governance
 - o The participatory nature of this governance
 - o The role of scientific experts in this governance
- The normative content of the WADC and the international standards
 - o The strict liability principle
 - o The privacy rights of athletes under the WADC
 - o The sanctioning policy under the WADC
 - o The role of the international standards in implementing the WADC
 - o The compatibility of the WADC with human rights
- The *global* implementation of the WADC
 - o The role of local institutions (NADOs/Labs/NOCs) in the implementation of the WADC
 - o The tension between global (WADA) and local (NADOs/Labs/NOCs) in the implementation of the WADC
 - o The role of the IFs in the implementation of the WADC
 - o The role of the ITA in the implementation of the WADC
 - o The role of judicial bodies (national courts, disciplinary committees of IFs, CAS) and their jurisprudence in the implementation of the WADC
- The effectiveness of the world anti-doping regime
 - o The evaluation and evolution of the effectiveness of the world anti-doping regime in preventing doping
 - o The role of the media in unveiling the ineffectiveness of the world anti-doping regime
 - o The role of states in hindering the effectiveness of the world anti-doping regime
 - o The world anti-doping regime as a regime with a variable geometry of effectiveness
- The future of the world anti-doping regime: Revolution, reform or more of the same?
 - o Do we need a world anti-doping regime?
 - o If we do, should it be reformed? How?

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