

WADA And PCC Enters Into Partnership

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the [Partnership for Clean Competition](#) (PCC) have announced a multi-year anti-doping research partnership. This partnership will involve the establishment of two collaborative research funds totaling \$6 million to be administered by both organizations.

For the collaborative research funds, \$1.5 million of the funds will be matched by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), as part of the special IOC-WADA Anti-Doping Research Fund. PCC executive director Michael Pearlmutter remarked this partnership will enable us to support the highest quality international anti-doping research and to implement the results of that research in WADA-accredited labs. Pearlmutter added this is a great win for anti-doping, PCC members, and for our researchers.

WADA director general, David Howman, said research remains pivotal to the anti-doping efforts practiced by our partners right across the world, and so any boost to research that helps us remain at the forefront of doping trends is widely welcomed. Howman added that WADA is pleased to collaborate with the Partnership for Clean Competition so that the rights of clean athletes can be preserved and the integrity of sport upheld.

In another development, Howman said he was disappointed that former Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong has not apologized for costly and time-consuming lawsuits before he admitted using performance enhancing drugs. Howman remarked the disgraced cyclist, who received a lifetime ban and was stripped of all his seven consecutive Tour de France victories, was able to beat the system in ways and means where others were complicit and others understood what he was trying to do. The WADA director general also remarked that we haven't even been apologized to, and that's regrettable.

Howman also criticized the National Football League Players Association for not agreeing to more stringent anti-doping policies. The WADA head said the NFL has a bit of an issue with their collective bargaining agreement, which has not lent itself to the same, let's say, progressive anti-doping program that the Major League Baseball people have, and similarly at the NHL. Howman went on to remark that he thinks there needs to be an

attitudinal shift from the players and they should be making sure that they're delivering clean sport. He added they should be making sure that they're not protecting the bad guys, the one or two who may try to cheat or actually cheat.

In response to Howman's comments, NFLPA spokesman George Atallah said we know that WADA has to demonize athletes and unions to stay relevant and added that our collectively bargained drug policies are strong and fair.

Howman also said mixed martial arts star [Anderson Silva](#) would not be prohibited from competing in the Rio Olympics in taekwondo under WADA policies. In January, Silva tested positive for [anabolic androgenic steroids](#) before a UFC fight. The MMA fighter received a temporary suspension from the UFC and may be further sanctioned by the Nevada Athletic Commission. The WADA Chief remarked the decision on whether Anderson Silva could take part in the 2016 Olympics next year should come from Taekwondo's international governing body.