

Conflicts Of Interest Within WADA Questioned By USADA Chief

Travis Tygart, chief executive of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), has remarked that it is just not possible to promote and police sport. Tygart reiterated the belief of his organization that conflicts of interest need to be removed from the [World Anti-Doping Agency](#).

Tygart, speaking at WADA's Annual Symposium, insisted that the World Anti-Doping Agency failed to live up to its promise of tacking cheating while sports bodies were represented on the organization. Tygart added we have been really clear since our beginning that you cannot both promote and police your own sport and added he thinks you now see different National Anti-Doping Organizations have all come out and supported a basic principle.

Tygart also remarked you see the United States Olympic Committee, one of the influential National Olympic Committees in the world, coming out supporting that basic principle and also commented that we are just living in the trenches, making really tough decisions in situations that no one would want to find themselves in.

The USADA chief executive also said we have yet to hear any good reason why sport needs to have the type of say and control over those types of decisions that it currently does. Tygart said therefore it is right to say that you can't both promote and police and you need to remove the conflict of interests that sport organizations bring to it not only to restore confidence in the system, but to ensure that the preventative things that need to be put in place to give athletes hope that they're not going to get robbed when they compete internationally are made and finalized, and they have confidence in that system.

Tygart, referring to the reinstatement of Russia, also said WADA President laid it out that there is still significant work to be done and let us hope the promises of improvement are followed up.

Few days back, it was disclosed that a radical plan for excluding anybody involved in sporting governance from a WADA Board position had been included among a set of United States Olympic Committee (USOC) reform proposals. These proposals, included in a "position paper on anti-[doping reform](#)" published on March 10, were announced following discussions at the USADA Quarterly Board meeting in Colorado Springs.

The Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations (iNADO) proposed "concrete measures" aimed at reforming the governing structures of WADA. Proposed to the WADA Governance Working Group, the measures were announced during iNADO's Annual General Meeting here in the Olympic capital. The measures include the call for the removal of the fundamental conflict of interest that exists when anti-[doping decisions](#) are controlled by sport organizations.

The executive arm of WADA still includes several officials from major world governing bodies and International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials. WADA President Sir Craig Reedie relinquished his role as vice-president of the IOC last year but remains a member of the organization. Reedie insisted that the

conflict of interest argument against him has "ceased absolutely" since he gave up his vice-presidency of the IOC.