

Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds

What is the Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds?

- A cost-free resource that athletes can safely turn to for help with anti-doping related matters.
- Neutral, independent advocate for athletes, providing confidential advice and legal/governance guidance for free.
- Also helps athletes understand their rights and responsibilities, and offering assistance during dispute or anti-doping proceedings.
- Operating independently of WADA, the Ombuds gives athletes a safe space to seek information and get advice outside of their Anti-Doping Organization.

Who can use the Ombuds service?

The Ombuds is available to anyone who is bound by anti-doping rules under the Code, so **not just athletes**.

It is set up to assist athletes, but a member of an athlete's entourage might be charged with a violation as well, so they need to be able to access the assistance provided by the Ombuds.

The trend seen so far has been that coaches have been asking about the best guidance for their athlete. If it's a minor athlete, it might be their parent.



Current Ombuds

Anna Thorstenson has been in the Ombuds role since March 2023.

She is a Swedish lawyer now based in Lausanne, Switzerland, and has worked in the anti-doping field for more than 15 years.

She has also served as the legal counsel at the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) since 2016.



FAQs



1. How to contact the Ombuds?

Anonymous contact info is available via the Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds website [enquiry form](#) (English or French).

Athletes can also contact the Ombuds by email at anna@antidopingombuds.org. The Ombuds may suggest a phone call or video call for further communication at the athlete's convenience.



2. What kinds of issues can be addressed by the Ombuds, for instance?

The Ombuds can assist with anti-doping situations such as, but not limited to:

- You have just been informed of an anti-doping rule violation, and don't understand your rights.
- You need assistance in a legal anti-doping procedure and don't know where to turn.
- You have concerns about violations of your rights in a particular anti-doping matter.



3. What is the authority of the Ombuds?

The Ombuds Office does not have legal authority or authority under the World Anti-Doping Code and is therefore operating by the goodwill and trust of Athletes and the anti-doping community.

Please note that the Ombuds will never participate in legal proceedings, represent a party, or give binding legal advice.

4. How does that differ from the ISU Integrity Ombudsperson?

The ISU Integrity Ombudsperson is responsible for addressing any unethical behaviour in accordance with the ISU Code of Ethics. This includes issues such as sports manipulation and betting, corruption, and violations of ISU policy, rather than strictly anti-doping related matters.

Should you wish to report any suspected misconduct, please contact the ISU Integrity Ombudsperson via email (ombudsperson@isu.org).



For more information check out the following links:

- [WADA Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds](#)
- [Anti-Doping Ombuds](#)
- [Free, confidential anti-doping advice for athletes](#)
- [ISU Code of Ethics](#)