



2014
ANNUAL
REPORT
**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**



aflD

agence française de lutte contre le dopage





INTRODUCTION

Over the course of 2014, the AFLD paid a special attention to the audits performed by the Court of Accounts on the Agency's actions between 2006 and 2013. Many observations were in agreement with the conclusions published by the Senate's Commission of Inquiry in July 2013. Besides, its other challenge is to match with the requirements and standards of the new World Anti-doping Code.

In a particularly limiting budget climate, the Agency has, as encouraged by the Court, pursued its efforts by curbing its costs and redefining its revenue policy. The Agency intends to maximize the supply of its testing and analysis services.

Despite sharing most of the observations made by the Court of Accounts, on this subject **College (i.e. The Board of the Agency) did not want to confine its policy of testing exclusively towards the sporting elite.** The Agency's mission cannot be limited to top level sport: it also has a mission of protecting public health, which relates to every level of sportsman, including amateurs. The policy of prevention through the dissemination of information on the dangers of drugs must likewise not be neglected.

The Agency also shares the Court's finding of a need to reinforce coordination between public authorities (namely through a partnership with the Central Office for the Fight Against Environmental Damage and for Public Health). From this perspective, 2014 stood out the strengthening of the legal framework, but also by real progress in operational terms. However, the unequal rollout of regional committees to fight trafficking in prohibited substances – a precious tool for any such coordination – is regrettable.

Lastly, the implementation of the new World Anti-Doping Code and its related documentation was the source of many different Agency projects and, despite its undeniable interest, raised the question of the allocation of appropriate resources for the implementation of anti-doping policy: **“just a matter of coherence”** according to Bruno Genevois.

« Prevention and repression cannot [...] be separated. They are both crucial policies. »

Bruno Genevois,
President of the AFLD.



AN INTEGRATED AND MODERNIZED ORGANIZATION

The resolutions of the College, the Agency's decision-making body and symbol of unity, reflect its high level of activity, as well as the variety of its actions. The near tripling of the number of resolutions stems first from the scale of the activity relating to the composition of the registered testing pool, but also to a sustained volume of questions about the Agency's organization, operations and concrete activities.

The Agency is characterized by the diversity of its areas of expertise. The coexistence of an anti-doping organization and an accredited laboratory constitutes a real advantage, both for partners who can enjoy the benefits of end-to-end services and for departments that draw real profit from this cross-cutting, multidisciplinary approach. The prerequisite condition is the existence of true dialogue. One example of synergies between departments can be seen in information shared on screening methods, as well as the implementation of "biological profiles".

This intensification of cooperation came with discussions about expertise, particularly in the field of whereabouts controls, and about an in-depth restructuring of the administrative organization with the pooling of support functions beginning in 2014. 2015 will see the pursuit of this approach, with special emphasis placed on the Analysis Department, whose research and development missions will need to be better identified.

The 7% **decrease in grants** paid by the State **led the Agency to make choices.**

The first of them pertained to a strategy for modernizing expenditures, particularly staffing expenses. The second consisted of tightening spending to focus on major priorities: fewer but better targeted testing and sustained investments in scientific research and laboratory equipment. The Agency also banked on the development of management and forecasting tools in order to respond quickly to any new constraints that may arise. All these actions have contributed to the pursuit of objectives for which the Agency has continuously advocated since its creation. It refuses to implement stigmatized and overlooked testing on any sport, at any level of practice. In addition, it favors the preservation of tools that will keep it at the cutting edge of modern drug screening.

Despite a relatively unfavourable financial climate, **the results for 2014 are conclusive:** a laboratory ranked sixth in the world for the number of analyses performed, and the set-up of a modern biological profiling system with 8,897 urine samples and 1,646 blood samples analysed for that purpose.



REDEFINITION OF TESTING STRATEGY



The budget climate in 2014 served to accelerate the **redefinition of the Agency's testing strategy**. The Testing Department, now re-centred on its strategic role, focused its action on four main lines. The first of those is **the best possible targeting**, with a priority placed on the long term monitoring of top level athletes, particularly those in the national registered testing pool. The second is the monitoring of those same sportsmen by indirect detection in **the form of biological profiles**. 2014 was the year of the set-up of a unit – using no additional resources – to manage those profiles and develop

links between the unit, the Analysis and Testing Departments, and the Agency's scientific adviser. The third line involves **investments in intelligence and investigation methods**, namely with the recruitment of an agent specially dedicated to this task.

Lastly, the contribution made by the **strengthening of network cooperation** should not go unmentioned, first done at a national level with the set-up of three inter-regional anti-doping advisers, and then at the international level.

TESTING ACTIVITIES	IN NUMBERS	COMMENTS
Quantity	10,414 including 287 for animals.	6% reduction in test numbers compared with 2013.
Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 65 federations; - 100 athletes included in the "national registered testing pool" with a view to the Sochi Olympics; - 350 athletes in the Agency's "national registered testing pool" for 800 tests or 1,500 samples collected (twice as many as in 2013). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeting of sports depending on their likelihood of doping. - Testing in advance of the Olympics, but also afterwards, particularly during the inter-season period. - Increasing number of tests of the Agency's "national registered testing pool".
Types of samples	Samples collected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8,896 urine samples; - 2,207 blood samples, with 561 collected for anti-doping testing purposes and 1,646 for profiling. 	Lower proportion of blood samples compared to urine samples because of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the post-exertion rebalancing allowed in previous years; - more complex and costly procedures for blood samples; - advantages of urine samples as a result of implementation of the steroidal module of the biological profile.
Testing circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 57% (6,410) in competition; - 43% (4,004) out of competition (compared with 34% in 2013). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target of 60% out-of-competition controls for 2014 was very ambitious due to the difficulty of locating athletes, particularly those practising individual sports. - 2015 target: equal division between both.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, ANALYSES AND MEDICAL ACTIVITIES: A COHERENT AND AMBITIOUS WHOLE

The increasing sophistication of doping methods provides a reason for investing in scientific research. In 2014, the Agency dedicated approximately **10% of its budget** to this, increasing its allocations to research projects by nearly 50% compared to 2013. It is also working hard to strengthen ties between the different research teams, for example by establishing closer collaboration between the Agency's Analysis Department and its Scientific Orientation Committee.

This effort follows a strict methodology that hinges on the following three points: assessments of past projects, solid coordination with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and development of cooperation with external partners, particularly in academia.

Three scientific research **domains** were **prioritized**: knowledge of the ergogenic (performance enhancing) effects of substances, improvement of existing screening methods, and development of new methods and strategies. Those priorities were then adapted to the main difficulties encountered by laboratories, such as the detection of EPO when administered at very low doses, the use of anabolic steroids, etc.

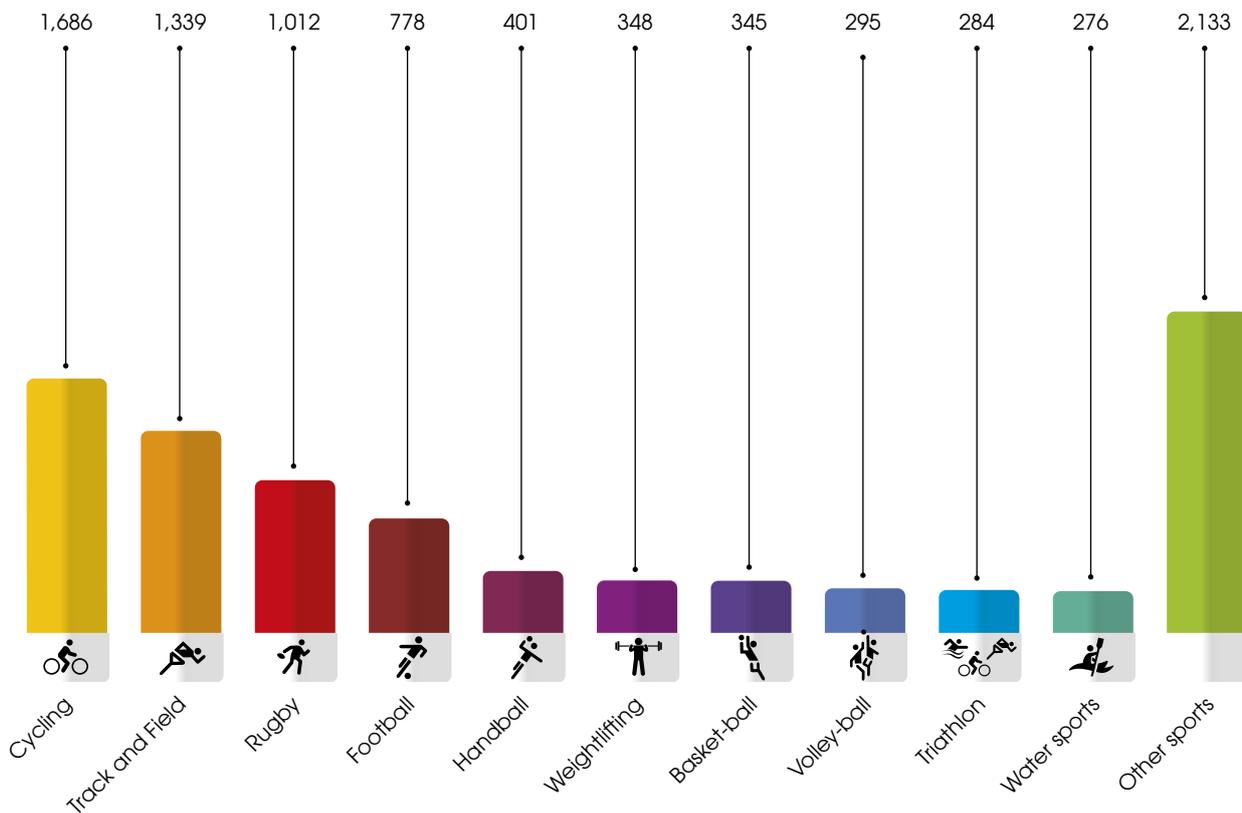
Research should be one of the key goals of the Châtenay-Malabry laboratory – **a priority strongly reasserted** by the College in 2014. The Agency owes its reputation to the quality of its screening methods and their adaptation to new techniques and new substances (450 detected in 2014 compared to 306 in 2010). In fact, its expertise has garnered invitations to participate in working groups organized by WADA as well as in training on EPO detection, its speciality.



THE CLASSES OF SUBSTANCES MOST FREQUENTLY DETECTED IN 2014 SHOWED LITTLE VARIATION

CLASS OF SUBSTANCE	2014 (%)	2013 (%)
Glucocorticoids	25	32.5
Anabolic steroids	23	21.8
Stimulants	13	13.6

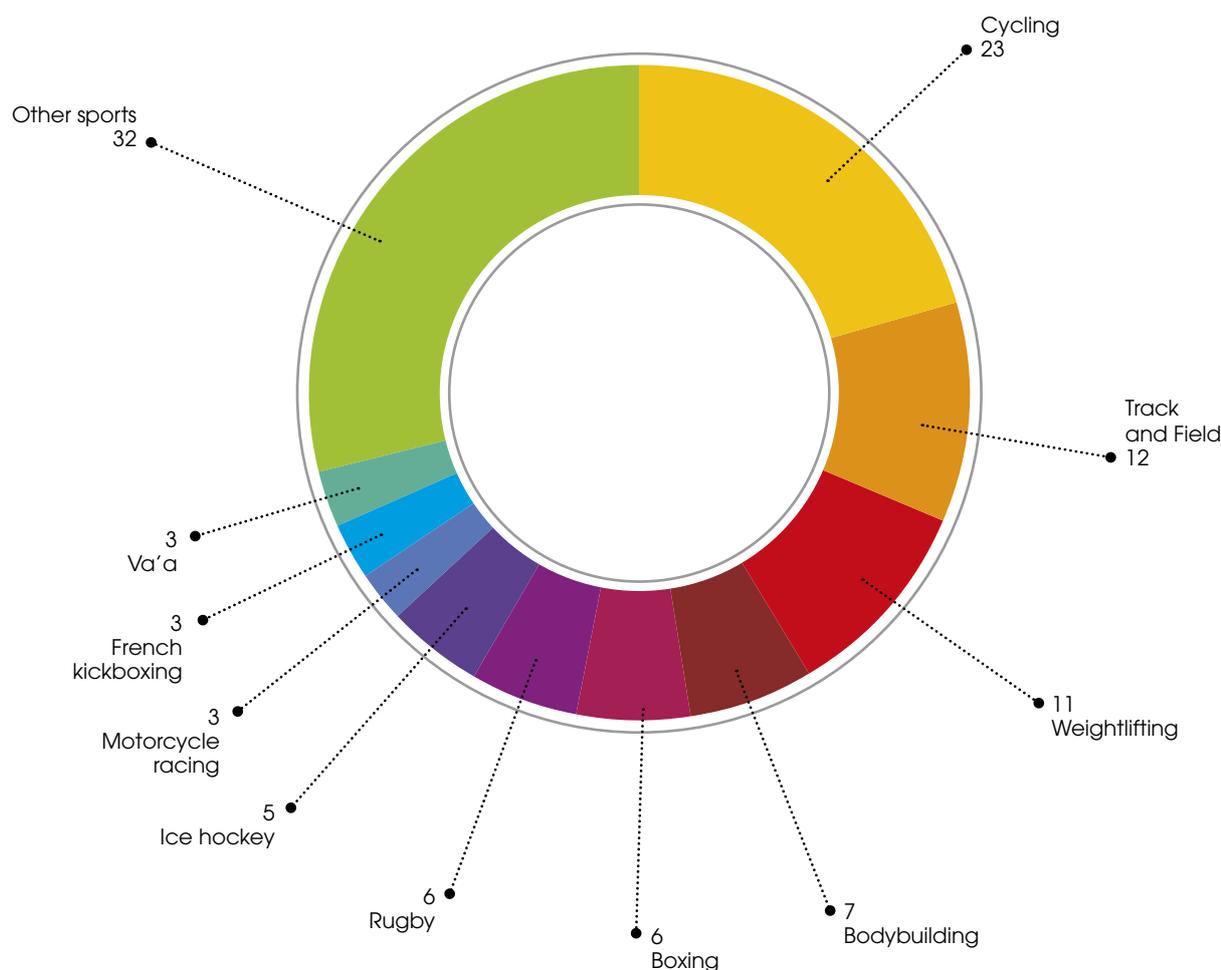
URINE SAMPLES COLLECTED BY DISCIPLINE IN 2014



This breakdown represents the samples received and analysed over the course of 2014. These data reflect developments in testing activities, namely in respect of the importance - in terms of both absolute and relative values - achieved by some sports.



BREAKDOWN OF ABNORMAL TEST RESULTS BY SPORT DISCIPLINE



These data come from analyses of urine samples performed over the course of 2014.

Anti-doping test results are considered to be “abnormal” when they reveal the presence of a prohibited substance, or one of a prohibited substance’s metabolites or markers, in a sample. Comparisons from one year to the next can be difficult, because a number of factors must be taken into account. For example, the quantities analysed for each discipline will vary, namely based on the sporting calendar for the year in question. Further, anti-doping test methods are continuously evolving. Nonetheless, by taking an average annual rate of abnormal results as a baseline, two observations stand out: the rate was cut in half between 2012 and 2013 (dropping from 8.09% to 4.2%) and has remained relatively stable since then (4.3% in 2014).

The Agency’s medical activities consist, on the one hand, of providing advice to healthcare and sport professionals, as well as athletes, and on the other, of examining requests for “authorizations for the use of drugs for therapeutic purposes” (AUT), which involve allowing athletes access to prohibited substances

for health reasons, and under supervision, without however compromising the equitable treatment of athletes during competitions.

The medical team’s expertise may also be enlisted in disciplinary proceedings, to assess any therapeutic justifications given.

A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING DISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY

French law on doping is evolving with the implementation of the new World Anti-Doping Code and its standards. The participation of Legal Department agents on the international scene to assist WADA in its projects is an illustration of the Agency's intention of enriching its own practices. Conversely, the Agency is seeking more and more to spread the legal culture of anti-doping to its federations.

The trend in 2014 leaned toward a **decline in disciplinary activities** (115 cases handled in 2014 compared with 150 in 2013) that can only be attributed to the mechanical effect of WADA's raising of the cannabis detection threshold. Drop in doping or a better understanding of the law by federal disciplinary bodies? 2015 should provide the answer to that question.

The College has decided to continue to meet every two weeks despite this reduction of disciplinary activities. As a result, it is in a position to provide an average turnaround time on cases of four months. The College decides the fate of a not licensed member of a French Federation (FF) and also stands in for the sport federations that would normally have jurisdiction over licensed members of a FF, due to procedural reasons relating either to the legality of the federal body's decision or its response time, or to the need for consistency in the application of disciplinary policy.

EVOLUTION OF GROUNDS FOR SUBMITTING CASES TO THE AGENCY (2010-2014)

These data pertain to the decisions made by the Agency after summoning to appear, over the course of a given year. The anti-doping controls and investigations that identified the infraction may have taken place during a previous year.

REASON FOR SUBMISSION TO THE AGENCY	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
Non-licensed members (Article L. 232-22, point 1, of the Sporting Code)	34	23%	40	22.3%	41	23.4%	40	26.5%	33	28.7%
Federal failure (Article L. 232-22, point 2, of the Sporting Code)	17	11.5%	25	14%	21	12%	18	11.9%	17	14.8%
Set aside (Article L. 232-22, point 3, of the Sporting Code)	83	56.1%	98	54.7%	105	60%	89	58.9%	65	56.5%
Extension (Article L. 232-22, point 4, of the Sporting Code)	14	9.5%	16	8.9%	8	4.6%	4	2.6%	-	-
TOTAL	148	100%	179	100%	175	100%	151	100%	115	100%

This table reflects the evolution of reasons why cases were passed on to the Agency. The overall drop in the number of cases, the College decides to set aside final decision made by the FF panel. The number of cases automatically submitted to the Agency remains relatively stable. This finding is all the more true in that the decline in the number of extension cases is a response to the College's desire to be able to rule on the entire case when brought to it, with a view to any possible extensions. As a result, the cases in which it did not utilize that option and limited its judgement to the extension have contributed visually to maintaining the level of cases set aside, which is actually down as a proportion of the Agency's activities.

2014 IN BRIEF

PURCHASE OF TWO HIGH RESOLUTION MASS SPECTROMETERS

This acquisition opens the path to easier detection of certain substances that are already screened and to the development of new screening techniques for substances not yet detected.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE:

1. Approximately 15% of activities performed for third parties.
2. Tests and analyses (World Equestrian Games, Women's Rugby World Cup, etc.)
3. Observer sent to the Sochi Games and training support provided to French-speaking regional anti-doping organizations.

PARTNERSHIP

Signature of a cooperation agreement between the Agency and the FFT (French Tennis Federation), increasing the number of anti-doping tests allowed during training and competition.

INVESTIGATIVE CAPACITY

An investigator joined the Agency in 2014 with the task of developing its operations in terms of gathering intelligence and investigations.

AVERAGE TURNAROUND TIME FOR RESULTS OF ANALYSES:

10.9 calendar days in 2014 compared to 13.5 in 2013.

SAMPLES COLLECTED IN AND OUT-OF-COMPETITION

2014

- In-competition tests **6,410**
- Out-of-competition tests **4,004**

2013

- In-competition tests **7,628**
- Out-of-competition tests **3,412**

URINE AND BLOOD SAMPLES COLLECTED

- Urine samples **8,896**
- Blood samples **2,207** in total including **1,646** to establish biological profiles

INCREASE IN OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING CARRIED OUT BY THE AGENCY

Out-of-competition tests:
34% in 2013
43% in 2014

9.5%

OF THE AGENCY'S RESOURCES
dedicated to research and development.

450

SUBSTANCES
screened compared to 306 in 2010, thanks to new methods of analysis.

65

SPORT DISCIPLINES
tested in 2014.

10,414

ANTI-DOPING SAMPLES
collected from athletes

287

TESTS PERFORMED ON ANIMALS
(chiefly horses).

11,078

SAMPLES RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY'S LABORATORY:

111

tested positive, for a proportion of 1.24%. In 2013, that proportion was 1.76%.

537

THERAPEUTICAL USE EXEMPTION (TUE) GRANTED
(for use of drugs for therapeutic purposes).

More than **800**
TESTS PERFORMED
on the Agency's Registered Testing Pool in 2014, representing 1,500 samples collected, twice as many as in 2013.



aflid

agence française de lutte contre le dopage

229, boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris

Tél. : +33 (0)1 40 62 76 76
Fax : +33 (0)1 40 62 77 39

www.aflid.fr

ISSN 2269 - 7802

Creation and production: www.kazoar.fr
Photo credits: iStock / Thinkstock / OSTILL