

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed

www.ijlra.com

DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, transmitted, or distributed in any form or by any means, whether electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the Managing Editor of the *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis (IJLRA)*.

The views, opinions, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the articles published in this journal are solely those of the respective authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board, Editors, Reviewers, Advisors, or the Publisher of IJLRA.

Although every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, authenticity, and proper citation of the content published in this journal, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible, in any manner whatsoever, for any loss, damage, or consequence arising from the use, reliance upon, or interpretation of the information contained in this publication.

The content published herein is intended solely for academic and informational purposes and shall not be construed as legal advice or professional opinion.

**Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis.
All rights reserved.**

ABOUT US

The *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis (IJLRA)* (ISSN: 2582-6433) is a peer-reviewed, academic, online journal published on a monthly basis. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive and interactive platform for the publication of original and high-quality legal research.

IJLRA publishes Short Articles, Long Articles, Research Papers, Case Comments, Book Reviews, Essays, and interdisciplinary studies in the field of law and allied disciplines. The journal seeks to promote critical analysis and informed discourse on contemporary legal, social, and policy issues.

The primary objective of IJLRA is to enhance academic engagement and scholarly dialogue among law students, researchers, academicians, legal professionals, and members of the Bar and Bench. The journal endeavours to establish itself as a credible and widely cited academic publication through the publication of original, well-researched, and analytically sound contributions.

IJLRA welcomes submissions from all branches of law, provided the work is original, unpublished, and submitted in accordance with the prescribed submission guidelines. All manuscripts are subject to a rigorous peer-review process to ensure academic quality, originality, and relevance.

Through its publications, the *International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis* aspires to contribute meaningfully to legal scholarship and the development of law as an instrument of justice and social progress.

PUBLICATION ETHICS, COPYRIGHT & AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The *International Journal for Legal Research and Analysis (IJLRA)* is committed to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and academic integrity. All manuscripts submitted to the journal must be original, unpublished, and free from plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, or any form of unethical research or publication practice. Authors are solely responsible for the accuracy, originality, legality, and ethical compliance of their work and must ensure that all sources are properly cited and that necessary permissions for any third-party copyrighted material have been duly obtained prior to submission. Copyright in all published articles vests with IJLRA, unless otherwise expressly stated, and authors grant the journal the irrevocable right to publish, reproduce, distribute, and archive their work in print and electronic formats. The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors alone and do not reflect the views of the Editors, Editorial Board, Reviewers, or Publisher. IJLRA shall not be liable for any loss, damage, claim, or legal consequence arising from the use, reliance upon, or interpretation of the content published. By submitting a manuscript, the author(s) agree to fully indemnify and hold harmless the journal, its Editor-in-Chief, Editors, Editorial Board, Reviewers, Advisors, Publisher, and Management against any claims, liabilities, or legal proceedings arising out of plagiarism, copyright infringement, defamation, breach of confidentiality, or violation of third-party rights. The journal reserves the absolute right to reject, withdraw, retract, or remove any manuscript or published article in case of ethical or legal violations, without incurring any liability.

"STEROID ABUSE AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN SPORTS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS"

AUTHORED BY - SURYA. M & MRS. R. KALAISELVI

INTRODUCTION

The regulation of doping in sports has emerged as a significant legal and policy concern in contemporary times, owing to its implications on fairness, athlete welfare, and the integrity of competitive sport. This research undertakes a comprehensive doctrinal analysis of the use of steroids and the influence of politics in sports, examining the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks at both international and national levels.

The study begins by analysing the conceptual foundations of doping and its ethical implications, followed by a detailed examination of the international regulatory regime, including the World Anti-Doping Code and the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport. It further evaluates the Indian legal framework, particularly the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022, and the role of the National Anti-Doping Agency in enforcement.

Through historical and theoretical analysis, the research traces the evolution of doping practices and highlights the growing sophistication of performance-enhancing substances. It also critically examines the role of political interference in sports governance, including state-sponsored doping and institutional bias, which undermine the effectiveness of anti-doping regulations.

A comparative study of the United States, the United Kingdom, and India reveals significant disparities in enforcement mechanisms, testing standards, and institutional independence. The empirical component, supported by data from anti-doping agencies and international reports, indicates that developing countries face greater challenges due to lack of awareness, inadequate infrastructure, and weak enforcement systems.

Judicial intervention, both at the international level through the Court of Arbitration for Sport and within domestic courts, has played a crucial role in shaping anti-doping jurisprudence by reinforcing principles such as strict liability, proportionality, natural justice, and the right to reputation of athletes.

The findings of the study reveal that while a comprehensive legal framework exists, its effectiveness is substantially weakened by institutional inefficiencies, political influence, and lack of uniform enforcement. The research concludes by proposing reforms, including

strengthening the autonomy of anti-doping agencies, imposing stricter penalties on suppliers of prohibited substances, enhancing transparency in sports governance, promoting athlete awareness, and ensuring faster dispute resolution mechanisms.

Ultimately, the study emphasises the need to uphold the principles of clean sport and rule of law, while achieving a balance between the autonomy of sports institutions and the necessity of legal regulation, thereby ensuring fairness, accountability, and integrity in sports.

1.1: NATURE, SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Sport has traditionally been perceived as a domain governed by principles of fairness, equality, discipline, and merit. The foundational ethos of competitive sport lies in the idea that outcomes should reflect the natural abilities, training, and dedication of athletes rather than artificial enhancement or external manipulation. However, the increasing prevalence of **performance-enhancing substances (steroids)** and the growing **politicisation of sports governance** have significantly undermined these principles, raising serious legal, ethical, and institutional concerns.

Doping, particularly through anabolic steroids and other prohibited substances, represents one of the most persistent threats to the integrity of sport. It not only distorts the level playing field but also poses substantial risks to the health and well-being of athletes. From a legal perspective, doping is no longer treated merely as a violation of sporting rules but has evolved into a matter of **regulatory compliance, contractual liability, and disciplinary adjudication** governed by a complex framework of international and domestic law.¹ The emergence of a global anti-doping regime, primarily under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), reflects the recognition that doping constitutes a transnational issue requiring harmonised legal responses.²

At the same time, the governance of sports has increasingly come under the influence of political actors. Governments often exert control over national sports federations, funding mechanisms, and selection processes, thereby blurring the distinction between autonomous sporting bodies and state institutions.³ Such interference can manifest in various forms, including manipulation of disciplinary proceedings, shielding of athletes from sanctions, or selective enforcement of anti-doping rules. This politicisation not only compromises the credibility of sports institutions but also raises questions regarding **accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law**.

The importance of this study lies in examining the intersection between **anti-doping law and political influence**, an area that remains under-explored in legal scholarship. While significant

attention has been devoted to the scientific and ethical aspects of doping, comparatively less focus has been placed on the **legal enforcement mechanisms** and the manner in which political considerations affect their operation. The study seeks to analyse whether existing legal frameworks are adequate to address the dual challenges posed by steroid abuse and political interference.

In the Indian context, the enactment of the **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022** represents a significant legislative development aimed at aligning domestic law with international standards. However, concerns persist regarding the effective implementation of the Act, particularly in light of institutional constraints and external pressures.⁴ India has frequently reported a high number of doping violations, indicating systemic issues that go beyond individual misconduct and point towards regulatory and governance deficiencies.⁵

Furthermore, the role of adjudicatory bodies such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) highlights the increasing judicialisation of sports disputes. While such mechanisms provide a structured forum for dispute resolution, they also raise issues relating to accessibility, procedural fairness, and consistency in decision-making.⁶ The interaction between domestic courts, international tribunals, and sports governing bodies creates a complex legal landscape that warrants detailed doctrinal analysis.

This study is therefore important not only from an academic perspective but also for its practical implications. By critically examining the existing legal framework, identifying gaps, and proposing reforms, the research aims to contribute to the development of a more effective and transparent system of sports governance. It underscores the need to uphold the integrity of sport by ensuring that legal rules are applied consistently, free from undue political influence, and in a manner that balances the rights of athletes with the broader objectives of fairness and justice.

This study is significant as it contributes to the understanding of **sports law as an emerging legal discipline**, particularly in the Indian context. It provides a critical analysis of anti-doping regulations and highlights the impact of political interference on their implementation. The research also offers policy recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms and ensuring transparency in sports governance.

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Despite the existence of comprehensive anti-doping regulations at both international and national levels, the incidence of steroid use in sports continues to rise. At the same time, political interference in sports administration affects the impartial enforcement of these

regulations. The central problem lies in the **ineffectiveness of legal frameworks due to governance and enforcement deficiencies.**

Existing literature primarily focuses on the ethical and scientific aspects of doping, with limited attention to the **legal implications of political interference in enforcement mechanisms.** There is a lack of comprehensive doctrinal analysis examining the intersection between **sports law and governance issues.**

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Whether existing anti-doping laws are effective in controlling steroid use?
2. How does political interference affect the enforcement of anti-doping regulations?
3. Whether the current legal framework ensures fairness and accountability in sports governance?

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

The study hypothesises that **while anti-doping laws are comprehensive in structure, their effectiveness is significantly undermined by political interference and institutional weaknesses,** leading to inconsistent enforcement and reduced deterrence.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (DOCTRINAL METHOD)

This research adopts a **doctrinal methodology,** focusing on the analysis of:

- Statutes (National Anti-Doping Act, 2022)
- International instruments (WADA Code)
- Case laws and arbitral decisions (CAS)
- Authoritative legal commentaries and journal articles

The method involves **critical analysis, interpretation, and synthesis of legal principles** to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing framework.

1.6 RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

- Limited access to detailed case records of doping disputes
- Dependence on secondary sources and published reports
- Lack of extensive empirical data within the scope of doctrinal research

1.7 SCHEME OF THE STUDY

Chapter I: Conceptual framework, literature review, and research design

Chapter II: Legal and regulatory framework governing doping

Chapter III: Historical and theoretical analysis

Chapter IV: Issues and challenges in enforcement

Chapter V: Judicial interpretation and case law analysis

Chapter VI: Comparative and analytical assessment

Chapter VII: Findings, conclusions, and recommendations

1.8 LITERATURE REVIEW

Sivanshu Khatre et al, 'Doping in Indian sports and legal framework surrounding it' has analysed multifaceted discourse encompassing legal, ethical, and institutional dimensions. Scholars have extensively examined the development of anti-doping regulations, the role of international organisations, and the challenges associated with enforcement. However, the intersection between doping control and political influence remains relatively underexplored, thereby justifying the need for further doctrinal inquiry.

Paul David, 'A Guide to the World Anti-Doping Code Houlihan's seminal work' traces the evolution of anti-doping policy and emphasises the role of international cooperation in addressing the problem of doping. He argues that the establishment of WADA marked a turning point in the global governance of sports by introducing a uniform code applicable across jurisdictions. Nevertheless, this harmonisation has been criticised for imposing rigid standards that may not adequately reflect domestic legal realities. David similarly highlights that the World Anti-Doping Code operates as a quasi-legal instrument, binding on sporting organisations but lacking the formal characteristics of state legislation.

Jack Anderson, 'Modern Sports Law, has provided The principle of strict liability has been widely discussed in legal scholarship as a defining feature of anti-doping law. Gardiner et al. note that this principle facilitates efficient enforcement by eliminating the need to prove intent. However, critics such as Haas contend that strict liability may lead to unjust outcomes, particularly in cases involving inadvertent ingestion of prohibited substances. The tension between efficiency and fairness thus remains a central issue in anti-doping jurisprudence.

Waddington and Smith,' A Guide to the World Anti-Doping Code 'analysed the cultural and structural factors contributing to doping, including pressure to perform, commercial incentives, and inadequate regulatory oversight. Their work underscores the need to view doping not

merely as individual misconduct but as a systemic problem influenced by broader socio-economic conditions.

Chappelet, 'The role of politics in sports governance' has been examined involvement often undermines the autonomy of sports organisations.¹³ Political interference can distort decision-making processes, leading to inconsistent application of rules and erosion of institutional credibility. Historical studies on state-sponsored doping further illustrate how political agendas can override legal norms, thereby compromising the integrity of sport.

A K Bansal, 'Regulating Doping in India' analysed the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 highlights both its strengths and limitations. Bansal observes that while the Act provides a statutory basis for anti-doping regulation, its effectiveness depends on the independence and capacity of implementing agencies. Reports published by NADA indicate persistent challenges in enforcement, including limited resources, procedural delays, and lack of awareness among athletes.

Antonio Rigozzi and Michele Bernasconi suggests significant disparities in testing and sanctioning across countries, raising concerns about the consistency of the global anti-doping regime. These disparities may be attributed to differences in institutional capacity as well as political considerations influencing enforcement practices.

Mitten, 'The role of adjudicatory bodies' has dealt with the importance of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in ensuring uniform interpretation of anti-doping rules. However, Mitten points out that access to such forums may be limited for athletes from developing countries, thereby raising issues of procedural equity.¹⁹

Overall, the literature indicates that while a comprehensive legal framework exists, its effectiveness is undermined by institutional weaknesses, political interference, and inconsistencies in enforcement. There is a clear need for further research focusing on the legal mechanisms required to address these challenges in a holistic manner.