

1 **An Evaluation of UK Athletics' Clean Sport Programme in Preventing Doping in Junior Elite Athletes**

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20 **Word Count:** 4,019

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23 **Highlights**

- 24 • UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme reduces the risk of unintentional doping
- 25 • The programme reduces intentional doping in the short term, but not over 3-months
- 26 • Similar education programmes may need to be strengthened to ensure changes in intentional
- 27 doping remain

28 **Abstract**

29 The aim of this study was to evaluate UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme in preventing
30 unintentional and intentional doping in junior elite athletes. Track and field athletes (N = 202)
31 attended UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme. This programme delivered information about the
32 World Anti-Doping Agency, drug testing, anti-doping rule violations, use of medications, and risks
33 associated with sport supplements. Participants completed measures related to unintentional (i.e.
34 knowledge of anti-doping rules, intention to use sport supplements, beliefs about sport supplements)
35 and intentional (i.e. doping likelihood, doping moral disengagement) doping at baseline, immediately
36 after the programme, and at 3-month follow-up. Compared to baseline, immediately after the
37 programme, participants had more knowledge about anti-doping rules (mean differences \pm SEM =
38 2.34 ± 0.11 ; $d = 1.40$) and lower scores for intention to use supplements (-0.92 ± 0.12 ; $d = 0.44$),
39 beliefs about the effectiveness of supplements, (-0.57 ± 0.06 ; $d = 0.45$), doping likelihood ($-0.16 \pm$
40 0.03 ; $d = 0.20$), and doping moral disengagement (-0.20 ± 0.04 ; $d = 0.26$). At follow-up, knowledge of
41 anti-doping rules (1.94 ± 0.12 ; $d = 1.22$), intention to use supplements (-1.26 ± 0.12 ; $d = 0.63$), and
42 supplement beliefs (-0.52 ± 0.07 ; $d = 0.42$) remained different from baseline, whereas doping
43 likelihood (0.01 ± 0.05 ; $d = 0.01$) and moral disengagement (0.13 ± 0.03 ; $d = 0.09$) returned to
44 baseline. After attending the programme, participants were less likely to unintentionally dope in the
45 short and medium term and were less likely to intentionally dope in the short term. However, the
46 effects on intentional doping were not maintained after 3-months. These findings suggest that
47 although the programme reduces intentional doping in the short term, it needs to be strengthened to
48 sustain effects in the long term.

49

50 **Key words:** anti-doping policy; drug use; effectiveness; inadvertent; World Anti-Doping Agency

51 Introduction

52 The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is the leader of a global network of international and national
53 organisations that attempt to reduce or eliminate doping in sport. It is argued that doping is a threat
54 to the health and well-being of athletes and the integrity of sport (Backhouse, Griffiths, & McKenna,
55 2018). While some athletes dope intentionally to gain an unfair advantage, others dope
56 unintentionally due to a lack of understanding of the anti-doping rules or because of the accidental
57 consumption of a banned substance, which often occurs via the use of sport supplements (Chan et al.,
58 2016; Chan, Tang, Yung, Gucciardi, & Hagger, 2017).

59 A primary goal of WADA is to prevent unintentional and intentional doping through anti-doping
60 education. Accordingly, over 650 international and national organisations deliver anti-doping
61 education programmes worldwide (WADA, 2019). In the UK, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) spend over
62 £300,000 per annum on anti-doping education (UKAD, 2018). Since 2009, UKAD have educated over
63 30,000 athletes. To help educate athletes across the UK, sport organisations work in partnership with
64 UKAD (see: WADA, 2009). For example, the governing body for athletics in the UK, UK Athletics,
65 delivers the *Clean Sport* programme, which was designed in line with article 18.2 of WADC to help
66 foster a doping-free sporting environment. While the overall aim of this programme is to prevent
67 athletes from intentionally doping, much of the content is focused on preventing unintentional
68 doping. Similar anti-doping programmes are implemented globally (e.g. USADA's *Play Clean*, German
69 NADA's *Together Against Doping*, European Athletics' *I Run Clean*), which focus on improving athletes'
70 knowledge of the anti-doping rules and decision-making regarding use of medication and sport
71 supplements.

72 Despite the worldwide investment into anti-doping education, there is a paucity of systematic
73 evaluations of the effectiveness of existing programmes (Backhouse, Whitaker, Patterson, Erickson, &
74 McKenna, 2016; Ntoumanis, Ng, Barkoukis, & Backhouse, 2014). Evaluation is a powerful tool to help
75 improve the quality of programmes. The publication of WADA's handbook for the evaluation of anti-
76 doping education programmes (Houlihan & Melville, 2011) is testament to this purpose. Evaluation
77 can take two forms - outcome and process. Outcome evaluation aims to determine how well a
78 programme achieves its objectives, whereas process evaluation aims to explore the way in which they
79 are implemented (Craig et al., 2008). Outcome evaluation can indicate whether a programme has a
80 worthwhile effect on the intended outcome¹, whereas process evaluation can indicate why a
81 programme fails or has unexpected consequences.

¹ In the case of anti-doping education, this would refer to whether an athlete is less likely to dope intentionally and/or unintentionally after attending the programme.

82 Evaluating the effectiveness of anti-doping education on doping itself is difficult, in part this is
83 because of inadequate prevalence data (de Hon, Kuipers, & van Bottenburg, 2015; Ulrich et al., 2018)
84 and the fact that if an athlete admits to doping, they could be banned from competition. To
85 circumvent this difficulty, researchers advocate assessing the impact of programmes on risks
86 associated with unintentional and intentional doping (Huybers & Mazanov, 2012; Ntoumanis et al.,
87 2014).

88 In the last decade, research has identified a number of risk factors for unintentional and intentional
89 doping (Backhouse et al., 2016; Ntoumanis et al., 2014). Risk factors for unintentional doping include
90 lack of knowledge of the anti-doping rules (Chan et al., 2016), intention to use sport supplements
91 (Chan et al., 2017), and believing in their effectiveness (Hurst, Kavussanu, Boardley, & Ring, 2019). It is
92 assumed that an increase in knowledge of the anti-doping rules and a decrease in the likelihood of an
93 athlete using sport supplements, reduces the risk of athletes unintentionally doping (Hurst et al.,
94 2019; WADA, 2016). Risk factors for intentional doping include doping likelihood (Huybers &
95 Mazanov, 2012; Ring, Kavussanu, Lucidi, & Hurst, 2019) and moral disengagement (Kavussanu,
96 Hatzigeorgiadis, Elbe, & Ring, 2016; Kavussanu, Yukhymenko-Lescroart, Elbe, & Hatzigeorgiadis, 2019;
97 Ring & Hurst, 2019). Doping likelihood is used a proxy of doping behaviour (Hurst et al., 2019; Ring &
98 Hurst, 2019), which reflects an athlete's likelihood to dope during a hypothetical situation, whereas
99 moral disengagement refers to a set of mechanisms athletes use to justify doping without
100 experiencing self-sanctions (e.g. guilt, regret and shame).

101 While there has been a considerable increase in understanding of risks factors associated with doping,
102 experimental randomised controlled trials of education programmes often show little or no effect on
103 doping behaviour. The ATLAS (Athletes Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids; Goldberg et al., 1996)
104 and ATHENA (Athletes Targeting Healthy Exercise and Nutrition Alternatives; Elliot et al., 2004)
105 programmes, for example, which both convey knowledge about unhealthy behaviours including
106 doping, found no changes in reported cases of doping. Similar results were reported by Barkoukis,
107 Kartali, Lazuras, and Tsorbatzoudis (2016) and Lucidi et al. (2017) whose programmes educated
108 participants on the moral, social and psychological aspects of doping and by Elbe and Brand (2016)
109 whose ethical decision making programme sought to change young athletes' attitudes towards
110 doping. Importantly, none of these studies examined doping likelihood.

111 A paucity of research also exists for national anti-doping education programmes. Hallward and
112 Duncan (2019) interviewed 21 athletes who attended an anti-doping education programme and
113 found that athletes believed anti-doping education interventions were too focused on the negative
114 consequences of doping and should be more engaging and interactive. Wippert and Fliesser (2016)
115 investigated whether the German National Prevention Plan (NDPP) improved athletes' knowledge of

116 doping. Young athletes ($N = 213$) attended either a *school seminar*, which included information about
117 various doping topics, athlete-led presentations and role-playing games, or an *information tour*, which
118 included a presentation from an anti-doping official, a personal narrative from an elite athlete, and a
119 doping control film. Compared to a control group, athletes who attended the NDPP reported
120 increased knowledge of doping. Crucially, neither study evaluated whether the programme reduced
121 the likelihood of unintentional or intentional doping. To fill this gap in our understanding of anti-
122 doping education, research needs to evaluate the impact of current anti-doping education
123 programmes on risk factors associated with unintentional and intentional doping.

124 In the present study, we used an outcome evaluation approach to understand whether UK Athletics'
125 Clean Sport programme prevents unintentional and intentional doping in junior elite track and field
126 athletes. Examining the effectiveness of the programme in this demographic is important for two
127 reasons. First, with over 500 track and field athletes currently serving a ban for an anti-doping rule
128 violation (AIU, 2019) and the Russian state sponsored doping programme, doping is an important
129 issue in athletics. Second, junior elite athletes are at a stage in their career when they are more
130 susceptible to dope (Lentillon-Kaestner & Carstairs, 2010) and decisions towards substance use are
131 more likely to change when doping attitudes and values are being formed (Backhouse, Patterson, &
132 McKenna, 2012). We therefore determined whether attending UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme
133 reduced the likelihood of athletes' unintentionally and intentionally doping immediately and 3-
134 months after the programme.

135 **Materials and methods**

136 *Participants* and recruitment

137 Three hundred and thirty-two (57.4% male; mean \pm SD: age = 17.2 ± 0.7 ; years training = 5.0 ± 2.2 ;
138 hours trained per week = 8.6 ± 3.4) junior elite track and field athletes were recruited to the study
139 through a national programme (i.e. the Advanced Level Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence). This
140 programme offers talented athletes the opportunity to acquire educational qualifications while
141 pursuing their sporting careers. As part of the programme, athletes were asked to attend UK
142 Athletics' Clean Sport programme. Attendance was voluntary, but as per UK Athletics' policy, if
143 participants aspired to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the future, they are required
144 to have received anti-doping education in the previous two years. At the time of data collection,
145 participants had received no other official anti-doping education from UK Athletics or UK Anti-Doping,
146 and they were ranked in the top 1% in Great Britain for their event discipline. The highest ever
147 standard at which they had competed in their sport at the time of data collection was national
148 (69.4%) and international (30.6%).

149 *Role of UK Athletics*

150 The lead author established a relationship with UK Athletics to evaluate their educational programme
151 prior to data collection. This was on the basis that evaluation about the programme would help
152 understand how effective it is in meeting their aims of preventing intentional and unintentional
153 doping. UK Athletics provided access to participants and had no role in study design, data collection,
154 analysis, and interpretation, or writing of the manuscript. The corresponding author had final
155 responsibility for the decision to submit for publication.

156 *Clean Sport programme*

157 The programme adopted a didactic approach with interactive elements. Sixteen sessions across the
158 United Kingdom were delivered to groups of 19-25 (mean \pm SD = 21 \pm 3) participants using electronic
159 presentation software in a classroom setting. Participants were grouped by UK Athletics. In each
160 group, participants specialised in the same event (e.g. sprints, middle-distance, throws) and were
161 familiar with each other, having competed or trained together in preceding 6-months.

162 The programme consisted of a 60-minute session delivered by a 27-year-old, male, ex-international
163 track and field athlete. The facilitator received anti-doping education training from UKAD and had
164 over four years of experience delivering the Clean Sport programme. The session provided
165 participants with information relevant to, and consistent with, the WADC and consisted of five parts.
166 The first part informed participants about the global governance of anti-doping with reference to
167 WADA. The second part introduced the 10 anti-doping rule violations and provided examples of
168 athletes and athlete support personnel committing violations. The third introduced the drug testing
169 procedure. A mock test was performed in which participants role-played each step of the procedure
170 using official anti-doping bottles and documentation. The fourth explained that some medications
171 might be banned for use in competition. Participants were instructed to check their medication using
172 the Global Dro website, which provides athletes verification of whether a medication is prohibited or
173 sanctioned in or out of competition. The educator demonstrated how to use the website and
174 encouraged participants to search for a medication and identify whether it was banned or sanctioned
175 in and out of competition. In the final part, participants were told that they might commit an anti-
176 doping rule violation by using sport supplements that are contaminated with banned substances. To
177 minimise this risk, they were shown how to use the informed-sport programme (i.e. a quality
178 assurance programme that batch-tests sports supplements for banned substances). A video interview
179 of an athlete who had committed an anti-doping rule violation after using a sport supplement was
180 shown to participants and a discussion followed on the impact contamination of sport supplements

181 can have on an athlete's career. To ensure engagement with the content, participants were
182 encouraged to ask questions and discussed pertinent issues in groups.

183 *Outcome Measures*

184 In this study, we refer to knowledge of the anti-doping rules, sport supplement intention and beliefs
185 as unintentional doping, and doping likelihood and moral disengagement as intentional doping.

186 *Unintentional doping*

187 Participants were asked to complete a bespoke questionnaire that assessed their knowledge of the
188 anti-doping rules. While previous studies have used other measures to assess athletes' anti-doping
189 knowledge (Kim & Kim, 2017; Murofushi, Kawata, Kamimura, Hirose, & Shibata, 2018; Turfus,
190 Smith, Mansingh, Alexander-Lindo, & Roopchand-Martin, 2019), we created our own questionnaire to
191 align with each of the five sections of the Clean Sport program (e.g., anti-doping rule violations, drug
192 testing and medications). The questionnaire was created and refined following consultation with five
193 anti-doping education experts from UK Athletics and UK Anti-Doping. Experts provided feedback on
194 the relevance, clarity and simplicity of each question. Pilot testing was conducted with six
195 international level athletes, who had previously attended the Clean Sport programme. The final
196 questionnaire consisted of eight multiple-choice questions (e.g. "How many anti-doping rule
197 violations are there?" and "What can an athlete use Global DRO to search for?"). A score of 1 was
198 given to each correct answer, with scores ranging from 0-8. Higher scores indicated greater
199 knowledge of the anti-doping rules.

200 Participants were asked to respond on a Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7
201 (*strongly agree*) how much they agreed with the following statement: "Over the next three months, I
202 intend to use sport supplements". They also completed the Sports Supplements Beliefs Scale (Hurst,
203 Foad, Coleman, & Beedie, 2017), which measures athletes' beliefs about the effectiveness of sport
204 supplements. Participants indicated their level of agreement with six statements (e.g. "Supplements
205 are necessary for me to be competitive" and "Supplements improve my performance") on a Likert
206 type-scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7 (*strongly agree*). Scale scores have shown good
207 internal consistency ($\alpha = .89$) and factorial validity (Hurst et al., 2017). The mean of the six items was
208 computed as a measure of sport supplement beliefs ($\alpha = .86$).

209 *Intentional doping*

210 Doping likelihood was measured using materials adapted from previous research (Huybers &
211 Mazanov, 2012; Ring & Hurst, 2019; Ring et al., 2019). Participants were presented with the following
212 scenario:

213 *It's the week before the most important competition of your season. Lately, your performance*
214 *has been below your best. You don't feel you have the necessary fitness for this competition,*
215 *and you're concerned about how you'll perform. You mention this to a mate, who tells you*
216 *that they use a substance that has enhanced their fitness and performance. The substance is*
217 *banned for use in sport, but there's no chance that you will be caught.*

218 Participants were asked to imagine being in this hypothetical situation and indicate how likely they
219 were to use the banned substance on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (*not at all likely*) to 7 (*very likely*).

220 The moral disengagement in doping scale (Kavussanu et al., 2016) was used to measure doping moral
221 disengagement. Participants indicated their level of agreement with six statements (e.g. "Doping does
222 not really hurt anyone" and "An athlete should not be blamed for doping if everyone in the club is
223 doing it") on a Likert type-scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7 (*strongly agree*). Scale scores
224 have shown good internal consistency ($\alpha = .86$), test-retest reliability ($r = .78$) and factorial validity
225 (Kavussanu et al., 2016). The mean of the six items was calculated as a measure of doping moral
226 disengagement ($\alpha = .74$), with higher scores indicating a greater propensity to morally disengage.

227 *Procedure*

228 After obtaining ethical approval from our local ethics committee, participants were recruited to the
229 study. Participants were informed about the study's aims, that participation was voluntary, and that
230 all data collected would be kept strictly confidential and used only for research purposes. After
231 reading the information sheet and having the opportunity to ask questions, informed consent was
232 obtained from all participants.

233 Measures were administered in person by the facilitator delivering the programme and were
234 completed at three time points: baseline, immediately after programme (post), and 3-months later
235 (follow-up). To encourage honesty in responses, participants did not disclose any personal
236 information (e.g. name, contact information, personal best) and returned completed questionnaires
237 in a sealed envelope. Participants created a bespoke password to maintain anonymity and match
238 responses across the three data collection points.

239 *Statistical analysis*

240 Of the 332 participants initially recruited to the study, 5 did not complete any measures at baseline,
241 38 at post, and 87 at follow-up. Their data were deleted, leaving a final sample size of 202 (60.8%
242 completion rate). Data were entered into SPSS version 24.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). Inspection of
243 data revealed 24 participants (11.9%) had incomplete data sets. Little's Missing Completely at
244 Random test (Little, 1988) indicated data were missing completely at random ($\chi^2 = 874.790$, $df = 854$,

245 $p = .303$). Missing values were replaced using a multiple imputation model that generated five data
246 sets with a maximum of parameters set at 100. The mean value of the missing data sets was used for
247 further analyses.

248 We conducted repeated measures Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA), with time points
249 (baseline, post, follow-up) as the within-participants factor, on five variables (knowledge of anti-
250 doping rules, sport supplement intention and beliefs, doping likelihood, and doping moral
251 disengagement). To examine trends over time, tests of linear and quadratic effects were reported.
252 Partial eta-squared (η^2) is reported as the effect size, with values of 0.02, 0.13 and 0.26 indicating
253 small, medium and large effects, respectively (Cohen, 1992). *Post hoc* Least Significant Difference
254 (LSD) tests were used to examine differences between time points, with Cohen's d (d) reported as the
255 effect size, with values of 0.2, 0.5 and 0.8 indicating small, medium, and large effects, respectively
256 (Cohen, 1992). Data are reported as means \pm standard error of the mean (SEM) and 95% confidence
257 intervals. Statistical significance was set at $p < .05$.

258 **Results**

259 Descriptive data for all variables are presented in Table 1. Repeated measures MANOVA yielded a
260 multivariate effect for time ($F_{10, 792} = 64.95, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.45$).

261 *Unintentional doping*

262 Repeated measures ANOVA univariate tests indicated significant time-related differences for
263 knowledge of anti-doping rules ($F_{2, 400} = 339.97, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.63$), sport supplement use intention
264 ($F_{2, 400} = 74.99, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.27$) and sport supplement beliefs ($F_{2, 400} = 62.26, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.24$).
265 Changes in knowledge of anti-doping scores were characterised by both linear ($F_{1, 200} = 277.55, p$
266 $< .001, \eta^2 = 0.58$) and quadratic ($F_{1, 200} = 514.50, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.72$) trends. Post-hoc LSD tests showed
267 that compared to baseline, participants' knowledge significantly increased at post and follow-up,
268 whereas, scores fell slightly between post-programme and follow-up (Table 2). Intention to use sport
269 supplements scores were characterised by linear ($F_{1, 200} = 106.11, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.347$) and quadratic
270 ($F_{1, 200} = 14.50, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.07$) trends. Compared to baseline, scores were significantly lower at
271 post- programme and at follow-up, and were lower at follow up than post-programme (Table 2).
272 Linear ($F_{1, 200} = 62.14, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.24$) and quadratic ($F_{1, 200} = 62.52, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.24$) patterns
273 described the changes in sport supplement beliefs. Participants believed that supplements were less
274 effective both immediately after completing the programme and 3-months later than baseline. Beliefs
275 remained the same at follow-up compared to post-programme (Table 2).

276 Overall, participants' knowledge of anti-doping rules increased immediately and 3-months after the
277 programme. Similarly, participants were less likely to use sport supplements and believe in their
278 effectiveness post-programme and at follow-up.

279 *Intentional doping*

280 Repeated measures ANOVA univariate tests indicated time-related differences for doping likelihood
281 ($F_{2,400} = 11.97, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.06$) and doping moral disengagement ($F_{2,400} = 12.66, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.06$).
282 Doping likelihood scores across the three time points resembled a quadratic pattern ($F_{1,200} = 51.90, p$
283 $< .001, \eta^2 = 0.21$). Post-hoc LSD tests indicated that doping likelihood was significantly lower post-
284 programme compared to baseline and at follow-up. However, doping likelihood at follow-up did not
285 differ from baseline (Table 3). Scores for doping moral disengagement exhibited a quadratic trend ($F_{1,200}$
286 $= 49.14, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.20$). Scores were lower post-programme compared to baseline and follow-
287 up. Scores did not differ between baseline and follow-up (Table 3).

288 Overall, participants were less likely to dope and justify doing so immediately following the
289 programme. However, these effects were not sustained at 3-months.

290 **Discussion**

291 Anti-doping educational programmes are implemented globally by national and international
292 organisations. However, there is a paucity of empirical evidence of their effectiveness in preventing
293 doping. To our knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate whether a national anti-doping
294 organisation's education programme is effective in preventing unintentional and intentional doping in
295 junior elite athletes.

296 Given the risk that sport supplements can be contaminated with banned substances (Chan et al.,
297 2017; Hurst et al., 2019) and that a lack of knowledge of the anti-doping rules can lead to an
298 unintentional anti-doping rule violation (Chan et al., 2016), anti-doping educational programmes
299 devote a considerable proportion of their content to increase athletes' knowledge of the anti-doping
300 rules and helping them make more informed decisions about use of sport supplements. Our results
301 show that UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme increased knowledge of the anti-doping rules and
302 reduced the likelihood of athletes using sport supplements immediately after and three months
303 following the programme. This is an important finding, providing evidence for the potential
304 effectiveness of anti-doping education programmes in reducing unintentional doping.

305 The Clean Sport programme was also effective in reducing doping likelihood and doping moral
306 disengagement in the short term. That is, participants were less likely to dope and less likely to justify
307 the use of doping immediately after attending the programme. However, these effects were short

308 lived. At follow up, both doping likelihood and doping moral disengagement scores returned to
309 baseline, suggesting that the Clean Sport programme was not able to maintain its anti-doping effect
310 three months later. These results are similar to the ATHENA (Elliot et al., 2004; Ranby et al., 2009)
311 programme, in which significant decreases in steroid use was reported immediately after the
312 programme but were not sustained at follow-up. Backhouse et al. (2012) suggested that effective
313 anti-doping education programmes should include booster sessions delivered across the year to help
314 reinforce key messages. MacArthur, Harrison, Caldwell, Hickman, and Campbell (2016) conducted a
315 meta-analysis of tobacco, alcohol, and drug education programmes, and reported that programmes
316 were more effective with the inclusion of booster sessions. Anti-doping organisation may therefore
317 need to incorporate booster sessions during each athlete's season to ensure the education messages
318 are sustained.

319 *Limitations and future research*

320 In our study, we have reported some novel findings. However, these need to be interpreted in light of
321 potential limitations. The first is the absence of a control group. It would be difficult to recruit an
322 equivalent control group because our participants were junior elite track and field athletes who were
323 ranked in the top 1% in Great Britain. A comparable control group is unlikely to exist, given that
324 athletes at this standard typically attend anti-doping education programmes biannually. To overcome
325 this issue, future research could aim to capture athletes' likelihood to dope unintentionally and
326 intentionally leading up to the programme (e.g. one-month prior), which may be a more practical
327 alternative. Second, the programme was delivered by the same educator. Given that anti-doping
328 organisations typically employ a team of educators to deliver their programme (UKAD, 2017), content
329 delivered by one educator may differ in effectiveness than the same programme delivered by another
330 educator (Beedie et al., 2018). Some educators may have more experience than others and variation
331 in effectiveness may exist. Future research should aim to investigate whether an anti-doping
332 education programme differs in effectiveness between educators. Finally, our study used an outcome
333 evaluation approach to determine whether the anti-doping education programme was effective in
334 meeting its objectives, which are to prevent both unintentional and intentional doping. While our
335 study has revealed some important findings, it has not provided insight into *why* the programme was
336 effective. Utilising a process evaluation strategy can help, for example, assess the fidelity and quality
337 of implementation of the programme (e.g. was the programme delivered the same each time?),
338 clarify casual mechanisms (e.g. what caused changes in outcome measures?), and identify contextual
339 factors associated with variation in outcomes (e.g. what parts of the programme influenced its
340 effectiveness?). This approach can be considered in future evaluations.

341 **Conclusion**

342 In conclusion, our results show that UK Athletics' Clean Sport programme was effective in changing
343 unintentional doping up to three months later. Participants reported increased knowledge of anti-
344 doping rules and were less likely to use sport supplements and believe in their effectiveness after
345 attending the programme. Given this key finding, anti-doping organisations should continue to update
346 their athletes' knowledge of the anti-doping rules and educate them on how to check a medication's
347 prohibited status and a sport supplement's safety to reduce the risk of unintentional doping. Although
348 the programme was effective in preventing unintentional doping, the current findings indicate that it
349 was not effective in preventing intentional doping in the long term. Accordingly, anti-doping
350 organisations need to monitor the long-term effectiveness of their programmes and consider
351 strengthening them by including booster sessions throughout the season to reinforce key education
352 messages.

353

354 **Acknowledgements**

355 We are grateful to UK Athletics and participants for their time and effort.

356

357 **Funding**

358 This research did not receive any grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-
359 profit sectors.

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Tables

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for all measures at three time points

Measure	Pre	Post	Follow up
Knowledge of anti-doping rules	4.64 ± 0.09	6.98 ± 0.08	6.58 ± 0.09
Sport supplement use intention	4.57 ± 0.14	3.65 ± 0.15	3.31 ± 0.13
Sport supplement beliefs	3.01 ± 0.08	2.43 ± 0.09	2.48 ± 0.09
Doping likelihood	1.41 ± 0.06	1.25 ± 0.05	1.42 ± 0.06
Moral disengagement	1.84 ± 0.05	1.64 ± 0.06	1.77 ± 0.06

Data are means ± standard error of the mean.

Possible range scores for knowledge of anti-doping rules: 0 to 8; for all other variables: 1 to 7

Table 2. Differences in unintentional doping measures between time points

Time	vs.	Δ	<i>d</i>
<i>Knowledge of anti-doping rules</i>			
Baseline	Post	2.34 ± 0.11*	1.40
	Follow up	1.94 ± 0.12*	1.22
Post	Follow up	-0.4 ± 0.05*	0.33
<i>Sport supplement use intention</i>			
Baseline	Post	-0.92 ± 0.12*	0.44
	Follow up	-1.26 ± 0.12*	0.63
Post	Follow up	-0.34 ± 0.07*	0.18
<i>Sport supplement beliefs</i>			
Baseline	Post	-0.57 ± 0.06*	0.45
	Follow up	-0.52 ± 0.07*	0.42
Post	Follow up	0.05 ± 0.04	0.04

Δ = mean difference ± standard error of the mean

d = Cohen's *d*

* = $p < 0.01$

Table 3. Differences in intentional doping measures between time points

Time	vs.	Δ	d
<i>Doping Likelihood</i>			
Baseline	Post	$-0.16 \pm 0.03^*$	0.20
	Follow up	0.01 ± 0.05	0.01
Post	Follow up	$0.17 \pm 0.03^*$	0.22
<i>Doping moral disengagement</i>			
Baseline	Post	$-0.20 \pm 0.04^*$	0.26
	Follow up	-0.07 ± 0.05	0.09
Post	Follow up	$0.13 \pm 0.03^*$	0.15

Δ = mean difference \pm standard error of the mean

d = Cohen's d

* = $p < 0.01$