

Evaluation Education Plan 2024

Summary

We evaluate the objectives set out in the Education Plan annually, including those for 2024. The Education Plan outlines how we intend to implement educational activities (education sessions and e-learning) from the National Education Programme for Elite Sports each year. In this evaluation of 2024, we assess both the content of the educational activities and the reach among our core target groups. Additionally, we examine the collaboration with the (sports) organisations we rely on to achieve our objectives, referred to as intermediary parties. The key points identified in this 2024 evaluation will be incorporated into the Education Plan 2026.

Our overall didactic objective is: furthering clean sporting conduct in Dutch elite sports so that fewer elite athletes commit anti-doping rule violations, whether deliberately or inadvertently.

Key findings

While most athletes and support staff do not voluntarily choose to participate in clean sport education (as it is mandated by sports federations or other elite sports organisations), our education sessions and e-learning modules are rated highly (between 7.8 and 8.3 out of a scale of 10). With the introduction of a new test function on the e-learning platform, we are taking steps to make the learning outcomes of our education more transparent. Furthermore, the (continued) development of an English e-learning platform contributes to improved accessibility of our educational materials.

The 2024 education pool consists of 27081 individuals, of whom 56% are athletes. Ninety-seven (97)% of the education pool are required to complete our e-learning, and 27% must also attend an education session. Additionally, 5% of athletes are required to complete an e-learning module with their international federation, followed by an education session with Doping Authority Netherlands.

The reach (2023–2024) of the 2024 education pool is higher than the reach (2022–2023) of the 2023 education pool. For e-learning, the reach is 97%, and for education sessions, it is 51%. When comparing the number of participants in education sessions and completed e-learning modules over the years, we see a 37% increase in participants for education sessions and a 28% decrease in completed e-learning modules in 2024 compared to 2023.

For the implementation and execution of education, we largely depend on intermediary parties. The most important parties are the sports federations and NOC*NSF. With the sports federations we evaluate the execution of their education plans annually. In 2024, they rated their own performance higher (6.8) than in 2023 (5.8). Additionally, the sports federations rate their collaboration with Doping Authority Netherlands in the field of education as good to excellent. NOC*NSF has an education requirement for its own delegations, which was also implemented in 2024. It also supports sports federations in executing their education plans. Furthermore, 20 challenges related to clean sport have been developed in collaboration with the so-called "Topsport-Talent-Scholen" (Elite sports Talent Schools).

Points of attention

To better align educational activities with and make them more accessible to the core target group, it is important to make learning outcomes more transparent by measuring the extent to which participants achieve the learning objectives at the beginning and end of education sessions and e-learning modules,. Additionally, the content and experiences of educational activities should be evaluated in short cycles from various perspectives.

To increase the reach of education, we need to make increasingly accurate estimates of the education pool, offer more education sessions, and provide more e-learning opportunities. Targeted actions per core target group are required for this. The relationship with sports federations should also be further strengthened to execute as many educational activities from the education plans as possible.

Maintaining good contact with NOC*NSF is also crucial to support sports federations and strictly enforce its own education requirements for TeamNL delegations.

Looking ahead: other developments

The points of attention from the 2024 evaluation will serve as input for the Education Plan 2026. We also know that policy changes in 2026 will impact our education, specifically: (1) the implementation of the new WADA Code and International Standards 2027, (2) combining education programmes for organised and non-organised sports to better align education with the target group, and (3) collaborating with the Center for Safe Sports Netherlands and other partners to develop and implement a single overarching sports integrity curriculum.