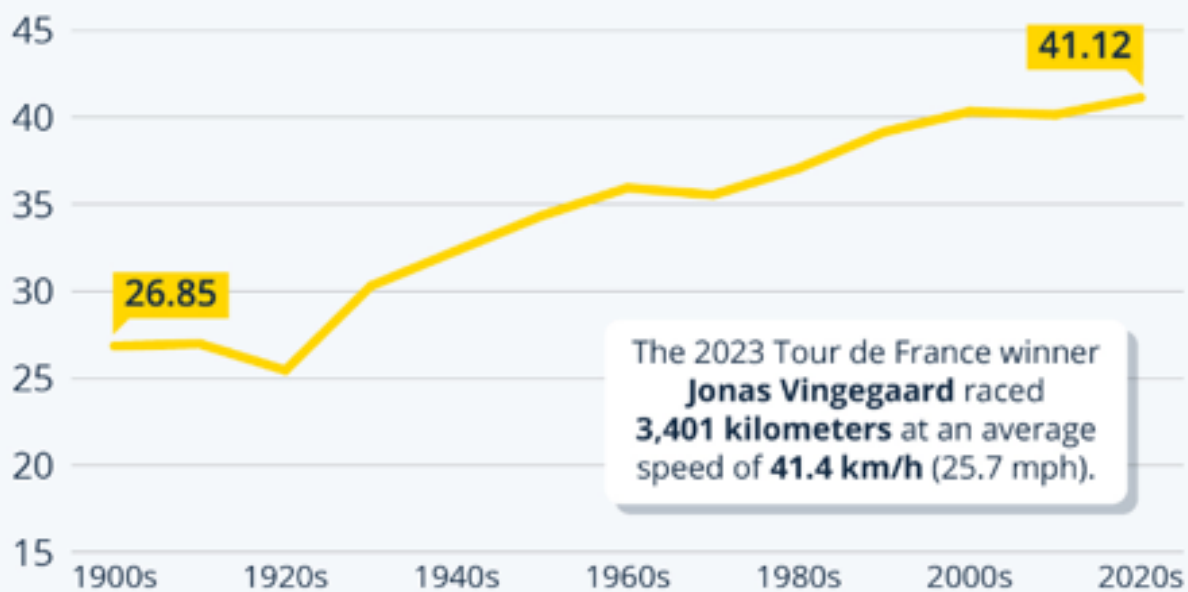


# Tour de France: Too Fast To Be Clean?



Winner's average speed in the Tour de France since 1903, by decade (in kilometers per hour)\*



\* no Tours were held from 1915-1918 and 1940-1946

Source: BikeRaceInfo



## Doping has become inevitable at the Olympics. And who wins gold in Tokyo might not be certain until 2031

Publié: 19 juillet 2021, 22:11 CEST

Razvan Martin of Romania was stripped of his bronze medal after testing positive for drugs eight years after the 2012 London Olympics. Hassan Ammar/AP

Partager par e-mail

X (anciennement Twitter) 7

Facebook 452

LinkedIn

Imprimer

Another Olympics is upon us, inexorable even in the face of COVID. With it comes the inevitable, salacious speculation around doping scandals.

There have been doping scandals at every Olympics in my lifetime and a few before, reaching back to the middle of the 20th century. Now, because of the lag between new drugs coming into sport and the development of reliable drug tests, there's a 10-year retrospective testing window. This leaves the question of exactly who wins what an open question for a decade.

With the testing window used for the 2012 London Olympics now closed (it used to be eight years), we only now have a final account of both medals and doping at those games.

According to Olympics historian Bill Mallon, [more than 140 athletes](#) were banned or disqualified, including 42 medallists (13 of which were gold). Nearly half [were caught](#) using retrospective testing.

Auteur



**Jason Mazanov**  
Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Business, UNSW  
Canberra, UNSW Sydney

Déclaration d'intérêts

Jason Mazanov has received funding from the Australian Anti-Doping Research Programme and the World Anti-Doping Agency Social Science Research Grants programme in the past. Jason also reviews anti-doping social science research grant applications for a number of international agencies.

Partenaires



UNSW

## **The answer to drugs in athletics? Have two races : doped and clean.**

Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*, Tuesday 18 August 2015

International sport seems unable to escape the stain of scandal. New revelations of systematic doping in athletics will surprise few who have followed the Olympics over the decades. What is astonishing is that they will not go away.

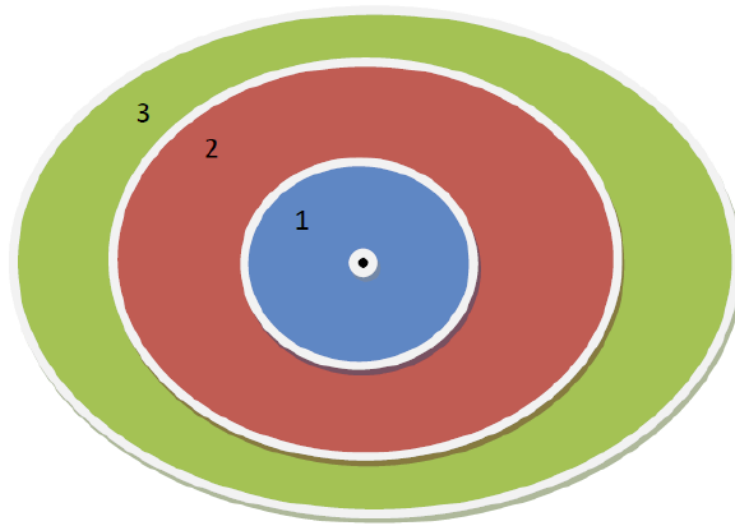
After decades of stories of athletics doping, we now learn that just four years ago a third of all competitors in the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) games in Korea were suspected of it. The corruption was so widespread that it appears the authorities, fearful of their games, must have turned a blind eye - although they say the allegations were “sensationalist and confusing”. It was the Olympics all over again.

The incentives of money, glory and national pride are now so great as to overwhelm feasible regulation. Just as international sports infrastructure has fallen prey to extravagant venue designers, so participants have fallen prey to trainers and sponsors. Everyone has to win at all costs. Like drug-taking among the young, drug-taking among athletes is so prevalent as to be immune to authority – especially when, in the case of athletes, they are not breaking any law.

In 1988 the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was stripped of his Olympic medals as a result of drug-taking. The “fastest man on Earth” was suddenly not the fastest. No such edict was passed on the dozens of medal winners and record holders from communist and other regimes known to have been fed drugs for decades. No more action was taken, in the old days, against the many “shamateur” athletes who took appearance payments “in the locker room”. The race was always for the fastest. Rules were for fools.

There is an obvious answer: legalise drugs. It is ludicrous to pretend that Johnson was not “the fastest man on Earth” when he palpably was. Every athlete is attended by a team of nutritionists seeking to calibrate diets to maximise performance. We like to think of the human body as somehow pure. Yet the torture of training to which a top athlete is subject is no more “natural” than an additive to his or her drink. Of course allowing drugs into sport, which means tolerating those already rife, will change its character. The nutritionists will up their game. Some drugs are certainly harmful, but so are some training regimes. The body is but a machine.

There could then be two competitions. One, like the amateur games of old, would be for those who adhere to particular rules, who publish their records as “pure”, whatever that means. The other would be for those who really are obsessed with being fastest on Earth. They might, like cage fighters, be relegated to the status of freaks. But there would be an end to the pretence that the pressures on modern sportsmen and women can ever render them truly “clean”.



● = TEXT

1 = ANALYZE THE TEXT

2 = ADD PERSONAL INFORMATION

3 = BROADEN PERSPECTIVES

**Transition vers le commentaire :** This is a subject I would like to discuss further now.

**Problématique :** And I would like to ask if authorising doping might not have unfortunate consequences not only for the world of sport but for society as a whole.

## **PLAN (à étoffer & illustrer)**

### **1- True, the case for allowing doping is strong**

- a. It would make competitions more fun improving performance / Breaking records)
- b. It is difficult to know who is “clean”
- c. It is difficult to tell where “cheating” begins

### **2- However, there is more to this issue than meets the eye.**

- a. Health issues
- b. Gene doping : consequences are still unknown
- c. From a moral and ethical point of view
  - i. If allowed in sports → allowed at work or at school? (smart drugs? / Chat GPT?)

## Conclusion (~~\*That's all / \*I'm finished~~ 😡)

All in all, I do not support the idea of legalizing doping, which would send out a disturbing message to aspiring athletes and to society as a whole. Maybe there could then be two competitions, as mentioned in the article, one for clean athletes, the other for those who are obsessed with improving performance at all cost. But I still think it would be better to try and eradicate doping rather than put up with it, even if it is very difficult to find workable solutions at the moment.

But legal doping would be un'likely to revo'lutionise sport in the way that

i: əʊ wʊd

ðæt

pro'ponents claim.



His u'nique 'physical gifts and 'mental 'toughness made him unbeatable.

i:

'tʌfnɪs

ʌn'bi:təbəl

But the normalisation of drug-taking would entail serious health risks.

wɒd                      'sɪəriəs 'helθ