

ATHLETES RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletes, their support personnel and others who are subject to anti-doping rules all have rights and responsibilities under the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). Part Three of the Code outlines all of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the anti-doping system.

Athletes' Rights

“Every athlete has the right to clean sport!”

Ensuring that athletes are aware of their rights and that these rights are respected is vital to the success of clean sport. WADA's Athlete Committee (now Athlete Council) drafted the [Athletes' Anti-Doping Rights Act](#) (Act). This Act is made up of two parts. Part one sets out rights that are found in the Code and International Standards. Part two sets out recommended athlete rights that are not found in the Code or International Standards but are rights that athletes recommend that Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) adopt for best practice.

Athlete rights outlined in the Code include:

- Equal opportunities in their pursuit of sport, free of participation by other athletes who dope
- Equitable and fair testing programs
- A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application process
- To be heard, to have a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a fair, impartial and operationally independent hearing panel, with a timely reasoned decision specifically including an explanation of the reasons of the decision
- Right to appeal the hearing decision
- Any ADO that has jurisdiction over them will be accountable for its action and an athlete shall have the ability to report any compliance issue
- Ability to report Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) through an anonymous mechanism and not be subjected to threats or intimidation
- Receiving anti-doping education
- Fair handling of their personal information by ADOs in accordance with the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information ([ISPPPI](#)) and any local applicable law
- To pursue damages from another athlete whose actions have damaged that athlete by the commission of an ADRV
- During the sample collection process, the right to:
 - See the identification of the Doping Control Officer (DCO)
 - Request additional information about the sample collection process, about the authority under which it will be carried out and on the type of sample collection
 - Hydrate
 - Be accompanied by a representative and, if available, an interpreter
 - Request a delay in reporting to the doping control station for valid reasons ([International Standard for Testing and Investigations](#) Art. 5.4.4)
 - Request modifications for athletes with impairments (if applicable)

- Be informed of their rights and responsibilities
- Receive a copy of the records of the process
- Have further protections for "protected persons" because of their age or lack of legal capacity
- Request and attend the B sample analysis (in the case of an Adverse Analytical Finding)

Athletes' Responsibilities

Athletes' rights to clean sport come with corresponding responsibilities, and athletes may be tested in- and out-of-competition, anytime, anywhere and with no advance notice.

Their clean sport responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Complying with the NADO's Anti-Doping Rules and relevant policies (in line with the [World Anti-Doping Code](#)).
- Being available for sample collection (urine, blood or dried blood spot (DBS)), whether in-competition or out-of-competition
- Remaining within direct observation of the Doping Control Officer (DCO) or chaperone at all times from notification until the completion of the sample collection process
- Providing identification upon request during the sample collection process
- Ensuring that no prohibited substance enters their body and that no prohibited method is used on them
- Ensuring that any treatment is not prohibited according to the [Prohibited List](#) in force and checking this with the prescribing physicians, or directly with the NADO if necessary
- Applying to the relevant NADO if no alternative permitted treatment is possible and a [Therapeutic Use Exemption](#) (TUE) is required (see the IF or NADO's TUE application process if necessary)
- Reporting immediately for sample collection after being notified of being selected for doping control
- Ensuring the accuracy of the information entered on the Doping Control Form (DCF)
- Cooperating with ADOs investigating ADRVs
- Not working with coaches, trainers, physicians or other athlete support personnel who are ineligible on account of an ADRV or who have been criminally convicted or professionally disciplined in relation to doping (see WADA's [Prohibited Association List](#))

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Athletes have certain rights and responsibilities when it comes to Anti-Doping policies and rules. It is important for them to be knowledgeable about these rules and ensure compliance with them. Here are some tips for athletes to follow:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Anti-Doping rules and make sure to adhere to them. It is crucial to know what substances and methods are prohibited.
2. Be available for testing when required. Athletes should cooperate with the Anti-Doping Organization and make themselves accessible for testing purposes.
3. Inform medical personnel about your obligation to avoid prohibited substances and methods. Take responsibility for ensuring that any medical treatment you receive is in compliance with Anti-Doping policies. Before taking any medication, carefully check its contents to ensure it does not contain any banned substances. Seek assistance if you are unsure.
4. If you have been found to have committed an Anti-Doping rule violation by an organization that is not a Code Signatory within the past ten years, it is your responsibility to disclose this information to your National Anti-Doping Organization.
5. Take full responsibility for what you consume and use. Remember, it is your body, so it is your responsibility to ensure that you do not take any prohibited substances or use any prohibited methods.
6. Cooperate with any investigations conducted by Anti-Doping organizations regarding possible Anti-Doping Rules Violations. It is important to be transparent and provide any necessary information when asked.
7. If you have any athlete support personnel, such as a coach, physiotherapist, or doctor, make sure to disclose their identities to the relevant Anti-Doping Organization. This is important in case of any wrongdoing or violations.
8. Take advantage of opportunities to educate yourself on Anti-Doping matters. National Anti-Doping Organizations often provide educational resources and programs to athletes.
9. Engage in conversations within your sporting environment about Anti-Doping. Encourage others to participate in clean sport activities and events. Promote the values and behaviors associated with clean sport.

Lastly, familiarize yourself with the rights available to athletes within Anti-Doping. The WADA Athletes' Anti-Doping Rights Act outlines these universal rights, and it is important to understand and uphold them.

https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/athlete_act_en.pdf

Once an athlete has been requested to undergo sample collection, the athlete has the right to:

- see the identification of the Doping Control Officer
- ask for additional information about the sample collection process
- be informed of the authority under which the sample collection is to be conducted
- be informed of the type of sample collection and any conditions that need to be adhered to prior to the sample collection
- hydrate (unless the sample provided does not meet the requirement for suitable specific gravity for analysis)

- have a representative present
- have an interpreter, if available
- request modifications if the athlete has an impairment
- be informed of their rights and responsibilities
- document any concerns about the process
- receive a copy of the records of the sample collection session
- request a delay in reporting to the doping control station for valid reasons.

A valid delay for In-Competition testing can include:

- performing a warm down
- competing in further competitions
- fulfilment of media commitments
- participating in a presentation ceremony
- obtaining necessary medical treatment
- obtaining photo identification
- locating a representative and/or interpreter
- any other reasonable circumstances as approved by the Doping Control Officer.

A valid delay for Out-of-Competition testing can include:

- locating a representative
- completing a training session
- receiving necessary medical treatment
- obtaining photo identification
- any other reasonable circumstances as approved by the Doping Control Officer.

A Doping Control Officer may reject any of these athlete rights if an athlete cannot be chaperoned throughout the whole process. This is important to ensure the integrity of the process is maintained.

ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Once an athlete has been requested to undergo sample collection, the athlete has a responsibility to:

- remain within direct observation of the Doping Control Officer or Chaperone at all times from the point of notification until the completion of the sample collection procedure
- provide their first sample for collection
- produce appropriate identification
- comply with the directions of the Doping Control Officer and Chaperone during the sample collection session
- report immediately for sample collection, unless there is a valid reason for a delay.