

Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes and Anti-Doping

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document aims to provide guidance to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) when collecting doping control samples from transgender or gender diverse athletes

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With continuously evolving social, legal, cultural, ethical, and clinical practice models globally, participation of transgender and gender diverse athletes is becoming increasingly common in sports at all levels. All ADOs have a responsibility to support, educate, and test all athletes regardless of gender.

This FAQ addresses specific processes regarding transgender and gender diverse athletes. While gender identity is complex, simply put, gender refers to how an athlete identifies themselves, which may differ from the biological sex assigned at birth. A transgender athlete is a person whose gender identity differs from the sex that was assigned at birth. Athletes may also have identities outside the binary gender system and are defined as gender diverse.

For the purposes of doping control and the samples they provide, a transgender or gender diverse athlete shall be required to record the gender of the event in which they compete on the Doping Control Form in order for the laboratory to apply and review the analytical results of such samples based on the 'event' gender of the athlete.

1. What is WADA's role?

WADA was established to protect athletes, promote the values of clean sport, and preserve the spirit of sport internationally. It is within WADA's values to protect the rights of all athletes, regardless of gender, in relation to anti-doping, and contribute to the integrity of sport.

2. Does WADA decide whether a transgender or gender diverse athlete is eligible to compete?

No. International Federations, National Federations and event organisers issue regulations and develop criteria that define athlete eligibility for every sport, discipline, or event.

3. Can a transgender or gender diverse athlete be tested?

Yes. Any athlete participating in a sport governed by a World Anti-Doping Code signatory is subject to testing, according to an ADO's in- and out-of-competition testing priorities and based on its Risk Assessment and Test Distribution Plan.

4. Are there any changes in the sample collection procedure for a transgender or gender diverse athlete?

No. A transgender or gender diverse athlete should experience the same sample collection procedure as any other athlete. The mandatory requirements are described in the [International Standard for Testing and Investigations](#).

5. What gender of Sample Collection Personnel should be used to witness sample provision?

Sample Collection Personnel (i.e., Doping Control Officer/Chaperone) who witness the sample provision from a transgender or gender diverse athlete shall be of the same gender as the athlete based on the gender of the event in which the athlete is eligible to compete. For example, a transgender man who competes in a men's event shall have a man as the Sample Collection Personnel to witness the provision of a urine sample. In some events where there is mixed competition (both men and women competing at the same time and on the same team), the Sample Collection Personnel will need to be aware of the gender with which the athlete has entered the event, or, if there are requirements of the event to have a certain number of competitors in each gender as part of a team, which gender that athlete is representing.

6. What gender do Sample Collection Personnel record on the Doping Control Form for transgender or gender diverse athletes?

Sample Collection Personnel should record on the Doping Control Form the athlete's 'event' gender for both in-competition and out-of-competition tests.

7. Do ADOs need to train their Sample Collection Personnel for testing transgender and gender diverse athletes?

It is recommended that ADOs train their Sample Collection Personnel on the principles of gender neutrality and ensure they are aware of how to use the correct terminology and language when working with transgender or gender diverse athletes. In addition, ADOs should also consider including a section within their Sample Collection Personnel training program not only for general awareness but also to include the principles around recording the gender of the athlete on the Doping Control Form and witnessing the sample provision.

8. Does a transgender or a gender diverse athlete have a different TUE application process?

WADA has issued in January 2022 [guidelines for physicians](#) that define the criteria for granting a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) for the treatment with substances on the Prohibited List specific to transgender or gender diverse athletes. It is not the purpose of these TUE guidelines to define the criteria for the eligibility of these athletes to participate in competitive sport, which is entirely left to the relevant sporting federations and/or event organizers. Athletes and their physicians can also refer to the relevant [TUE checklist](#).

9. How do ADOs deal with an Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) profile if an athlete becomes a transgender athlete during their sport career?

ADOs are encouraged to communicate with their Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) regarding the management of the athlete's passport based on their specific situation.

10. Does the laboratory need to know that the athlete tested is a transgender athlete?

No. The laboratory does not need to be informed that a sample belongs to a transgender athlete since there are no transgender-specific analytical or reporting criteria that the laboratory uses. However, as for any other athlete subject to testing, the laboratory does need to know the athlete's 'event' gender as recorded on the Doping Control Form during the sample collection process.

11. Is there any special anti-doping education that transgender and gender diverse athletes should receive from an ADO?

All transgender athletes and gender diverse athletes should receive the same anti-doping education as other athletes. This should be delivered by the athlete's National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) and/or the athlete's National or International Federation.