

## CHECKLIST: Testing of Athletes and Major Events

The International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) Article 4.5.2 outlines that Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) must consider conducting target testing on athletes prior to attending major events as this contributes to protecting the integrity of the major events and the right of every athlete to compete on a level playing field. This includes a focus on the following athletes:

- ❖ For International Federations (IFs), athletes (especially from its priority disciplines or nations) who compete regularly at the highest level of international competition (e.g., candidates for Olympic, Paralympic or World Championship medals), as determined by rankings or other suitable criteria.
- ❖ For National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), the following athletes from its priority sports:
  - Athletes who are part of national teams in major events (e.g., Olympic, Paralympic, World Championship and other multi-sport events) or other sports of high national priority (or who might be selected for such teams); and
  - Athletes who train independently but perform at major events (e.g., Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, World Championships, and other multi-sport events) and may be selected for such events.

Ensuring that athletes are tested sufficiently in advance and leading up to major events can minimize (and hopefully avoid) adverse analytical findings during the actual event, which not only tarnishes the event and the country the athlete represents but also prevents another athlete from participating in that athlete's place.

Ahead of a major event, ADOs should:

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### Know which athletes are likely to participate at the major event.

- 1 ❖ To do so, you can request this information from National Federations (NFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and/or National Paralympic Committees (NPCs).

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### Review your whereabouts pools (ISTI Article 4.8.12.5a) and adjust as needed.

- 2 ❖ Review and consider adding, as appropriate, athletes to your Registered Testing Pool (RTP) or Testing Pool (TP) who the NF, NOC or NPC have identified as 'prospective athletes' that may qualify or have qualified for the major event to ensure you have whereabouts information to conduct no advance notice out-of-competition testing on these athletes.
- ❖ As a NADO or an IF, collaborate with one another regarding the addition of athletes to whereabouts pools and agree on who will be the whereabouts custodian.
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## Ensure prospective athletes are tested, out-of-competition and/or in-competition, ahead of their participation (ISTI Article 4.5.2).

- ❖ Decisions related to testing (i.e., when, how often, what type of sample, etc.) should be based on your risk assessment keeping in mind, the risk level of the sports and/or disciplines, the testing history of each athlete, Athlete Biological Passport Unit (APMU) recommendations, as well as other relevant information, and intelligence.
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- ❖ Consider requesting that NFs, NOCs, and NPCs, contribute financially to the testing of prospective athletes prior to major events. While those organizations can provide financial support, they may not be involved in any testing decisions (i.e., they do not know when testing will take place on specific athletes, what sample(s) might be collected, etc.).
  - ❖ When pre-Games taskforces are established, review and implement (as appropriate) the testing recommendations issued.
  - ❖ As a NADO or an IF, collaborate with one another regarding the testing of athletes ahead of major events.

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## Send samples to the WADA-accredited laboratory as soon as possible after sample collection (ISTI Article 9.3.2).

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- ❖ If, for any logistical reasons the immediate transportation of urine sample is not possible, transportation of urine samples should occur no later than seven days from the date of collection. Regarding blood samples, they should be dispatched as soon as possible after sample collection, ideally arriving at the laboratory on the same day. For additional information, please consult WADA's [Guideline for Sample Collection](#).

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## Consider whether quick turn-around analysis is required on samples.

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- ❖ Since testing of prospective athletes can occur very close to the beginning of the major event, and WADA-accredited laboratories would typically be reporting results within 20 days of receipt, when samples are collected close to when an athlete is scheduled to leave, contact the laboratory to request quick turn-around analysis and/or indicate to the laboratory that a particular sample is a 'priority' sample for analysis and agree on a date as to when that sample should be reported. These requests can be communicated to the relevant WADA-accredited laboratories via email and while always ensuring that the identity of the athlete is not disclosed (i.e., by only using the sample code number).

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## Monitor the receipt of results.

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- ❖ As the beginning of the major event approaches, follow-up with the relevant WADA-accredited laboratories if results for prospective athletes (and/or participating athletes) have not been reported or the agreed reporting date with the laboratory has passed.

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## Utilize long term storage (ISTI Article 4.7.3).

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- ❖ Consider keeping samples from athletes that participate at major events (and based on your risk assessment) in long term storage for further analysis in the future.
  - ❖ Consider whether any samples you have in long term storage belong to prospective athletes and whether further analysis is warranted.
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