

2027 CODE & IS UPDATE PROCESS

Second Draft: Summary of Major Changes

International Standard for Testing

Executive Summary

Following the careful review and consideration of stakeholder comments provided during the [Stakeholder Consultation Phase](#) and through extensive consultations with the anti-doping community during the [Second Drafting Phase](#), the International Standard for Testing Drafting Team has proposed further key changes in a second draft of the 2027 International Standard for Testing (IST) as part of the ongoing [2027 Code & IS Update Process](#).

The purpose of this document is to summarize the major changes proposed in the second draft of the 2027 IST, which predominantly build on those proposed in the [first draft of the 2027 IST](#) and as summarized in the corresponding [first draft Summary of Major Changes](#).

It is to be noted that any new changes in the second draft of the 2027 IST, which do not otherwise stem from or build on those changes indicated in the first draft, will be accordingly marked as 'New Addition'. Particularly, in this respect, the IST Drafting Team wishes to draw the attention of stakeholders to the following new changes which have been included in this second draft:

- Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) shall make arrangements with Laboratories to analyze Samples and/or provide related services in advance of sending such Samples to the Laboratory. Testing Authorities (TAs) and/or Results Management Authorities (RMAs) shall maintain an active communication with Laboratories and respond to Laboratory requests within the established timelines as contained in the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL);
- For Minor Athletes or Athletes with vision or intellectual impairments, if the Athlete representative is not able to be physically present at the location where the Athlete is tested, they have the option to connect virtually via the Athlete's phone and participate in the Sample Collection Session (SCS); and
- Adjustments have been made to respect the human rights of athletes following consultation with WADA's Human Rights Senior Independent Expert.

Furthermore, the IST Drafting Team wishes to mention certain other key developments which arose from its review of stakeholder comments and discussions with the anti-doping community during the Second Drafting Phase:

- The removal of the mandatory whereabouts requirement for Registered Testing Pool (RTP) Athletes to file daily a training location and general timeframes. Athletes have now the option to submit their training and/or any other alternative location/s where the Athlete may be located for testing during the quarter. Such submission is optional and does not require updating by the Athlete if it changes. The mandatory whereabouts requirements remain the 60-minute time slot and location, an overnight address and Competition/Event details including travel;

- While the first draft of the IST proposed mandatory Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) requests for ADOs, the second draft of the IST refers to priority APMU recommendations that include three categories: a) follow up Target Test; b) Further Analysis; or c) long term storage. Following a discussion with the APMU, and where an ADO does not implement an APMU recommendation, it is mandatory that the ADO documents the reasoning in ADAMS.
- The removal of the requirement for an ADO not to attempt to test a RTP Athlete outside of the 60-minute time slot one hour before or after the Athlete's nominated 60-minute time slot; and
- The inclusion of procedures where the sport gender of the Athlete is unspecified in the sporting rules into applicable areas within the draft IST and the removal of the proposed Annex L in the first draft of the IST.

The IST Drafting Team acknowledges that several new IST requirements will require significant enhancements in ADAMS. Upon approval in December 2025, the IST Drafting Team, the [ADAMS Testing Working Group](#), and WADA will work towards ensuring that these ADAMS enhancements are in place before January 2027.

The following section will offer a concise article-by-article summary of the changes in this second draft of the 2027 IST.

Article 3: Defined Terms

Changes from the First Draft

Article 3.1 includes minor revisions to the defined terms “Registered Testing Pool” and “Testing Pool” (which is now a defined term listed in Appendix 1 of the Code). Article 3.6 includes minor revisions to the defined terms “Unsuccessful Attempt Report” and “Whereabouts Pool”.

The IST will now include acronyms of the following defined terms that are widely used in the anti-doping community in an effort to reduce the size of the document:

From the Code:

Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF)

Anti-Doping Organization (ADO)

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

Atypical Finding (ATF)

In-Competition (IC)

Major Event Organizations (MEO)

National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO)

Out-of-Competition (OOC)

Registered Testing Pool (RTP)

Testing Pool (TP):

From the IST:

Doping Control Station (DCS)

Sample Collection Authority (SCA)

Sample Collection Personnel (SCP)

Sample Collection Session (SCS)

Test Distribution Plan (TDP)

Testing Authority (TA)

Unsuccessful Attempt Report (UAR)

From the ISRM:

Results Management Authority (RMA)

Article 4.2: Risk Assessment

NEW ADDITION

Following feedback from WADA's Human Rights Senior Independent Expert, this Article indicates that when considering the physical and other demands of the relevant sport(s) (and/or discipline(s) within the sport(s)), ADOs should also consider the risk in sports (and/or disciplines) for Athletes with impairments.

Article 4.5: Prioritizing between Different Types of Testing and Analysis of Samples

Changes from the First Draft

References to a “major event” are replaced by an “International Event” which is a defined term in the Code. This Article also provides clarity concerning the individual factors to determine which Athletes shall be subject to Target Testing with respect to sport performance history and performance patterns, and suspicious whereabouts patterns and changes.

Article 4.6: Prioritizing between Different Types of Testing and Sample Collection

Changes from the First Draft

This Article now separates the collection of “blood” into the collection of “whole blood by venipuncture” and collection of “capillary blood”.

- The collection of whole blood, if collected in EDTA tubes, can lead to the analysis of whole blood. Analyses of whole blood include but are not limited to the Hematological Module of the ABP, homologous blood transfusion (HBT), DNA analyses, and gene doping tests.
 - The collection of whole blood, if collected in serum tubes or in EDTA tubes, can lead to the analysis of serum or plasma.
 - The analyses of serum include but are not limited to human growth hormone (GH), the Endocrine Module of the ABP, the blood Markers of Steroidal Module of the ABP, steroid esters, erythropoietin receptor agonists (ERAs), and hemoglobin based oxygen carriers (HBOCs).
 - The analyses of plasma include but are not limited to tests for ERAs, steroid esters, insulins and HBOCs.
 - The analysis of capillary blood includes but is not limited to analysis of Dried Blood Spots (DBS).
 - The term ‘venous’ is removed from the IST.
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Article 4.7: Test Distribution Plan

Changes from the First Draft

The requirement for ADOs to monitor Athletes, who may qualify or have qualified, and conduct testing in advance, is focused on the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. For other International Events, outside of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is considered a best practice to follow these principles.

Article 4.8: Sample Analysis

NEW ADDITION

This Article now includes the requirement for ADOs to make arrangements with Laboratories to analyze Samples and/or provide related services in advance of sending such Samples to the Laboratory. To complement the existing text in Article 4.8.1, it is also clarified that Laboratories may also perform additional analysis on Samples for non-prohibited substances or methods, for research, or for Quality Assurance which would not be reported as an Atypical Finding (ATF) or an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF).

New sub-Article 4.8.2 highlights situations where TAs and/or RMAs shall maintain an active communication with Laboratories and respond to Laboratory requests within the established timelines as contained in the ISL. It is also noted that a failure by the TA and/or RMA to provide timely feedback to the Laboratory for these situations may result (as applicable to the Laboratory) in reporting the Sample as “Not Analyzed”, or performing the necessary analyses at the TA’s expense. It may also result in compliance measures being raised with the TA for a failure to respond to Laboratory requests.

Regarding the requirement to prioritize the analysis of Samples collected from an Athlete within 20 days prior to the Athlete’s first competition at the Olympic or Paralympic Games, for which an Athlete has qualified or is likely to participate, this Article includes an additional requirement for ADOs to enter Doping Control forms for these Samples into ADAMS within 5 days of the Sample collection taking place.

Article 4.9: Retention of Samples and Further Analysis

Changes from the First Draft

Following feedback from stakeholders, this Article now provides flexibility to ADOs if they do not agree with an APMU recommendation to put a Sample into long term storage. However, following discussion between the ADO and the APMU, if it is agreed that the Sample will not be stored, the reasons for not storing the Sample shall be recorded in ADAMS by the ADO.

Among the circumstances that the ADO shall assess when considering long term storage or Further Analysis of Samples, Athlete performance is a new addition.

Where an ADO puts a Sample into long term storage and decides to discard the Sample prior to the expiry of the 10-year storage period and without conducting any Further Analysis, the ADO is required to record the reasons for discarding the Sample in ADAMS.

Finally, it is highlighted that ADOs are responsible for the costs associated with the long-term storage of Samples beyond the minimum required storage times established in the ISL unless otherwise agreed with the Laboratory.

Article 4.10: Whereabouts Requirements for Athletes

Changes from the First Draft

This Article now indicates that the minimum number of 3 OOC Tests planned to be conducted on Athletes in a RTP per year and the minimum number of 1 OOC Test on Athletes in a TP per year shall include at a minimum the collection of a urine Sample for each SCS.

Following feedback from stakeholders, this Article henceforth includes a non-mandatory requirement for RTP and TP Athletes to provide their training and/or any other alternative location/s where the Athlete may be located for testing during the quarter. This information does not require updating by the Athlete if it changes.

Requirements for RTP Athletes

The criteria for inclusion in a RTP and the reason for the Athlete's removal from the RTP shall be documented by an ADO in either ADAMS or in another secure way. Where applicable, such criteria for an Athlete's inclusion is required to be provided to WADA upon request. Under its compliance monitoring program, WADA may undertake a review of such criteria as well as the list of Athletes in an RTP and may issue a corrective action requiring the ADO to either adjust its RTP criteria or include certain Athletes in its RTP. In addition, in the written notice to an Athlete outlining their removal from an RTP, a number of requirements are listed which an ADO must include in this notice.

When a phone call is made to an RTP Athlete 5 minutes before the end of their 60-minute timeslot, the DCO shall record the time period from when the Athlete answered the call to when the in-person notification occurred. Such test shall be recorded in ADAMS as advance notice and there shall additionally be an indication that a phone call was made within last 5 mins of the 60-minute time slot.

When attempting to test an Athlete outside their 60-minute timeslot, and if the attempt is unsuccessful, the DCO shall submit a UAR to document the attempt made.

Following further feedback from stakeholders, the requirement for an ADO to attempt testing a RTP Athlete outside of the 60-minute time slot one hour before or after the Athlete's nominated 60-minute time slot has been removed.

Requirements for TP Athletes

If the DCO's attempt to collect an OOC Sample is unsuccessful, they shall be required to submit an UAR to document the attempt made.

General Pool

The General Pool section has been removed and ADOs are henceforth given the flexibility to conduct OOC Testing on Athletes who do not meet the criteria for entry into a Whereabouts Pool as determined by the ADO's Risk Assessment.

Responsibilities of National Federations

National Federation are encouraged to assist NADOs by providing Event calendars, Athlete participant lists for national Events, national team composition, and national team training schedules etc., to assist in the implementation of the national anti-doping program.

4.10.6.2 d) Clarification to stakeholder's feedback

The proposed requirement for an Athlete in a Whereabouts Pool to submit a passport style photo as part of their whereabouts filing to support Athlete identification during Testing has been discussed with WADA's Head of Privacy and Data Protection, and rather than the photo appearing on the Athlete's ADAMS profile page, it is proposed that this photo strictly appear within the whereabouts filing section to which limited persons will have access. The process to submit such a photo is envisaged to be via an online software module which will be integrated into the ADAMS whereabouts platform, and which will be user friendly for the Athlete. Photographs shall be valid for a two-year period and may only be updated on a quarterly basis (if needed) during an Athlete's whereabouts submissions.

Article 5.2: Notification and observation of selected Athletes

NEW ADDITION

This Article now includes guidance to SCAs that plan to conduct Sample collection at an Event that includes “open” or mixed gender sport categories and where the sport gender in which the Athlete competes is not specified under the applicable sports rules. In particular, SCAs should appoint, at a minimum, a male and female DCO to such Events.

Article 5.3.2: Phone calls to athletes outside its current permitted use

Changes from the First Draft

A new Article (previously located in a comment) has been drafted to summarize the exceptional circumstances during which the use of a phone to contact an Athlete shall be permitted outside of its current and sole permitted use (i.e., in the last five minutes of a RTP Athlete’s 60-minute time slot).

Three exceptional circumstances are indicated; however, before a phone call can be made, the DCO shall first visit all locations that the Athlete may be located (as either indicated in their whereabouts filing for the day, as obtained by the DCO during the testing mission or via Anti-Doping Intelligence). Following feedback from stakeholders, it has been clarified that where circumstances make it logistically not possible for the DCO to visit all locations, the DCO shall visit those available and possible locations. Two exceptional circumstances are also listed where the above requirement is not applicable.

Finally, the DCO shall be required to record the time period from when the Athlete answered the call to when the in-person notification occurred.

Article 5.3.6 (5.3.3 in first draft of the IST): Identification Requirements for Sample Collection Personnel

Changes from the First Draft

Following feedback from stakeholders this Article now clarifies that both the SCP accreditation badge and identification document can be presented in an electronic format. It has also been clarified that if the SCP appointed to work at an International Event is issued with an official event photo accreditation that contains the photo and name of the SCP, and such accreditation has been issued by the International Federation or the International Event organizer, this will suffice as an identity document.

Article 5.3.7 (5.3.4 in first draft of the IST): Identification Requirements for Athletes selected to provide a Sample for Analysis

Changes from the First Draft

This Article has been restructured. If a third party is available and can confirm the identity of the Athlete, the details of the third party’s role and type of government issued photo identity shall be documented by the DCO.

If testing is conducted during an International Event, an Athlete’s official event photo accreditation that contains the Athlete’s photo and name and that has been issued by the International Federation or the International Event organizer, will suffice as an identity document.

Article 5.4.1: Requirements for Notification of Athletes

NEW ADDITION

Following consultations with WADA's Human Rights Senior Independent Expert, this Article now highlights that where it is known that Athletes subject to Testing do not speak the language of the SCP conducting the SCS, TAs/SCAs should have in place interpretation systems and/or tools to assist Athletes understand their rights and responsibilities and the required procedures during the SCS.

Article 5.4.4: Permitted activities for delayed reporting to or temporary departure from the DCS

NEW ADDITION

Following feedback from stakeholders, a comment has been added regarding the permitted activities for delayed reporting to, or the temporary departure from, the DCS. In particular, showers shall not be permitted/accepted as a reason for delay to, or temporary departure from, the DCS unless there is a health and safety concern or where a urine Sample is not being collected. It has also been clarified that ice baths are considered an activity as part of an Athlete's warm down and are therefore permitted.

Article 6.3.4: Sample Collection Equipment

Changes from the First Draft

Following feedback from stakeholders, it has been specified that the sample collection equipment shall maintain its functionality for up to a minimum of 10 years from when the Sample is sealed within the equipment.

The Article also includes further revised criteria for DBS sample collection equipment in accordance with the feedback provided by WADA's [DBS Technical Working Group](#). The revised criteria on DBS samples collection equipment are also included in Annex J – Collection, Storage and Transport of Dried Blood Spot Samples (see below).

Article 7.4.5: Information recorded during a Sample Collection Session

Changes from the First Draft

This Article now clarifies that if the sport gender of the Athlete is not specified as male or female under the applicable rules of the sport, the DCO shall record the sport gender as "unspecified" on the Doping Control documentation during a SCS.

Following further feedback from WADA's [DBS Technical Working Group](#) the information recorded during the collection of DBS Samples now includes the type of absorbent support (i.e., untreated cellulose card or synthetic polymer) and a reference to the equipment manufacturer of the absorbent support.

Article 9: Transport of Samples and Documentation

Changes from the First Draft

Following feedback from stakeholders, and based on the knowledge and experience from WADA's compliance monitoring activities, this Article highlights specific timeframes for : a) the SCS documentation to be sent to the TA (no later than 5 days); b) the transportation of urine and DBS Samples to the Laboratory (no later than 5 days); and c) the transportation of whole blood Samples (timeframes which depend on the type of analysis requested). The Article also indicates that while the Laboratory documentation related to the SCS shall arrive at the Laboratory either in advance or with the Samples, any instructions on additional or Further Analysis may be provided to the Laboratory after the Samples and original documentation has arrived at the Laboratory.

In addition, transport requirements for urine and whole blood Samples (and relevant documentation) collected during a SCS, and instructions to TAs following a deviation of the transport temperature, have been moved from the Guidelines for Sample Collection to this Article for greater clarity and reference.

Finally, a new Article summarizes the timeframes for Doping Control Forms to be entered into ADAMS and which were previously included in other Articles.

Article 10: Ownership of Sample

NEW ADDITION

This Article henceforth includes a new objective sub-Article (i.e., to confirm ownership of Samples collected from Athletes), and clarifies that the ADO requesting the transfer of ownership of a Sample shall be responsible for any costs associated with that Sample from the time of said request.

Article 11: Enhancements to the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

Changes from the First Draft

This Article includes a new objective sub-Article that seeks to ensure the optimal use of the ABP as a tool to identify suspicious Athletes and Samples for further follow up, including additional analysis of existing Samples or the collection of additional Samples.

The main changes to the first draft are as summarized below:

- i. To ensure an Athlete's Passport includes all the relevant Samples of an Athlete, the Passport Custodian, APMU and WADA should collaborate to ensure each Athlete has only one ADAMS identification number (ADAMS ID).
- ii. The Passport Custodian shall share relevant Passport information, including APMU recommendations via ADAMS, with other ADOs who share testing jurisdiction over the Athlete to ensure proper coordination and effective use of resources. When the Athlete is first tested by a MEO, Passport custody is attributed to the NADO, and when a NADO first tests an Athlete with a different sport nationality, Passport custody is attributed to the NADO of that sport nationality.
- iii. While the first draft of the IST proposed mandatory APMU requests to ADOs, the second draft refers to priority APMU recommendations that include three categories: a) follow up Tagert Test; b) Further Analysis; or c) long term storage. Where an ADO does not implement an APMU recommendation, the ADO shall document the reasoning in ADAMS.

Annex A: Modifications for Athletes with Impairments

NEW ADDITION

A new comment that has been added in this Annex to highlight that for an Athlete with vision or intellectual impairments, the preferred venue for all out-of-competition testing is a location where the presence of an Athlete representative is most likely to be available for the duration of the SCS. In addition, if the Athlete representative of an Athlete with vision or intellectual impairments is not able to be physically present at the location where the Athlete is tested, they have the option to connect virtually via the Athlete's phone and participate in the SCS.

The comment, which indicates that the TA, in the case of an Athlete with an intellectual impairment, shall decide whether to obtain consent to Testing from their representative and inform the SCA and SCP, has been removed. As outlined in the Code, anti-doping rules, like competition rules, are sport rules governing the conditions under which sport is played. Athletes accept these rules as a condition of participation or involvement in sport and shall be bound by these rules.

Annex B: Modifications for Athletes who are Minors

Clarification to stakeholders' feedback

In response to stakeholders' feedback, the Drafting Team wishes to clarify that the removal of the relevant text related to the requirement for parental consent for testing of Minors stems from the fact that as outlined in the Code, anti-doping rules, like competition rules, are sport rules governing the conditions under which sport is played. Athletes accept these rules as a condition of participation or involvement in sport and shall be bound by these rules.

Changes from the First Draft

If the Athlete representative of a Minor Athlete is not able to be physically present at the location where the Minor Athlete is tested, they have the option to connect virtually via the Athlete's phone and participate in the SCS.

Annex C: Collection of Urine Samples

NEW ADDITION

This Annex now includes clarifications on the process that shall be followed in "open" or mixed gender categories where the sport gender of an Athlete is not specified under the applicable sport rules. Upon arrival at the DCS, it is proposed that the Athlete shall be requested to declare their sport gender (if they are aware of it). If the Athlete is not aware of their sport gender, they will be asked to declare the preferred gender (male or female) of the SCP who will witness the passing of their Sample.

Annex D: Collection of Whole Blood Samples

Changes from the First Draft

Following feedback from stakeholders, the requirement for an Athlete to wait for 60 minutes before the Sample collection of a whole blood Sample has now been expanded to cover all whole blood Samples collected in a serum tube. The DCO shall document whether the Athlete was engaged in any type of physical activity prior to

Sample collection and if so record that the Athlete waited the required 60 minutes prior to Sample collection on the documentation that is sent to the Laboratory.

The Annex also includes articles on whole blood Sample storage and transportation that were previously included in Annex I – Collection, Storage and Transport of Whole Blood Samples for the ABP.

Annex F: Urine Samples that do not meet the Requirement for Suitable Specific Gravity for Analysis

NEW ADDITION

Following the WADA Athletes Committee's request, this Annex now includes a comment that clarifies the term "specific gravity".

Annex G: Sample Collection Personnel Requirements

Changes from the First Draft

This Annex now includes applicable training for BCOs and DCOs for the collection of DBS Samples. ADOs are required not only to monitor but also document the conflicts of interest of its SCP.

As it concerns the training of Chaperones, it consists of both theoretical and practical training that covers enhanced training requirements including the importance of the role of the Chaperone and their code of conduct. With regard to volunteer Chaperones, particularly those used for Events and provided by Event Organizers, the Annex includes enhanced requirements for their use, identification, and accreditation.

Annex H: Sample Collection Personnel Requirements

NEW ADDITION

Following feedback from stakeholders, Annex H clarifies that although the requirement remains for any ADO to send a testing request to the ruling body of an Event at least 35 days prior to the beginning of the Event, a request may be sent to the ruling body within the 35-day period, where Anti-Doping Intelligence requires Target Testing on specific Athletes during the Event period.

Annex I: Collection, Storage and Transport of Whole Blood Samples for the ABP

Changes from the First Draft

This Annex has been revised to include requirements for all modules of the ABP (Hematological, blood Markers of the Steroidal Endocrine) when a whole blood Sample is collected. Several Articles that refer to the collection, storage and transport of all types of whole blood Samples have been moved to Annex D – Collection of Whole Blood Samples.

With regard to the mandatory questions an Athlete is asked when collecting a whole blood Sample for the Hematological Module of the ABP, it is proposed that these questions be relocated from Annex I to the ABP Operating Guidelines so as to provide greater flexibility for any future changes.

New text has also been added to Annex I to clarify that an ADO may obtain further information or clarify the Athlete's answers to the mandatory questions of the Hematological Module of the ABP following the SCS.

Annex J: Collection, Storage and Transport of DBS Samples

Changes from the First Draft

Annex J clarifies that DBS samples, collected either with a whole blood Sample or in isolation, must be subject to analysis and cannot be collected for long term storage or for later analysis. In addition, if a TA decides to collect DBS Samples in isolation, they shall be able to demonstrate to WADA their rationale for doing so. Where DBS Samples are collected with urine Samples during the same SCS, the TA may request in advance that the Laboratory place the DBS Samples directly in storage.

Annex J also includes further clarification on the requirements of the DBS sample collection equipment as recommended by WADA's [DBS Technical Working Group](#).

Annex L: Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes and Procedures for Sample Collection

REMOVED

Following the review of stakeholder comments and following consultations with the anti-doping community with respect to the proposed addition of this Annex, the IST Drafting Team has decided to remove the addition of this Annex and add relevant sections to the other existing Articles/Annexes of the IST, which have been outlined within this document.