

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) Symposium

Request for Proposals
to Host a TUE Symposium in 2027

Background

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) serve as an essential safeguard within the anti-doping system. They ensure that Athletes with legitimate medical conditions may participate in sport while using a substance included on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List ([List](#)), provided that the strict criteria set out in the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) and the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions ([ISTUE](#)) are satisfied. In doing so, the TUE process preserves both athlete health and the integrity and fairness of competition.

The ISTUE is a mandatory International Standard developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. It exists to harmonize the criteria, processes, and documentation required for granting TUEs across all Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs), ensuring that decisions are medically justified, scientifically consistent, and applied uniformly worldwide. This standardization safeguards the fairness and credibility of the global anti-doping system.

Previous TUE Symposiums

As the internationally recognized leader in the field of TUEs, WADA plays a critical role in convening physicians and ADO managers from around the world to explain the ISTUE rules and continue interaction between all the key stakeholders in this important area. As medical practice varies considerably across the globe, harmonization of rules and principles is challenging and requires ongoing dialogue.

Since 2006, five highly successful gatherings of the global anti-doping community have been convened to advance and harmonize the application of the ISTUE. These meetings have provided a dedicated forum for ADO TUE Committee (TUEC) members and TUE experts to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and engage in in-depth discussions on the medical and legal dimensions of the TUE process, thereby strengthening consistency and expertise across the system. The event typically unfolds over two days and welcomes approximately 250-300 participants. The previous editions of the TUE Symposium took place as follows:

- 2006 in Bonn, Germany, hosted by various German sport and anti-doping partners– 50+ participants;
- 2009 in Strasbourg, France, hosted by the Council of Europe – ~150 participants;
- 2014 in Paris, France, hosted by the Comité National Olympique et Sportif Français – ~200 participants;
- 2017 in Helsinki, Finland hosted by the Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports and the Finnish Ministry of Education – 200+ participants; and
- 2023 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, hosted by the Korea Anti-Doping Agency – 250+ participants.

Each iteration of the TUE Symposium has its own specific set of key messages, but certain underlying goals and themes remain the same. This includes:

- Providing an overview of recent TUE updates;
- Highlighting the importance of nuanced evaluation that is guided by evidence-based, harmonized criteria that are grounded in good medical practice and supported, when available, by WADA's TUE Physician Guidelines.

- Engaging with case studies to facilitate a deeper understanding of complex medical and TUE-related scenarios, including, for example, hypogonadism, intravenous infusions, transgender athletes, ADHD and stimulant use, and beta-blockers in specific sports.
- Acknowledging that there are significant cultural or regional differences that impact the practice of medicine and treatment of Athletes and underlining the importance of TUECs remaining mindful of these factors when evaluating or recognizing TUEs.
- Fostering a collective commitment to continue strengthening consistency and expertise across the system so that athletes with legitimate medical needs can receive necessary treatment while maintaining the integrity and fairness of sport.

2027 TUE Symposium

The TUE Symposium will provide a high-level technical forum dedicated to strengthening the global consistency and quality of TUE decision-making within the anti-doping system. WADA has a responsibility to support and upskill the global anti-doping community by fostering structured dialogue, sharing expertise, and promoting a clear understanding of regulatory and medical standards.

As the updated Code and ISTUE will come into effect in January 2027, it is critical to engage physicians and ADO managers from around the world to explain the revised ISTUE rules and continue interaction between all the key stakeholders in this important area. As such, WADA believes it timely for members of the global community to gather once again for the sixth TUE Symposium.

The 2027 TUE Symposium will:

- Educate and inform participants about the general principles of TUEs as well as provide updates regarding the 2027 Code and ISTUE;
- Explore complex TUE situations via interactive case studies;
- Present TUE data from around the world; and
- Explore the significance of the diverse prescribing practices and cultural effects that impact medical practices and the treatment of athletes on a global scale.

By joining forces with WADA for the organization of this event, the host will help promote greater understanding and harmonization of TUEs at the complex intersection of athlete health and sport integrity.

Overview of Criteria to Consider as Host

The following elements reflect WADA's expectations for prospective hosts of the next edition of the TUE Symposium. Partners are encouraged to assess these criteria closely before submitting a formal application in response to the RFP.

Please consult the **summary** table below for an outline of the intended scope of the TUE Symposium.

Participant Numbers

Based on past editions and feedback from the anti-doping community, WADA anticipates approximately 250-300 participants will attend the next TUE Symposium.

Event Timing

WADA wishes to convene the next edition of the TUE Symposium in 2027*. This would ideally take place between August or September of 2027*, however WADA is open to suggestions as of May/June 2027.

It is important that sufficient planning time is allocated when organizing an event and detailed planning ideally starts at least 12-18 months prior.

***Special note on timing of the event:** WADA must be mindful of competing events (other WADA and/or anti-doping events) as well as large sport medicine conferences due to limited financial and time resources of the potential participants. It is important to note that most physicians, who are the key participants of the TUE symposium, are not generally employees of ADOs. WADA may therefore ask for flexibility on the final dates of the event given the other forums planned for its 2027 and 2028 calendar. Whilst 2027 is preferred, early 2028 may be considered necessary.

Event Ownership / Branding

In terms of event 'ownership,' WADA will be fully responsible for the TUE Symposium program and content. WADA will actively cooperate with the host to ensure that the TUE Symposium reflects the commitment agreed with them.

In terms of branding, the Symposium will be a WADA-led, co-branded event, where the WADA brand/visual identity (logo, imagery, typography, colors, etc.) has prominence and the host's logo (and that of other potential partners) is given appropriate and agreed-upon visibility.

WADA will establish a project team structure with the host to support the effective planning of the event.

Event Management

The host is required to provide a dedicated and experienced English-speaking Professional Conference Organizer (PCO), as well as any additional local staff needed to fully assist in the preparation and running of the TUE Symposium.

WADA will provide an Event Manager and a Program Lead(s) to support the organization of the event.

WADA will provide the tool for participant registration. This existing tool centralizes and stores participant data from previous WADA events. Some programming costs to adapt the tool for the TUE Symposium will be allocated to the host. This will include the event website and specific mobile application, which will be the communication tools used for event. Accreditation services and other logistics for the event are to be borne in full by the host.

Participant Fees

As has been the case for previous TUE Symposiums, WADA does not wish to charge participant fees¹. Participants will be expected to cover the costs of their air travel and accommodation as well as meals outside the official program. However, all other costs are expected to be met by the hosts.

Event Sponsors

Sponsorship is possible; however, to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest for WADA and/or its stakeholders, all potential sponsorships will require consideration and prior approval by WADA. WADA may also refer 'sponsors' or 'official supporters' if appropriate.

Accommodation and Ground Transport

The host will be required to find an appropriate selection of hotels (different categories and price ranges, including accessible rooms) to cater to all participants.

Ideally, hotels will be within walking distance of the main conference venue and will have easy access to transportation facilities such as train stations and airports.

Appropriate ground and airport transfers, including bus shuttles from hotels to the conference venue (if not walkable), should also be arranged.

WADA would welcome hosting offers to cover the flights, accommodation and ground transport costs of TUE Symposium program speakers and WADA's TUE Expert Advisory Group members. These contributions are not mandatory but would be greatly appreciated by WADA and be viewed positively if considered and offered by the hosts.

Catering

It is expected that the provision of catering for participant meals (lunches and breaks) for the duration of the TUE Symposium be provided. Refer to the table below to capture the extent of the catering requirements.

¹ In some situations, registration fees may be required; however, the decision to request fees from participants shall be made in consultation with WADA, and the reason for doing so clearly stated. For example, registration fees may be requested to accommodate persons from the same organization who wish to attend however are over the quota which will be set by WADA with the hosts.

Venue/s

An appropriate conference venue with the flexibility to accommodate all TUE Symposium elements is required. This includes board-style meeting rooms, plenary spaces, workshop and breakout rooms in various formats, secretariat facilities, and full accessibility for people with disabilities.

While not all meetings and sessions must be held in the same location—for example, smaller meetings may be hosted in hotel facilities—the overall arrangements should feel cohesive and make practical, logistical sense.

Audio-Visual/Information Technology

The venue/s must be versatile and have state-of-the-art technology and audio-visual facilities to support the Symposium proceedings, the various meeting formats, as well as the participant experience (e.g. free to access for participants to WiFi).

The TUE Symposium is intended to be conducted in person only (no live streaming); however, recordings of the event, or part of the event, may be required.

Some aspects of the TUE Symposium may need to be held in a hybrid format (e.g., TUE Expert Advisory Group meeting may have in-person and virtual attendees).

Interpretation

The TUE Symposium will be held in English however the host may also elect to provide interpretation in their local language.

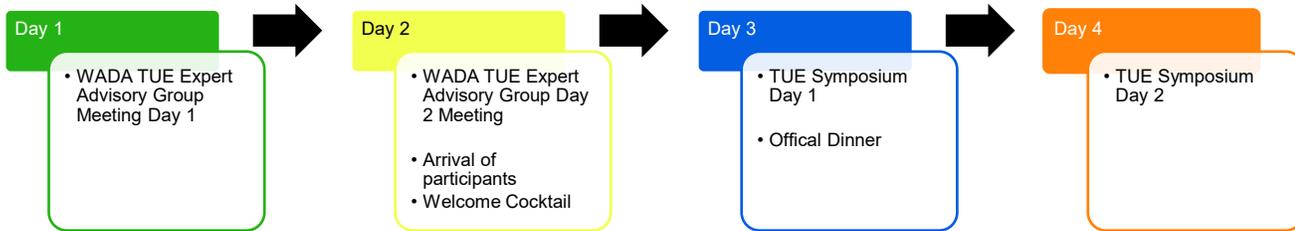
Note: If interpretation is offered, Remote Interpretation System (RSI), where interpreters would provide simultaneous interpretation via an online platform is viable and acceptable to WADA.

Social/Cultural Aspects

Hosts are encouraged to provide opportunities to promote and share their culture with participants including optional tour packages or cultural experiences/activities for participants and accompanying persons.

Summary

The following graphic and table outline the likely day-by-day structure of the TUE Symposium program and its requirements. They are not intended to be exhaustive nor fixed but rather to provide a high-level overview of WADA’s preferred format.



	Activity	No. people	Venue requirements	Catering	Social
Day 1	TUE EAG meeting day 1	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting room (boardroom style) in the conference center. - Office workspace for Symposium Secretariat. - All spaces require AV and IT equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water/refreshments - Light snacks during breaks - Buffet lunch 	-
Day 2	TUE EAG meeting day 2	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting room (boardroom style) in the conference center. - Office workspace for Symposium Secretariat. - All spaces require AV and IT equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water/refreshments - Light snacks during breaks - Buffet lunch 	-
	Arrival & Welcome Cocktail	~250-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facility to accommodate participants in theatre/informal style seating - Registration/accreditation collection area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cocktail food and beverages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for cultural entertainment/ evening music
Day 3	TUE Symposium Day 1	~250-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration/accreditation collection area - Conference facility with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Main plenary hall to accommodate 300+ participants with worktables o Breakout rooms – minimum three for up to 100 participants each - Office workspace for Symposium Secretariat. - All spaces require AV and IT equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water/refreshments - Light snacks during breaks - Buffet lunch 	-
	Dinner	~250-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facility to accommodate participants in seated tables - Can be at Conference facility or alternative venue (transport logistics to be considered). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner (buffet or table service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for cultural entertainment/ evening music

	Activity	No. people	Venue requirements	Catering	Social
Day 4	TUE Symposium Day 2	~250-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conference facility with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Main plenary hall to accommodate 300+ participants with worktables o Breakout rooms – minimum three for up to 100 participants each - Office workspace for Symposium Secretariat. - All spaces require AV and IT equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water/refreshments - Light snacks during breaks Buffet lunch 	-

Submission Process

Potential hosts are encouraged to analyze the full breadth of activities and requirements. They are asked to consider how these may be realized in an efficient and cost-effective way, and to also consider the participant experience, cultural enrichment, accessibility of location and venue, as some examples.

To pursue an application to host the next TUE Symposium, please contact **WADA’s Event Manager (events@wada-ama.org)**. It is recommended to do so by **Friday 27 March 2026**.

Upon receipt, WADA’s Event Manager will provide a link to **a structured RFP application form**.

The submission form can be completed in English or French, WADA’s official languages.

Only applications submitted via this process will be accepted.

Final application forms must be submitted by **Friday 24 April 2026**.

[Please refer to the RFP cover for full timeline]

Submission Form

Endorsement

As it is important for WADA to be assured that all relevant authorities are supportive of the hosting application, as part of the submission process, WADA will require:

- Endorsement from the city, province/state, country, National Anti-Doping Organization and/or National Olympic Committee and/or locally headquartered International Federation, etc., in the form of official letters of support addressed to WADA; and
- A statement of the financial commitment to support the Conference.

Criteria

The following pieces of information will be required as part of the submission:

- the name of the official host or joint hosts;
- the goals of the potential host(s) vis-à-vis the event;
- the local organiser and the local secretariat if known;
- the name/company of the proposed Professional Conference Organizer (PCO) if known;
- the proposed dates noting any potential advantages or disadvantages with them;
- the proposed or options for suitable venue/s;
- an estimated budget, showing:
 - income
 - main sources of funding
 - high-level expenses/budget allocation
 - any additional sponsorship income
 - a template budget;
- an overview or draft of the chosen event's project timeline; and,
- the degree of involvement expected from WADA's staff (e.g., support in registration, payments, communication, promotion etc.).

Any deviation or inability to address the criteria should be specifically highlighted.

Questions

Any questions should be sent to the attention of:

Mr. Riziero Pisani
WADA Event Manager
Email: events@wada-ama.org

WADA extends its appreciation to all prospective hosts for their interest in organizing the next edition of its TUE Symposium.

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