

Annual TWIF
Anti-Doping Report
to Congress
APRIL 8th & 9th 2022



ANTI-DOPING REPORT

1. New TWIF Anti-Doping Rules (ADRs)

These came into force in January 2021, I hope you have all familiarised yourselves with these and understand the changes that were implemented and the increased sanctions for an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF).

It is important that your National Federations and your athletes understand not only the rules but also the significant consequences, which have changed, to individuals, teams and ultimately the National Federations.

2. TUE's and prohibited list.

WADA have issued the **2022 LIST OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND METHODS** which came into force on the 1st January. As part of our obligation as a member of WADA and to maintain our Olympic recognition we, and hence ALL of our membership, are mandated to comply with this latest list. The prohibited list is updated annually based on intelligence and medical developments. Tug of War is generally considered a clean sport and we wish to stay that way, making yourselves aware of items in this prohibited list is important to ensure you remain compliant.

IMPORTANT – I have said all of this before, but it seems to still be a surprise when a TUE isn't granted due to a lack of information. Just because you were successful in the past IT DOES NOT mean you will be successful now – THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAVE CHANGED.

TUE's should be applied for **PRIOR** to taking any medication – justification for using a prohibited substance is required based on medical evidence not just a Medical Practitioner's signature. We have published guidance on the TWIF website of the application process and also a typical checklist of what supporting evidence is required to accompany a TUE application. It isn't a taken that your TUE will be approved. **If you do not receive an approval certificate your TUE is NOT approved and is not valid.**

We have subcontracted the TUE approval process to the International Testing Agency (ITA) and if you receive correspondence from them asking for more information, you must respond. If this isn't responded to and the appropriate information provided then ITA's TUE panel are unable to consider your TUE and it will not be approved.

TWIF has adopted a new email address for TUEs and other Anti-Doping correspondence which is specific for this purpose and more secure. The email address is anti-doping@thetwif.org Please send all TUE's and any other Anti-Doping correspondence to this email address.

You should also be aware that even if you are prescribed something by a medical practitioner, you must inform them that you are an athlete who is required to be compliant with WADA regulations, they may have a choice of what to prescribe you so that you remain compliant. If not, it will be necessary, with their assistance, to complete a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) form that can be downloaded from the TWIF website.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of all of our athletes remaining compliant as both in competition and out of competition testing continues both by TWIF and your countries National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), so be careful don't take risks.

REMEMBER – *You, as an athlete, are solely responsible for any banned substance found in your system.*

There is a useful website that can also help identify 'over the counter' products that may contain prohibited substances, that is <https://www.globaldro.com/Home>. If you are not sure ask the Pharmacist.

3. World Outdoor Championships 2021

During these championships in the Basque Country 15 tests were done, some at the weigh-in, some during the open club competition and some during the national closed competition. Athletes from the following countries were tested; Netherlands, England, Basque Country, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland. We are pleased to say all tests were negative.

4. Annual Reporting Forms.

At the time of compiling this report 26-member countries, had completed their reports. This is two less than this time last year and is very disappointing. Their reports show, that during 2021, only 8 countries conducted Anti-Doping tests with a total of 35. We strongly encourage ALL national federations to consider undertaking Anti-Doping tests.

It is important all countries complete their annual report forms as the information within these reports is required by both the IOC and WADA, I therefore stress to each and every International Representative to complete and submit their forms.

6. Going Forward.

The increased testing that you have already seen will continue and as COVID restrictions ease there will be more Out of Competition testing conducted, particularly leading up to the World Games.

7. Whistle blowing

Anti-Doping and testing are intelligence led activities, and every athlete can assist in ensuring our sport is and remains a clean sport. If you have any suspicions or even substantive evidence of a breach of the TWIF Anti-Doping rules then you can, and should, report this, in confidence, to TWIF using the dedicated Anti-Doping email address anti-doping@thetwif.org

8. Education

While TWIF will be doing what it can to educate athletes and support staff in Anti-Doping by, predominately, online learning, it is also the responsibility of every

National Federation to educate their athletes in Anti-Doping. I strongly encourage you to make contact with your NADOs, if you haven't done so already, and urge them to provide education to your athletes. Anti-Doping has to be about education in the first instance, especially with new or young athletes, before punishment is prescribed.

Pete Dyer

Chairman of TWIF Anti-Doping Commission