

ASC and ASDA NSO Anti-Doping Email Bulletin

ASDA legislation to comply with World Anti-Doping Code

The Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) has introduced key legislative amendments to ensure Australia remains at the forefront of the global fight against doping.

The amendments provide relevant functions and powers to ASDA and the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee to meet their World Anti-Doping Code requirements.

In particular, the changes will allow ASDA to:

- publicly name athletes (following relevant tribunal processes) who record a valid doping infraction, this will result in greater transparency and provide another deterrent to individuals that break their sports' anti-doping rules;
- deal with new anti-doping rule violations relating to athletes who deliberately evade testing, who tamper with ASDA's processes, or who fail to provide ASDA with accurate contact information to allow no-advance-notice drug testing to occur;
- obtain and disseminate additional drug testing information to domestic and international sports federations;
- recognise the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Code's various international standards.

The changes also highlight the key role ASDA plays in protecting the integrity of Australian sport. The changes will ensure ASDA continues to conduct anti-doping programs consistent with sports' rules.

The ASDA Amendment Bill 2004 was passed in March 2004.

ASC Anti-Doping Template

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) has released the Anti-Doping Template for National Sporting Organisations. The Template is available on the ASC website at www.ausport.gov.au/nso/drugs.htm

Abbreviated Therapeutic Use Exemptions (Abbreviated TUEs)

As part of the on-going implementation of the Code, national sporting organisations (NSOs) should be aware of their new responsibilities in relation to Abbreviated TUEs.

Abbreviated TUEs, formerly called *medical notifications*, facilitate the legitimate use of certain substances on the WADA 2004 Prohibited List used to treat common medical conditions e.g. inhaled asthma medications and non-systemically administered glucocorticosteroids.

The Abbreviated TUE process should not be confused with the Standard TUE process (below). Attached is a copy of a recently distributed ASDA communication that outlines the Abbreviated TUE process and related NSO responsibilities.

Abbreviated TUEs ensure anti-doping systems respect the medical needs of athletes and control the misuse of medications for illegal enhancement of sports performance.

Further information enquiries regarding Abbreviated TUEs should be forwarded to the ASDA Hotline (1800 020 506).

Standard TUEs

Athletes applying for the use of any other prohibited substance must apply for a Standard TUE.

The Standard TUE process involves a rigorous review (conducted by a recognised TUE Committee) of applications for the legitimate use of prohibited substances to treat less common medical conditions. ASDA does not receive or process these applications.

The Code's TUE requirements distinguish between athletes that:

- only compete in national-level sport
- compete in international-level sport and have been identified by the relevant International Federation (IF) as an international-level athlete subject to the IF's testing program.

The Code requires international-level athletes to obtain a standard TUE from their IF, while national-level athletes are required to seek approval from the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee (ASDMAC).

The Code also provides for mutual recognition (recognition across jurisdictions) of standard TUEs granted by a recognised body (a TUE Committee).

Athletes and medical staff are advised to check the anti-doping rules of their sport to ensure that an ASDMAC approved standard TUE will be simultaneously recognised by the relevant IF.

For further information regarding standard TUEs (including application forms), please go to the ASDMAC website www.asdmac.org.au.

WADA 2004 Prohibited List: March 2004 Amendments

Following a recommendation from the Chair of the WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee, and after approval by the WADA Executive Committee, WADA is issuing a modified version of the 2004 List of prohibited methods and substances. The changes, which do not affect the substances currently on the List, aim at preventing any legal loophole in case of the discovery of a new "designer steroid".

Therefore, in order to be able to cover new "designer steroids" in the future and to prosecute such cases quickly, it is important that substances that have a similar chemical structure or similar pharmacological effects be prohibited.

For more information on the changes to the 2004 List visit www.wada-ama.org.

Athlete education

ASDA continues to provide Australian athletes with accurate and timely anti-doping information. This education allows athletes to better meet their obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) and to help protect the integrity of sport.

In March 2004 ASDA sent an Anti-Doping Update newsletter and an accompanying letter to all athletes included on the agency's out-of-competition testing register. A copy of this correspondence is attached for your reference.

ASDA encourages NSOs to strengthen their anti-doping approach by disseminating this information to other members and stakeholders as appropriate.

Athlete support personnel: Code implications

NSOs are responsible for educating both athletes and athlete support personnel about their anti-doping policies.

NSOs should make coaches and support personnel aware of the significant changes that the Code foreshadows for them. The anti-doping rule violations spelt out in the Code also apply to coaches and support personnel.

Under the Code, support personnel have the responsibility to:

- be compliant with their NSO's anti-doping rules

- cooperate with drug testing programs
- influence athlete values and behaviours to foster anti-doping attitudes.

Support personnel can be sanctioned for:

- tampering with drug testing samples
- possessing or trafficking prohibited substances and methods
- administering or attempting to administer prohibited substances or methods.

Coaches or support personnel violating the Code's rules can be sanctioned with a lifetime ban from sport.

ASDA's recently updated education resources, such as the Anti-Doping Handbook and Card, are available to ensure coaches and support personnel are informed regarding the Code's implications. These resources can be ordered via the ASDA Hotline (1800 020 506). Athlete support personnel are also encouraged to attend an ASDA presentation session and to visit the ASDA website (www.asda.org.au) for more Code information.

NSOs should remind support personnel that they are in a great position to positively influence their athletes' views on anti-doping issues, and in doing so help keep sport clean.

NSO Education Forums: May 2004

The ASC and ASDA will be holding education workshops for NSOs in May 2004 on issues relating to the implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code. The workshops will be held on the following dates:

- Canberra – Thursday 20 May
- Melbourne – Friday 21 May
- Brisbane – Monday 24 May
- Sydney Tuesday 25 May

The ASC and ASDA will write to NSOs in the next few weeks to provide more information in relation to the workshops.