



Anti-Doping Policy

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1.0	04/07/2018	First draft for Executive Review	Chief Operating Officer	Governance Director
2.0	30/01/2021	Approved by the Board	HP Director	Governance Director

Introduction

The England Touch Association in accordance with the Federation of International Touch (FIT) are committed to ensuring a culture of clean sport, played fairly where all players know they are competing in the true spirit of the sport. We help to ensure athletes understand and follow the rules.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out the basic standards that the ETA expects in relation to doping. The policy is based on the Anti-Doping Rules set out by the Federation of International Touch (FIT) and compliant with UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) <https://www.ukad.org.uk/about/anti-doping-rules> and in line with the World Anti-Doping (WADA) code https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021_wada_code.pdf

Policy Scope

The ETA has adopted the Federation of International Touch (FIT) Rules on Anti-Doping which are available at: <http://toucheurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/FIT-Anti-Doping-Rules-Policy.pdf>

This policy covers the salient points in respect of anti-doping and applies to all members and participants of the ETA and to all events run, organised or otherwise managed by the ETA, whether in the UK or elsewhere, subject to local rules.

Definitions

'Doping'

Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set out in the WADA Code <https://www.ukad.org.uk/anti-doping-rule-violations/about-adrvs>. This includes:

1. The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an participant's bodily Specimen.
2. Use or Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance
3. Evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection
4. Whereabouts failures: any combination of 3 missed tests and/or filing failures
5. Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control
6. Possession of Prohibited Substances
7. Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance
8. Administration or attempted administration to any athlete in or out of competition of any prohibited method of prohibited substance.
9. Complicity: assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other time of intentional complicity.



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10. Prohibited Association: associating with a person such as a coach, doctor or physio who has been found guilty of criminal or disciplinary offence equivalent to doping violation.

Prohibited substances

The [2021 UKAD Code](#) outlines 11 Anti Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs). The first 4 Rules applies to Athletes, where as the remaining 7 applies to both Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel (ASPs).

1. Presence
2. Use or Attempted Use
3. Evading, refusing or Failing to Submit Sample Collection
4. Whereabouts failures
5. Tampering or attempted tampering
6. Possession
7. Trafficking or attempted trafficking
8. Administration (i.e. without aiding or abetting)
9. Complicity or Attempted Complicity
10. Prohibited Association
11. Acts by an Athlete or Other Person to Discourage or Retaliate Against Reporting to Authorities.

Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)

The ETA has adopted the FIT Anti-Doping Rules 'Prohibited List' which is published and revised by WADA at <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/the-prohibited-list>. This contains details of the substances which are prohibited.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all medications and substances used are free from any substances that are prohibited in or out of competition <https://www.ukad.org.uk/medications-and-substances/checking-medications/>.

Therapeutic Use

Participants with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a Prohibited Substance must obtain an exemption certificate from a medical practitioner <https://www.ukad.org.uk/medications-and-substances/about-TUE/>. This must be provided to the event organisers and ETA officials prior to any participation in an ETA event.

If sufficient documentary evidence is not provided, the ETA reserves the right to take disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.

Action on doping

Where it is known or believed that a participant has engaged in doping, that participant will be suspended from all further events while a full and open investigation is conducted.

Strict Liability

All athletes need to be aware of [strict liability](#). This means that all athletes are solely responsible for any banned substance they use, attempt to use, or that is found in their system, regardless of how it got there and whether or not they had an intention to.



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It is crucial that an athlete undertakes thorough research of any supplement products before use – including the name of the product and the ingredients/substances listed. Information revealed as a result should be further investigated and we advise athletes to keep evidence of their research.

It is crucial that athletes check all medications are safe to take prior to use. Medications can be checked online via [the WADA Prohibited List Explained](#)

Burdens and Standards of Proof

The ETA shall have the burden of establishing that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred. The standard of proof shall be whether ETA has established an anti-doping rule violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing body bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made.

This standard of proof on the ETA in all cases is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Where these Rules place the burden of proof upon the participant or other Person alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to rebut a presumption or establish specified facts or circumstances, the standard of proof shall be by a balance of probability.

Methods of Establishing Facts and Presumptions

The ETA will carry out an investigation in relation to all anti-doping violations. The investigation will take a variety of forms which may include, but is not limited to:

- Interviewing the participant and relevant witnesses.
- Reviewing an relevant video footage or other media recordings
- Where necessary, using an accredited laboratory to conduct Sample analysis

100% Me – Supporting Athletes to be Clean

100% me is UK Anti-Doping's Education programme for athletes – designed to provide information resources, education sessions and general advice to athletes through their sporting careers.

More about 100% Me can be found in the dedicated [Athlete Zone](#) of the UKAD website.

Outcome of a positive finding

Where it is found, following an appropriate investigation that there has been a positive breach of anti-doping rules, the ETA will commence disciplinary proceedings in accordance with FIT and WADA code, against the participant in accordance with the relevant ETA Disciplinary Policies and process.

Any participant under investigation for anti-doping violations will remain suspended pending the outcome of the disciplinary hearing.

Following the outcome of the disciplinary hearing, the ETA may choose to:

- Ban the participant from all future ETA events.
- Suspend the participant from all future ETA events for a defined period of time



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- Fine the participant

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the England Touch Association policy review schedule (not less than once every three years and in line with the 4 year UKAD Strategic Plan 2018-2022).

The England Touch Association will regularly monitor and evaluate the policies, procedures and practices and inform stakeholders and partners of their impact and of any resulting recommendations.