
Factsheet Testing Pools for individual athletes

Key information for athletes belonging to a testing pool

Individual athletes and teams from many sports are assigned to what are referred to as testing pools. This involves some important obligations, which athletes themselves are responsible for fulfilling.

WADA, Swiss Olympic and Antidoping Switzerland

The rules for ensuring clean sport are determined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and put into effect in Switzerland by means of the Swiss Olympic Doping Statute. Domestically, the independent Antidoping Switzerland Foundation is responsible for doping controls and prevention in all sports.

Doping samples are analysed in a WADA-accredited laboratory, not by Antidoping Switzerland itself. Any sanctions are decided by the Disciplinary Chamber for Doping Cases of Swiss Olympic, before which Antidoping Switzerland appears as the plaintiff.

International sporting federations may also include athletes in their own testing pools and conduct drug tests in all countries.

Assignment to a testing pool

Inclusion in a testing pool

Athletes receive written confirmation that they have been assigned to one of Antidoping Switzerland's testing pools. A distinction is made between the following pools: RTP (Registered Testing Pool), NTP (National Testing Pool), ATP (General Testing Pool).

How long does the athlete remain in the testing pool?

Athletes are included in a testing pool for an indefinite period. They are notified in writing as soon as they are no longer assigned to a pool, and thus free of the related obligations.

Duty to report Whereabouts

Doping controls must be able to take place at any time and without prior notification. Athletes must specify their whereabouts to ensure that they can be tracked down at any time.

What information is required?

Individual athletes (and certain, defined, team athletes) must submit information on the following activities, including a precise address and the times that they will be at that address:

- home address or temporary accommodation address (for 365 days/nights a year)
- workplace or educational/vocational training establishment
- training sessions and training camps
- competitions
- other regular activities (such as physiotherapy)
- trips of 2 hours or more (flights, including flight numbers)
- *Additionally for RTP athletes: a daily 60-minute time slot in which they are **certain** to be at the stated location.*

If no information is given for a specific day, Antidoping Switzerland will assume that the athlete is essentially at his/her principal home address. Brief absences do not have to be entered. These cover daily food shopping trips, for example.

Deadlines

- Whereabouts information must be submitted four times a year, covering the next quarter in full. The following binding deadlines apply: **15 December, 15 March, 15 June and 15 September**.
- Once the quarterly filing has been made, all short-term changes of plan must be updated immediately to ensure that the information is always complete and up to date.

Infringements of the duty to report

Imprecise, incomplete and out-of-date information, as well as a failure to submit it on time, are deemed failures to fulfil the duty to report. These infringements are classified as one of the following

- **Filing failure:** changes have been entered late or are not sufficiently detailed.
- **Missed test:** an RTP athlete could not be located for testing within a 60-minute time slot at the stated location.

Whereabouts failures

Under Article 2.4 of the Doping Statute, three infringements of the duty to report (to Antidoping Switzerland and/or the international federation) within a 12-month period are deemed to be a breach of the anti-doping provisions (whereabouts failure), which the Disciplinary Chamber for Doping Cases may punish with a ban.

Tips

- ✓ Don't know at the start of the quarter where you will be staying in 2 months' time? We wouldn't expect you to. Simply enter your residential address and usual training sessions and update the information when you know more.
- ✓ If you are unable to provide specific time details for an activity (e.g. due to weather-dependent training planning), simply enter the approximate training times so that our control staff are not looking for you for no reason.
- ✓ The more information you are able to provide for individual activities, the more likely it is that your next doping test will be carried out quickly and discretely.
- ✓ If you are unsure as to whether or not you need to report a specific activity, it is essentially best to adopt the approach: 'The more information the better'.
- ✓ If you are unsure about anything, contact us via whereabouts@antidoping.ch or call us on 031 550 21 21!

The SIMON whereabouts website

Athletes must enter and submit information about their whereabouts via the SIMON whereabouts website.

Logging in for the first time

- Log in via www.antidoping.ch or directly via <https://athlete.antidoping.ch>.
- For security reasons, you must change your password immediately. The new password must be at least 8 characters long and contain at least one letter, one number and one special character.
- When you log in for the first time the website will give you a brief introduction to its most important features. You will then be taken through all the basic information that you need to provide.

Submitting whereabouts

- Actual whereabouts must be entered quarterly and then submitted to Antidoping Switzerland. NB: the quarterly details will only be sent to Antidoping Switzerland when completed using the red 'Submit' command in the top right of the calendar view.
- Five days before the deadline, athletes will receive a reminder from the noreply@antidoping.ch email address

- As the information will subsequently be used for other purposes, the initial entries should be as detailed and complete as possible.
- However, any later spontaneous changes of plan can and must be entered at any time. These changes will be automatically saved in the calendar.
- An athlete's whereabouts is sensitive information which should be protected against third-party access. Athletes should thus choose their account password with appropriate care, protect it well, and change it regularly.
- Athletes are required to immediately report any defects encountered with the website or reminders etc.

Whereabouts Support

If you have any questions or require further clarification about reporting whereabouts, please contact: whereabouts@antidoping.ch or 031 550 21 21.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE)

Athletes who need to take a prohibited substance or use a prohibited method for medical reasons require a TUE. This can permit the use of the substance under clearly defined criteria.

Applying for a TUE

- Testing pool athletes, or the doctor treating them, must apply for a TUE in advance, i.e. **30 days before** the start of the planned treatment. An exception applies in medical emergencies, in which the application must be submitted as soon as possible after the incident.
- The TUE application must be submitted to Antidoping Switzerland or to the international federation.
- For details of the process and criteria, and the application form, please visit www.antidoping.ch/en/tue

The exemption is always granted for a **defined period** which depends on the substance in question. A renewal application must be submitted in good time if continued use is necessary.

TUE Support

If you have any questions about TUE or would like further details, please contact med@antidoping.ch or +41 31 550 21 28

Retirement from elite sport

When an athlete withdraws from top-class sport, Antidoping Switzerland must be informed in writing using the ['Retirement form'](#) in order to release the athlete from the obligation to report his/her whereabouts.