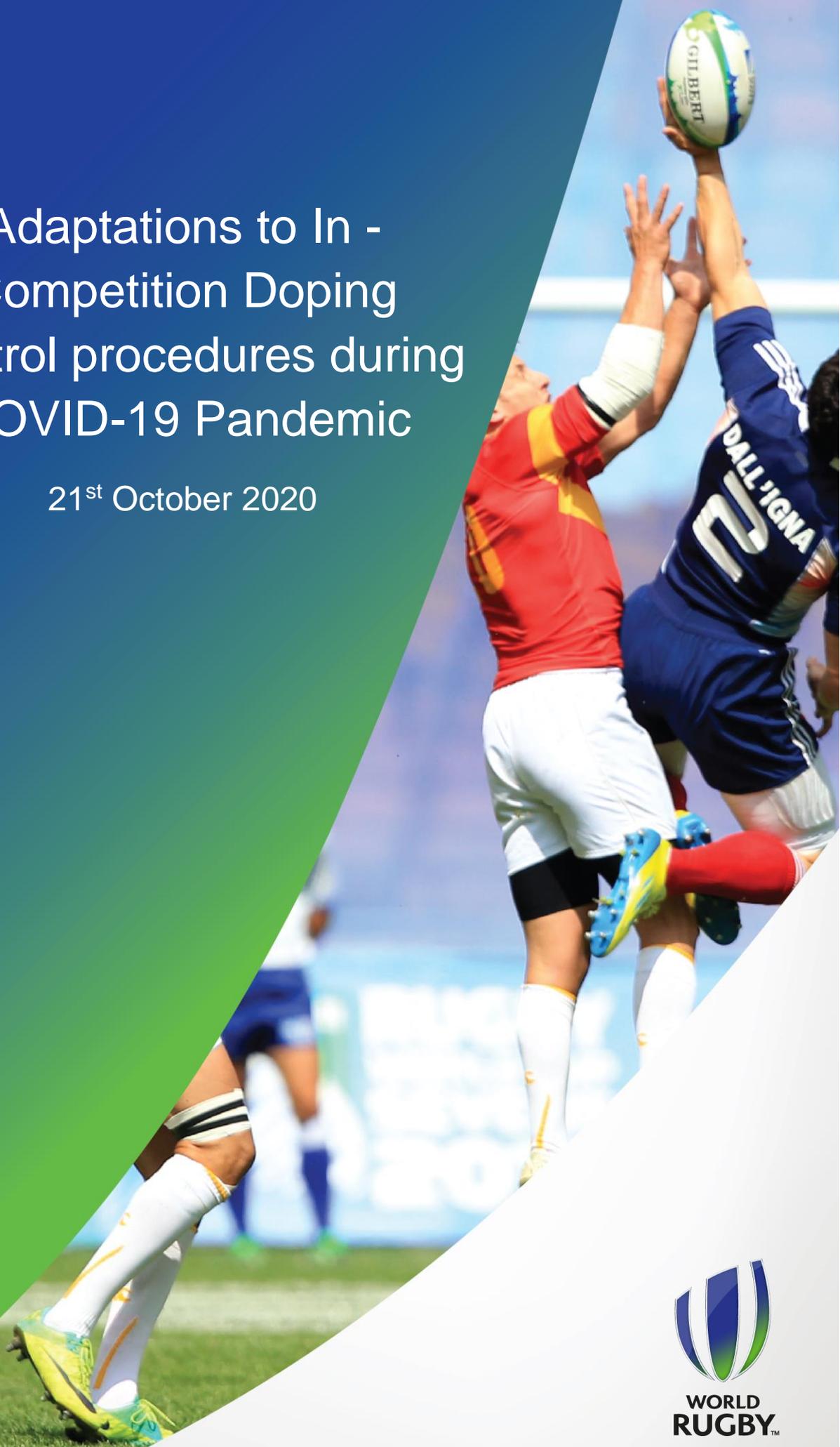




Medical

# Adaptations to In - Competition Doping Control procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020



## INTRODUCTION

This is a resource developed by World Rugby to clarify recommended In-Competition anti-doping testing procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the sport returns to matches and competitions. This is a live document that may be updated regularly as this fast-evolving situation continues to change, and so it should be referred to frequently to stay up to date with new developments.

All processes documented are guidelines recommended by World Rugby, and are subject to local adaptation by a Sample Collection Agency (SCA) in accordance with national procedures and restrictions in force at the time. A SCA may be a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) or Private Service Provider (PSP). This document does not supersede World Rugby Regulation 21 or its Schedules.

### Who should read this document?

This document is designed for match/competition organisers and Teams participating in their matches. These guidelines should be used to ensure that venue staff, Team staff/officials and Players are suitably prepared to manage doping controls at matches safely and efficiently during the pandemic, and to support the smooth operation of the process.

### What is in this document?

This document sets out recommended adaptations to standard In-Competition testing procedures that should be followed at anti-doping test missions whilst restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in place. These adaptations are designed to protect the welfare of Players, team staff/officials and Sample Collection Personnel (SCP), and reduce the possibility of COVID-19 transmission during doping control. However, all testing procedures must continue to comply with World Rugby Regulation 21 and the WADA International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI). All procedures are subject to local adaptation by an SCA based on national guidelines and fluctuations in the level of COVID-19 restrictions in place in the host country.

## 1. Equipment and Preparation

The Lead Doping Control Officer should provide the following at every test mission, sufficient in number/volume for all Players and SCP:

- i. Hand sanitiser
- ii. Disposable gloves
- iii. Disinfectant wipes and/or disinfectant spray
- iv. Disposable face masks (grade to be as recommended for public service in the host country)
- v. Refuse bags
- vi. New pack of sealed pens
- vii. COVID-19 Self-Certification Forms (to be completed by all SCP attending the mission)
- viii. Athlete Questionnaire for COVID-19 (to be completed for every Player tested at the mission)

SCP should avoid using public transport and carpooling to travel to the venue where possible. If this is the only option, a face mask must be worn throughout the journey. SCP will disinfect their hands and apply a new (unused) disposable face mask prior to making contact with the Team or venue staff. On arrival, SCP will submit to any required access checks (eg. temperature checks) and will wear a



face mask at all times from arrival, until after departure. The SCP may change their face mask during the doping control process at a frequency as directed by the SCA.

## **2. Venue Access and Accreditation**

SCP will be advised to adhere to venue protocols such as restricted access routes, one-way systems and restricted areas, provided that this does not impede their ability to notify a Player, or keep a Player under observation once notified for doping control. Accreditation must be provided for all SCP which allows them unimpeded access to any area of the stadium which may potentially be visited by a Player or their Team support staff. This includes the medical and HIA rooms. Venue security staff must be briefed to allow SCP the necessary access to perform their role.

## **3. Setting up the Doping Control Station (DCS)**

Each Stadium should have provision for a clean and disinfected DCS which includes a waiting area, processing area and private contained or adjacent toilets. On arrival, SCP will disinfect all surfaces that will be used for sample collection, and all areas that Players may come into contact with during the testing process.

Wherever possible, two separate waiting areas should be provided (one for each Team). Otherwise chairs should be positioned as far as possible apart (minimum of 2 meters), and the single waiting area split to separate Teams, and ensure that SCP can physically distance themselves from Players.

SCP will limit the number of people present in the waiting area(s) where possible. Team staff assisting Players during the doping control process should be prepared to wait to gain access should the room be busy at a particular time.

## **4. Venue Seating**

SCP should be allocated seating (spaced as per stadium distancing requirements) that enables them to view the full pitch for the duration of the match, and to quickly and directly access the tunnel area when required.

## **5. Player Notification**

Notification will in principle proceed as normal at the end of the match. However, the Team Manager may be requested to assist Players with maintaining COVID-19 protocols during notification. Where possible, SCP should attempt to notify Players verbally in a non-congested area, and complete written notification in the DCS. Players must remain under the observation of their doping control Chaperone at all times from the point of notification.

In principle, the selected Players should report directly to the DCS, as this avoids the need for Chaperones to access Team changing rooms. If two waiting rooms are provided in the DCS, Players will be allocated to the appropriate room. A member of Team staff may be asked to bring the Player's kit and identification from the dressing room to the DCS. This will be particularly important if a Player is wet or cold post-match as showers are not permitted until after the Player completes doping control.

## 6. Sample Collection

SCP will ask Players and Team staff (if applicable) to wear a face mask and disinfect their hands when they arrive at the DCS. If this request is rejected, it will be recorded in the SCP's mission report. Clean/new pens will be offered to each Player to complete the doping control paperwork.

The following sanitisation steps will be followed during the sample collection process to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

- i. Once a Player is ready to provide a sample, the Player must rinse their hands with water only (and be given the option to wear gloves during the sample collection process)
- ii. The DCO will aim to physically distance as much as possible when witnessing sample provision
- iii. The DCO will then instruct the Player to wash their hands with soap following sample provision
- iv. Work surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes/spray before and after each Player visits
- v. The DCO will clean all exterior surfaces of sample collection equipment before use
- vi. The DCO will change gloves, replace their face mask, and use hand sanitiser after completing the doping control process for each Player

## 7. Post Sample Collection

On completion of the doping control process, the SCP will ask the Player to dispose of any gloves or masks in a refuse bag and wash their hands again. The SCP will then disinfect all areas of the DCS that were used during sample collection, and place any used items in the refuse bag. As the SCP leave the DCS at the end of the mission, they will remove all refuse bags safely, and will not remove their face masks until departure from the stadium.

Should you have any questions with regards to these processes, please contact Stuart Kelly at [stuart.kelly@worldrugby.org](mailto:stuart.kelly@worldrugby.org) for more information, or speak to your usual contact within the World Rugby Anti-Doping Unit. Please remember that these are recommended guidelines, and may be subject to some necessary local adaptation by the SCA completing the anti-doping test mission.