



Medical

Adaptations to out-of-competition Doping Control procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic

29th May 2020



INTRODUCTION

This is a resource developed by World Rugby to clarify anti-doping testing procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the return to collective rugby activities. 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 abreast of changes and developments. Further advice will be issued for in-competition testing when such competition resumes.

Procedures will adhere as a minimum, and in principle to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) document: COVID-19: ADO GUIDANCE FOR RESUMING TESTING 6 May 2020¹, and subsequent updates. All processes are subject to adaptation by a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) or Private Service Provider (PSP) in accordance with national procedures and restrictions in force at the time.

Who should read this document?

This document is designed primarily for Member Unions with players nominated in the World Rugby out-of-competition Testing Pool (TP), however all teams remain open to testing by World Rugby or a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) at all times, even if they are not included in the TP. Unions and clubs should use these guidelines to ensure that team staff and players are suitably prepared to manage no-notice out-of-competition testing safely during the pandemic.

What is in this document?

This document defines principles and processes related to anti-doping testing initiated by World Rugby whilst COVID-19 contact restrictions are in place. It explains how standard procedures will be adapted to best ensure the safety of players, team staff and doping control officials for out-of-competition testing conducted at players' homes, and as teams return to collective training.

1. Principles of testing related to squad (or small group) out-of-competition testing

- Testing will continue to be conducted with no-advanced-notice to the selected players or team staff, in accordance with the WADA International Standard for Testing and investigations (ISTI).
- World Rugby will liaise closely with the NADO or PSP whom it contracts to conduct testing to ensure it is safe to proceed for all concerned, and that relevant measures, as per current WADA COVID-19 guidance, are in place.
- All NADOs or PSPs contracted by World Rugby will work closely with team and training venue staff on arrival to manage any additional venue and/or training restrictions.

2. Appointment of Sample Collection Personnel (SCP)

World Rugby will only use a NADO or PSP who commit to following WADA guidelines on COVID-19 related to the appointment of personnel, which include:

- SCP who are in an 'at-risk' or 'vulnerable' group should not take part in a testing mission.
- If permitted by applicable data protection, health, and employment laws, SCP should self-certify prior to a testing mission, that:
 - They do not have COVID-19 or related symptoms, however mild, or are awaiting a test result.

¹ See https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/20200506_ado_guidance_resuming_testing_en.pdf



- They have not been in contact with anyone whom they know has had COVID-19 related symptoms, or is awaiting a COVID-19 test (or test result).
- They have not been in contact with anyone who is quarantined and/or self-isolating according to national guidelines.
- World Rugby will record SCP self-certifications for every test mission.
- No SCP with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be appointed to a mission within 14 days of confirmation of the infection.
- World Rugby Accredited Doping Control Officers may also be appointed to conduct test missions. In such cases, procedures will be followed as specified in this document, subject to variations required to ensure adherence with national guidelines.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In contracting a NADO or PSP, World Rugby will request confirmation that the following will be used/performed as standard by SCP:

- i. Gloves (for the SCP and players).
- ii. Face masks (for the SCP and players).
- iii. Cleaning/disinfectant products to ensure that surfaces used for sample processing can be cleaned. A clean, disposable tablecloth may be used instead to cover a surface if practicable.

4. General points related to sanitising, distancing and equipment

- Players (and team staff as applicable) will be advised of all distancing measures by the SCP prior to commencement of the testing session.
- SCP will be advised to maintain a minimum of one-metre distance (or a greater distance if stipulated by the national health authority) between themselves and a player, as much as practicable during the process.
- Direct contact will be avoided wherever possible with the exception of some essential procedures (such as for example, blood collection, or direct observation of urine sample provision).
- Players will be asked to use their own pens for completion of Doping Control Forms. Please ensure that you have a stock of new/disinfected pens at the training venue.
- SCP will clean hands with soap or hand sanitizer as per World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines before and after testing, and will ask players to do the same.
- All disposable material will be sealed and disposed of safely at the end of the test, by the SCP including biohazardous materials.
- The surface used for testing will be cleaned and disinfected by the SCP before and after the test, unless a clean disposable tablecloth has been supplied by the SCP.

5. Risk of infection/transmission – at home testing

Subject to national variations/protocols as followed by NADOs or PSPs, World Rugby will require all contracted SCP to adhere to the following for all test missions conducted at a player's home.

- i. Before the test commences, the SCP will ask the player, to confirm that:
 - a. They do not have COVID-19 or related symptoms, however mild, or are awaiting a COVID-19 test (or test result).
 - b. They have not been in contact with anyone whom they know has had COVID-19, related symptoms, or is awaiting a COVID-19 test (or test result).
 - c. They have not been in contact with anyone who is quarantined and/or self-isolating due to COVID-19.
 - d. They are not considered to be from a high-risk-health group in relation to contracting COVID-19.

This will be documented via a verbal questionnaire.

- ii. Based on the player's response, the SCP will decide whether testing will proceed. In addition, the player will be asked to ensure that anyone else inside the home considered to be from a high-risk-health group, will remain in a separate room to those where testing will take place, and that they will not engage with the player or SCP for the duration of the test mission
- iii. The player will be asked to respond to the questionnaire truthfully, and to the best of their knowledge. Outcomes will be reported to World Rugby. The player, and/or the player's team doctor may be contacted after the test mission by World Rugby to verify the accuracy of responses provided to the SCP.
- iv. If any information provided by the player, is later found to be inaccurate or incorrect, it may be processed as an ADRV (e.g. tampering or attempted tampering). Players will be reminded of this by the SCP, and of the risk of a four-year sanction.
- v. NADOs or PSPs may ask the player to complete the test in a mobile testing unit if available.
- vi. The SCP will not touch door handles and in all cases will ask the player to do this for them.

6. Doping Control Stations at training venues

- All World Rugby requirements for the provision of a suitable room/area to be used as a doping control station remain in place, and as per Regulation 21.
- For all venues, teams should ensure that a clean and suitable area can be made available for doping control should SCP arrive to conduct testing. Wherever possible, this should offer a safe distance between a player and the SCP, including a waiting area with suitably-spaced chairs.

7. Players and team staff contracting COVID-19 post-doping control

- If any player or a member of team support staff contracts COVID-19 in the immediate period after a test, please contact World Rugby immediately so that this information can be passed to the NADO or PSP to prevent further spread of infection.
- Conversely, should World Rugby be notified by a NADO or PSP that a SCP has contracted COVID-19 in the immediate period after a test, World Rugby will notify the member union or team concerned immediately.

Should you have any concerns or questions about the processes contained in this document, please contact David Ho (david.ho@worldrugby.org) or Stuart Kelly (stuart.kelly@worldrugby.org) in the World Rugby Anti-Doping Unit.