

10th September 2024
Helsinki, Finland

Anti-Doping Information for all IFF Member Federations

Dear Member Federations,

I am writing to you on behalf of the IFF Anti-Doping team, regarding Athlete Education and Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) applications for IFF events.

Education

Based on WADA guidelines, Anti-Doping (AD) Education is a requirement for all players participating in IFF events. We currently require proof of this via:

Option 1: Individual certificates

Option 2: Group education certification issued by your National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) and hand-signed by all participants.

Around 90% of you have been selecting Option 1 for AD education for your athletes, which you can continue, but this requires the athletes to complete the education online and alone, and although the training sessions are available in many languages and is a simple option, the information may not be as good as if delivered in-person by your NADO. For this reason, the IFF strongly recommends that that group education, conducted by your NADO, is a better choice. Not only will the education provided to your athletes be more personal and informative than an online course, but it will also be presented in their own language and will contain the latest AD information and all the rules and regulations that an athlete should know prior to competing at an international level, as well as relevant AD information for their national competition level.

These sessions and/or seminars commonly last no longer than 2 hours (depending on the NADO) and are also valid for 2 years. One suggestion is that you could organise these group AD education sessions during your training camps. Whilst we know this option may not suit every federation (particularly those that do not often arrange large training camps due to distance etc.) we already have instances of successful arrangements between member federations and their NADO, such as the Polish Floorball Federation.

NOTE: When completing the group education, it is very important to obtain a full list of all the participants, with their signature. This is a vital part of the group AD education option so that the certificate is accepted by the IFF as valid proof of AD education.

WADA Online AD education (ADEL): <https://adel.wada-ama.org/learn>

List of NADOS: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/anti-doping-partners/national-anti-doping-organizations-nados>

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) are a vital part of AD efforts. If an athlete has an illness or condition that requires them to take medication to treat it, they may be required to have a TUE. If their medication is included on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List, a TUE will give the athlete the authorisation to take the needed medicine without breaking the AD rules and regulations.

Currently, there is the possibility to submit TUE applications directly to the IFF for processing by our Medical Committee, however, the time and expertise required to manage the increasing number of applications is proving very challenging for the limited resources of the IFF.

A better option is to make the TUE applications with your NADO, which can benefit the athlete and your federation in several ways:

- i) IFF requires that all medical documentation that accompanies a TUE must be in English, and it can often be very difficult for an athlete to obtain their medical history in anything but their local language. Making a TUE application via your NADO means that both the application and medical evidence can be in the local language.
- ii) NADOs specialise in AD matters and have much larger resources and teams to handle your applications in a shorter timeframe and can provide expert assistance
- iii) Once a TUE is approved by a NADO the information can be forwarded to the IFF for final recognition

As with AD education, we have already worked on several TUEs with NADOs. The approval process has run smoothly, and we feel this process often works better for the athlete, reducing the stress on them to translate documents or try and organise further meetings with their physician.

NOTE: It is important to ensure that when applying for a TUE either with the IFF or a NADO that it must be made valid for international competition.

If you require further information on either AD Education or TUEs please feel free to contact us at antidoping@floorball.sport

You can also find good information and resources on all Anti-Doping matters on the IFF website: floorball.sport/anti-doping-and-medical/

Kind regards,

James Varečka

IFF Anti-Doping & Media Coordinator

varecka@floorball.sport

+420 775 321 452