



ANTI-DOPING POLICY - Summary

1. Introduction

The International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) has, in its statutes, set out its commitment to anti-doping to:

- 1.1 abide by the *World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) World Anti-Doping Code* (the *Code*); and
- 1.2 enforce policies and directives designed to protect the Integrity of the sport of MMA, IMMAF and its Members.

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This includes anti-doping as well as conflicts of interest, bribery and corruption, money laundering, illegal betting, safeguarding and other actions that may negatively impact the reputation of the sport of MMA, IMMAF, and its National Federation Members.

2. Purpose

This policy sets out an approach to anti-doping which complements the IMMAF statutes, *Anti-Doping Rules* (the *Rules*) and other specific anti-doping policies. This policy also reinforces IMMAF's commitment to clean and fair sport.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all IMMAF:

- 3.1 elected personnel (Board, Commission and Committee members)
- 3.2 all staff and direct contractors
- 3.3 volunteers
- 3.4 athlete support personnel
- 3.5 all IMMAF National Federation Members (including athletes and officials)
- 3.6 specifically to athletes competing at IMMAF sanctioned International Events (refer to Scope and definitions in the *Rules*)
- 3.7 athletes who are ineligible for a period of time due to an *Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV)* and wishing to return from retirement following an ADRV.

4. Definitions

All definitions set out in the IMMAF *Rules* apply to this policy.

5. Funding

- 5.1 IMMAF, in line with the *Code* article 23.3, and its statutes, will allocate sufficient resources to implement its anti-doping programme and ensure compliance with the *Code* and its accompanying International Standards.
- 5.2 To support this, the Anti-Doping Committee (ADC) will undertake an annual *Risk Assessment* and intelligent testing which is proportionate to the risk of doping ensuring detection and deterrence of doping.
- 5.3 In order to maximise the impact of out of competition testing, the ADC will cooperate with IMMAF National Federation Members to encourage coordination of testing.



- 5.4 The ADC will work with host organisations for IMMAF sanctioned international events to implement appropriate out of competition testing complemented by in competition testing with the appointed sample collection authority. IMMAF shall retain results management authority.
- 5.5 IMMAF will work with WADA and *National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs)* to implement a comprehensive education programme for national and international level athletes.

6. **Registered Testing Pool - international and national (RTP)**

- 6.1 Athletes shall be considered as *International-Level Athletes* as set out in the scope of the Rules, and, therefore, the specific provisions in the Rules applicable to *International-Level Athletes* (e.g., *IRTP*, out of competition testing, TUEs, whereabouts and Results Management) shall apply to such athletes.
- 6.2 The ADC will confirm the *IRTP* of the top 2 ranked athletes in each senior male and female weight division in December each year based on the rankings from that calendar year.
- 6.3 The *IRTP* will operate for the following calendar year.
- 6.4 The ADC, at its discretion, may amend the *IRTP* to include *International Level Athletes* whose competition results warrant it from the 5 continental championships or an athlete who has moved from the junior to senior category or if an athlete is removed due to turning professional.
- 6.5 The ADC will inform all athletes affected of any inclusion or removal in the *IRTP*.
- 6.6 Each National Federation Member shall review annually with their *NADO*, the opportunity to include *National Level Athletes* in the national registered testing pool. As a priority, these *National Level Athletes* must be included in national anti-doping educational activities.

7. **Testing Policy**

- 7.1 The ADC will develop a *Test Distribution Plan* covering both in and out of competition testing.
- 7.2 Testing may include urine and/or blood testing and any future innovation.
- 7.3 The ADC will appoint a Sample Collection Authority which may include a *NADO*, the International Testing Authority or an independent service provider or a combination as a Delegated Third Party.
- 7.4 Only WADA authorised testing equipment will be used and will be specified in the Testing Services contract with the Sample Collection Authority.
- 7.5 The ADC, either directly or through the Sample Collection Authority, will appoint a credible transport service provider for samples to be delivered to the nominated WADA accredited laboratory ensuring a secure chain of custody.
- 7.6 The ADC will engage only laboratories accredited by WADA for urine sample analysis or appointed by WADA for blood sample analysis.

8. **Jurisdiction**

- 8.1 All athletes included in the international *RTP* and those tested in or out of competition by an event organiser will be under IMMAF's jurisdiction for the purposes of results management and a possible hearing.
- 8.2 IMMAF reserves the right to withdraw accreditation from any athlete, athlete support personnel, technical official or other accredited person at any time on suspicion or proof of

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involvement in doping activities in addition to any suspension or other sanction which may be imposed.

9. Return to competition

- 9.1 An athlete serving a period of ineligibility remains subject to testing as required by the ADC.
 - 9.1.1 The Athlete shall contact the ADC at least 6 months prior to the end of the period of ineligibility to confirm the athlete wishes to return to training and/or competition and confirm again 2 months before the period of ineligibility ends.
 - 9.1.2 At the 6-month point, the ADC may require the athlete to enter his/her whereabouts into *ADAMS* and to test the athlete at any time/s before his/her period of ineligibility ends.
 - 9.1.3 The ADC will liaise with the athlete's *NADO* about testing requirements.
- 9.2 An athlete who has retired from competition and who wishes to return will need to inform the ADC of this decision at least 6 months prior to the date of intended return.
 - 9.2.1 The athlete shall also ensure his/her *NADO* has been informed.
 - 9.2.2 At the 6-month point, the ADC may require the athlete to enter his/her whereabouts into *ADAMS* and to test the athlete at any time/s before his/her retirement ends.

10. Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) or Atypical Finding (ATF)

- 10.1 Where a *WADA* accredited laboratory reports an *AAF* or *ATF* for either a *urine* or *blood sample*, the ADC will undertake an immediate initial review.
- 10.2 The initial review will confirm jurisdiction and the procedures followed to ensure that the *AAF* or *ATF* warrants further action.
- 10.3 The initial review will use documentation and, if required, a follow up with the lead *Doping Control Officer*, of the following:
 - 10.3.1 The *Sample Collection* and handling procedure was followed in line with the *International Standard on Testing and Investigation* (refer *DCO* report, *Doping Control Form*)
 - 10.3.2 The transfer of samples to the laboratory was in line with the *ISTI* (Chain of Custody, *DCO* report, laboratory report)
 - 10.3.3 The analysis procedure was followed in line with the *International Standard for Laboratories* (laboratory report)
 - 10.3.4 Any other issue which may stand out from the procedures in the above-mentioned International Standards
- 10.4 Where there are possible deviations from the relevant International Standards, the ADC will consider whether these could cause an *AAF* or *ATF* in line with 3.2.3 of the Rules. If there is none, the ADC will refer the case to the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee.
- 10.5 Where there is a possible departure from the *International Standard on Results Management* related to the *analysis of the B sample*, the ADC will confirm that the athlete was provided with the correct information related to the analysis, acknowledged receipt and that nothing could have caused an *AAF* or *ATF*. Once this is completed, the ADC will refer the case to the *ADDC*.

11. Non-Analytical Potential ADRVs (whereabouts, filing failures, missed tests, Athlete Biological Passport findings)

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- 11.1 Where a potential *ADRV* relates to a *whereabouts failure*, the ADC will confirm the procedures were followed in line with the *International Standard for Results Management* and specifically that:
 - 11.1.1 The athlete was informed of his/her inclusion in the *IRTP* and his/her responsibilities for providing correct information as required in *ADAMS*
 - 11.1.2 The athlete was issued the information to access *ADAMS* and had included his/her whereabouts information correctly
 - 11.1.3 The DCO had been able to access the athlete's *whereabouts* information to be able to plan the sample collection process (date and time information was downloaded, checked and if the athlete made any changes subsequent to the information being downloaded)
 - 11.1.4 The DCO report that the athlete was not present as per his/her whereabouts information or refused to provide a sample.
- 11.2 Where the information confirms the initial assessment that there is a potential *ADRV* based on a possible whereabouts failure, the ADC will proceed to communicate this fact to the athlete, ask for an explanation and refer the case to the ADDC for consideration.

12. Therapeutic Use Exemptions

- 12.1 IMMAF will have jurisdiction for applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (*TUEs*) received from athletes in the *IRTP* and athletes competing in IMMAF sanctioned International Events.
- 12.2 IMMAF will recognise any TUE authorised by compliant *NADOs*.

13. Amendment

The ADC will review this policy annually and adapt as required to ensure compliance with the Code and Rules.