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Policy for Long Term Sample Storage and Targeted Deterrence¹

Introduction

The purpose of drug testing athletes is to protect athletes' health and right to fair competition by deterring and catching those athletes who dope with prohibited substances and methods. Unfortunately, the reality of anti-doping is that there always have been and probably always will be prohibited substances and methods available to athletes which are not immediately detectable with the testing methods available at the time. Anti-doping science continues to develop new techniques to detect the presence of prohibited substances and methods in urine and blood samples. To take advantage of these new techniques and to deter doping with prohibited substances and methods which, at the time of sample collection, are impossible or difficult to detect, [NADO] has implemented this Long Term Sample Storage and Targeted Deterrence policy. Recognizing that it is not financially viable to store every athlete sample collected, nor conduct further analyses on every stored sample, a larger benefit to longer term storage is in maximizing the deterrence effect through increasing the athletes' perception they will get caught. In order to fully realize the benefits of long term storage therefore requires a coordinated and focused effort of an effective communications plan to [NADO] stakeholders. Long term storage and further analyses of samples is specifically authorized by the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) and the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) (Reference 5.2.2.12). This policy has been updated to reflect the 2015 WADC and relevant International Standards. WADA will also publish a document entitled Guidelines for Long Term Storage.

Scope of Retesting

Samples in long term storage will only be retested for substances and methods that were prohibited at the time the sample was collected. Further analysis of samples shall be performed under the ISL and Technical Documents in effect at the time the further analysis is performed (ISL 5.2.2.12.9).

Selection of Samples to be Placed into Long Term Storage

[NADO]'s Test Distribution Plan for the collection of samples follows the principles of "Intelligent Testing" set forth in the WADC and International Standard for Testing and Intelligence (ISTI). [NADO] will identify samples for long term storage based on the same principles. Consultation with IF partners, other NADOs, and WADA may be appropriate based on specific TA/RMA circumstances. Based on its criteria for selection of samples, [NADO] will notify the laboratory of those samples selected for long term storage after laboratory results has been reported. This shall be done through a mutually agreeable method at regular intervals. If necessary, the laboratory will use the protocol described in Appendix A for preparing samples for long term storage and shipping to a third party sample storage provider. The applicable rules permit samples to be stored in their original sample collection containers, or to be aliquoted into new containers to economize storage space and long term cost. Both the laboratories and [NADO] will keep records as to which samples have been selected for long term

¹ credit to USADA

storage. All blood serum samples will be identified for long term storage, and when appropriate, the corresponding urine samples, may also be stored. [NADO] will also work the laboratories to identify all samples in which athlete has granted consent for research. In cases where both “A” and “B” samples have been reported with an Adverse Analytical Finding(s) and no challenge, dispute, [NADO] will keep the sample for research purposes with proper consent from the athlete. Laboratory technicians performing original sample analysis shall not be made aware that the sample has been selected for long term storage.

Selection of Samples to be retested

[NADO] will select samples for retesting based best judgment and all available information, with the aim of detecting prohibited substances and methods which were not detected at the time the sample was originally analyzed. Further, the importance of developing new detection methods dictates that samples shall also be kept for the purposes of research when consent has been granted by the athlete.

Criteria for the Selection of Samples

- Athlete Registered Testing Pool (RTP) status
- Olympic, Paralympic, or other World Championship team selection
- Athlete and Sport-Specific risk assessment
- Identification of atypical steroid or blood longitudinal results
- Non-analytical information, including but not limited to, tips and investigations
- Performance or other metrics used to identify risk
- All blood serum samples shall be stored
- Samples identified for research purposes
- Samples reported as Adverse Analytical (‘positive’) or Atypical Findings
- Other deterrence value as determined

Duration of Long Term Storage

[NADO]'s current plan, in accordance with the International Standard for Protection of Privacy and Personal Information (ISPPPI), and taking into consideration cost and space limitations at the WADA-accredited laboratories, and the availability of secure third party storage, is to store selected samples for up to ten (10) years. This plan will be periodically reviewed. In no event will samples be stored for a period longer than ten years. At the end of the storage period, stored samples shall either be discarded or made anonymous and used for research as provided in the ISL.

Transfer of Samples from WADA-Accredited Laboratory to Third Party Storage

The transfer of stored sample shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of the ISL. To conserve space and economize on storage costs, [NADO] will work with the laboratories to identify samples which should be stored on site, or shipped to a third party storage provider for long term storage. The laboratory shall ensure that the samples remain under continuous chain of custody. [NADO] shall monitor this process and maintain a complete record of the samples through a secure management system.

The Retesting Process

The analysis of stored samples shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of the ISL. The fact that a sample has previously been reported negative shall not in any way limit disciplinary action being taken if retesting of the sample results in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding or provides other information which supports an anti-doping rule violation for a substance or method that was prohibited at the time of sample collection. There shall be no limit on the number of times a sample may be retested. A sample may be retested for one specific prohibited substance, or a menu of additional substances, depending on the nature of the retesting required. Batching of samples may be more cost effective when considering retesting.

Notification Regarding Stored Samples and Retesting

[NADO] will not routinely notify any party other than the laboratory which specific samples have been selected for long term storage, which samples have been selected for retesting, or the results of retesting unless the retesting results in an Atypical Finding or Adverse Analytical Finding or other result which supports an anti-doping rule violation. In such cases, notice will proceed as provided in the [national anti-doping rules], the World Anti-Doping Code, and the International Standards. [NADO] will also notify the athlete in advance of retesting when retesting requires the opening of a sealed B sample as provided in International Standard for Laboratories, Section 5.2.2.12.10. Where appropriate, [NADO] will provide information regarding the storage and retesting of stored samples to other anti-doping organizations to assist them in ongoing investigations. This may require a formal collaboration agreement.

Results Management for Test Results on Stored Samples

Results management for Atypical Findings and Adverse Analytical Findings resulting from retesting stored samples or other result which supports an anti-doping rule violation will proceed as otherwise provided in the [national anti-doping rules] and WADC.

Announcement of Retesting Outcomes

Communication of the outcomes of retesting is beneficial to raise awareness in the both the sport and public domains, thus having the potential of increasing the deterrent value of testing, and also highlighting improvements in analytical technology, especially in the case of new AAFs.

iNADO is the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations. It promotes best practices by NADOs and RADOs, and is their collective voice.