



SPÓRT
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SPORT
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ANTI-DOPING

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping
Annual Report
2024

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

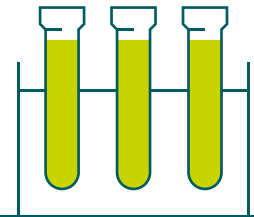


Education & Athlete Support

41 In-person Education Sessions delivered by the Education team reaching **1,469** stakeholders

22 Education Sessions delivered by NGBs reaching **1,017** stakeholders

3,521 Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel completed either Sport Ireland or WADA ADEL e-learning courses



Science and Medicine

19,537

Searches on the Sport Ireland Medcheck website

4

Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved

415

ABP samples reviewed

104

Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples collected

Testing

2,029

Samples collected
11% increase on 2023



22%

In-Competition samples

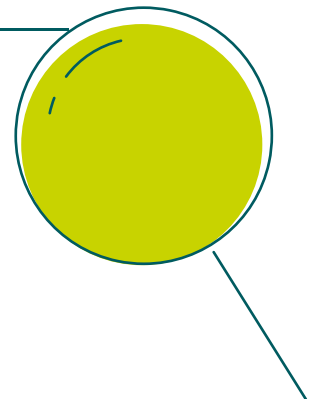
78%

Out-of-competition samples

Samples were collected across

35

different sports





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Foreword

As chairperson of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Committee (ADC), I am again delighted to present the 2024 Anti-Doping Annual Report. It was another excellent year for the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU). Olympic and Paralympic years always provide an extra challenge for national anti-doping organisations, and I am very pleased to report that the ADU surpassed all its targets for the anti-doping programme for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I would like to thank Sport Ireland for their continued support of the unit. In 2024 we welcomed Cólleen Devine as our new Director of Anti-Doping. Under her guidance we have made extraordinary progress this year, and of course, our success is also directly linked to the hard work of our team. I'd like to thank every team member for their energy, commitment and consistency in driving our mission forward. I would also like to thank the sample collection personnel (SCP) and National Governing Body anti-doping officers (ADOs). Without their commitment the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping programme would simply not work as effectively.

Several committees (Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee, Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, Anti-Doping Committee, and the Independent Nominations Committee) work with the ADU to help support the delivery of the anti-doping programme. The expert members of these committees remain steadfast in their contribution to our clean sport agenda and I thank each and every one of them.

A new Independent Nominations Committee was created in 2024 and I would like to thank Cliodhna Guy (Irish Horse Racing Regulatory Board), Hamish Coffey (UK Anti-Doping) and Mike Earl (World Rugby) for agreeing to become members of this committee.

The Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) are an integral part of our programme. I would like to thank Chairperson Prof. Sean Gaine, and his fellow members of the TUEC for all their support during 2024.

Similarly, I reserve a special note of thanks to my fellow members of the ADC and a warm welcome to new Committee members Deirdre Duke and Professor Pat Murray. Thank you for your participation in the committee's work throughout the year.

Finally, on behalf of the ADU and ADC, I would like to congratulate all our athletes and athlete support personnel for making 2024 a memorable one for sport in Ireland. I look forward to your continued cooperation and faith in the anti-doping programme in 2025.



Roger O'Connor

Chairperson, Anti-Doping Committee

Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU).

This year we have done more work than ever to protect the rights of the clean athlete. It was a year that featured several key highlights.

In 2024 we collected 2,029 samples – the highest number gathered since the programme began in 1999. This represents an 11% increase on samples collected in 2023.

The samples are comprised of urine, blood serum, blood Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) and dried blood spot (DBS), reflecting the comprehensive nature of the testing we carried out. The anti-doping program encompassed 35 sports, with a strategic balance of testing: 22% of samples were collected during competitions, while the majority (78%) were obtained out-of-competition.

Our commitment to clean sport hinges on a proactive 'education first' approach, delivering vital resources through webinars, in-person workshops, and our comprehensive e-learning portal to all stakeholders. In 2024, we delivered 42 education sessions that reached 1,469 stakeholders.

In addition to this there were 22 sessions delivered by National Governing Bodies and 3,521 people completed either Sport Ireland or World Anti-Doping Agency online Anti-Doping Education and Learning courses. This approach further fosters an environment that allows athletes to focus on becoming the best they can be.

We would like to thank our athletes and support personnel for their consistent cooperation in maintaining the integrity of sport, protecting the rights and health of sportspeople and in keeping sport free from doping. Our work has been greatly aided by all those athletes who have taken on the role of advocates and ambassadors for clean sport – we want to say a special thank you to them.

Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the outstanding work ethic and high standards of the ADU in 2024. Our dedicated team's unwavering commitment to clean sport and an athlete-first approach ensures sportspeople can excel while prioritising their physical and mental health. This approach safeguards both performance integrity and athlete wellbeing.



John Foley
Sport Ireland Chair



Dr. Una May
Chief Executive

Definitions

Athlete: Any Person who competes in sport at international level (as defined by each International Federation) or at national level (as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organisation).

Athlete Biological Passport: The programme and methods of gathering and collating data as described in the [International Standard for Testing and Investigations](#) and [International Standard for Laboratories](#).

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical personnel, paramedical personnel, parent or any other person working with, treating or assisting an athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.

Filing Failure: A failure by the athlete (or by a third party to whom the athlete has delegated the task) to make an accurate and complete whereabouts filing that enables the athlete to be located for Testing at the times and locations set out in the whereabouts filing or to update that whereabouts filing where necessary to ensure that it remains accurate and complete.

In-competition: In-competition testing is completed in connection with a sporting event. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) define in-competition as *“The period commencing at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a competition in which the athlete is scheduled to participate through the end of such competition and the sample collection process related to such competition”*, unless stated otherwise by the rules of an International Federation.

International Federation: An international non-governmental organisation responsible for the administration of a particular sport (or sports) at the world level.

International-Level Athlete: Athletes who compete in sport at the international level, as defined by each International Federation, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Missed Test: A failure by the athlete to be available for testing at the location and time specified in the 60-minute time slot identified in their whereabouts filing for the day in question.

National Anti-Doping Organisation: The entity designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of samples, manage test results and conduct results management at the national level.

National-Level Athlete: Athletes who compete in sport at the national level, as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organization, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Out-of-competition: Athletes under the National Testing Programme can be subject to testing at any time (i.e. any period which is not in-competition) and at any place. Athletes may also be selected for inclusion on the Registered Testing Pool (RTP).

Registered Testing Pool: The pool of highest-priority athletes, established separately at the international level by International Federations and at the national level by National Anti-Doping Organisations, who are subject to focused in-competition and out-of-competition testing. These tests are included as part of that International Federation’s or National Anti-Doping Organisation’s test distribution plan. Registered Testing Pool athletes are required to provide whereabouts information for this reason.

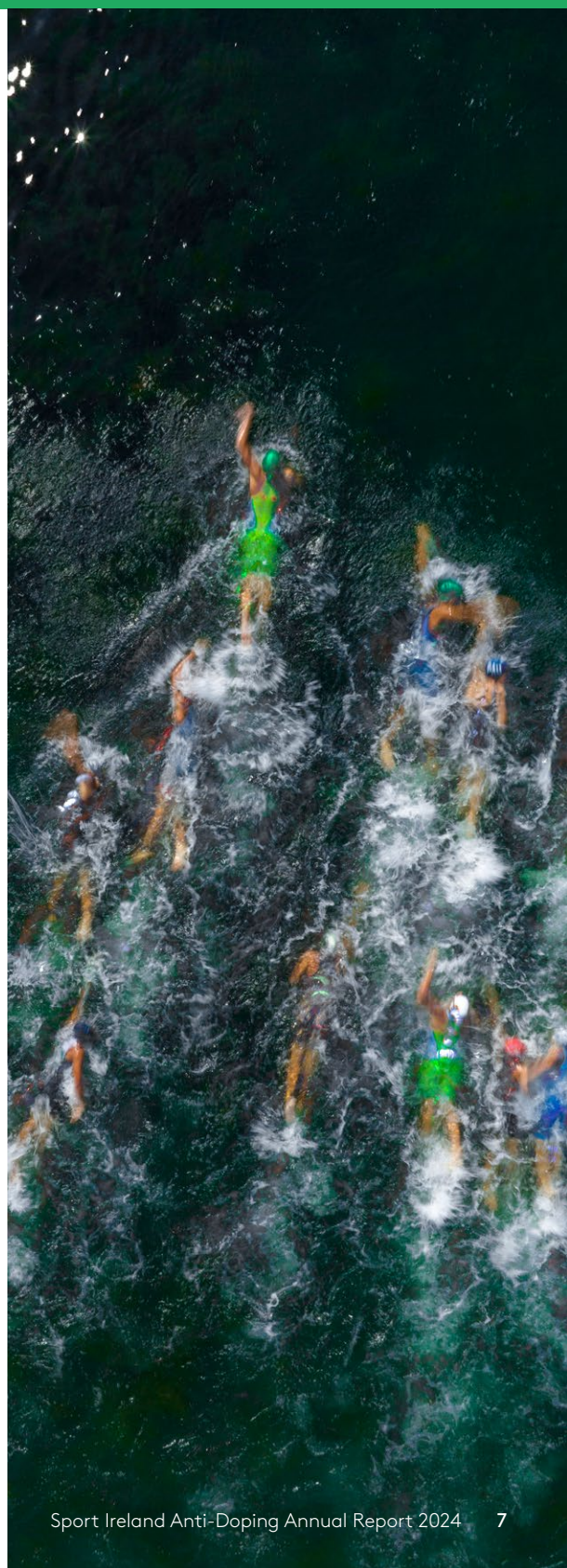
Therapeutic Use Exemption: A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allows an athlete with a medical condition to use a prohibited substance or prohibited method, but only if the conditions set out in Article 4.4 and the [International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions](#) are met.

Unsuccessful Attempt: An attempt made outside at the location and time specified in the 60-minute slot identified in an athlete’s whereabouts filing. Where an attempt is made outside the 60-minute timeslot it is recorded as an unsuccessful attempt rather than a missed test and is not recorded as a whereabouts failure.

Whereabouts Failure: A filing failure or missed test.

List of Abbreviations

AAF	Adverse Analytical Finding
ABP	Athlete Biological Passport
ADC	Anti-Doping Committee
ADEL	Anti-Doping Education and Learning
ADIIN	Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network
ADO	Anti-Doping Officer
ADRV	Anti-Doping Rule Violation
ADU	Anti-Doping Unit
APMU	Athlete Passport Management Unit
ASP	Athlete Support Personnel
DBS	Dried Blood Spot
DCO	Doping Control Officer
IC	In-Competition
IDTM	International Doping Tests and Management
IF	International Federation
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
ISADDP	Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel
ISE	International Standard for Education
ISTUE	International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions
ITA	International Testing Agency
NADO	National Anti-Doping Organisation
NGB	National Governing Body
OOO	Out-of-Competition
RADO	Regional Anti-Doping Organisation
RTP	Registered Testing Pool
SCP	Sample Collection Personnel
TDP	Test Distribution Plan
TUE	Therapeutic Use Exemption
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation





Background Information

Background to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme

Sport Ireland is the designated National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) in Ireland. The specific roles of Sport Ireland Anti-Doping are defined under Section 4 of the Sport Ireland Act (2015). This section of the act is dedicated to continually improving the anti-doping programme as required. The Irish Anti-Doping Rules have also been enshrined in this legislation. Enhancing Sport Ireland Anti-Doping's data sharing powers between key state regulatory authorities and other NADOs is similarly covered in section 4.

Sport Ireland's functions include the dissemination of the guidelines and codes of practice, the standards of good conduct and the elimination of doping in sport. It also undertakes actions that are deemed appropriate to combat doping and protect clean sport. These actions include the national testing programme and intelligence and investigation. As part of the testing programme, Sport Ireland directs the collection of samples and the management of these test results. It also undertakes to attend hearings on anti-doping cases as required.

One of the fundamental principles that underpin any anti-doping programme is access to education. The planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of anti-doping education is another key function that is outlined in the Sport Ireland Act (2015).

Additionally, Ireland is bound to the implementation of a fully functioning National Anti-Doping Programme under the ratification of the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport. This convention complies with all relevant articles of the [World Anti-Doping Code](#) as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In Ireland the Code is implemented through the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

Ireland also formally ratified the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe in 2003. The ratification of this convention further strengthens the implementation of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. It makes it harder to transport and use banned substances such as anabolic steroids. The Convention also assists with the funding of anti-doping tests, and it establishes a link between the strict application of anti-doping rules and the awarding of funding to individuals and sporting organisations.



Governance Framework

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee (ADC) is an advisory committee to the Board of Sport Ireland. The ADC provides specialist guidance to Sport Ireland and all committee members have their own wide-ranging areas of expertise to support the Anti-Doping Unit (ADU).

Anti-Doping Committee Members:

Roger O'Connor	Chair & Sport Ireland Board Member
Páraic Duffy	Sport Ireland Board Member
Dr. Elizabeth Keane	Public Health
David Gillick	Athlete Representative
Ian Weir	Sport Northern Ireland Representative
Professor Pat Murray	Pharmacology
Professor Brendan Buckley	Pharmacology
Deirdre Duke	Team Sport Representative

Secretariat: Michael McNulty, Anti-Doping Quality and Compliance Manager.

Independent Nominations Committee

In January 2023 the Board of Sport Ireland approved amendments to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel procedures including that any new appointments to the Disciplinary Panel will be made by an Independent Nominations Committee which will review applications, and that the renewal of appointments will be made by the Independent Nominations Committee. In line with this approval, the Board approved the appointment of members to the Independent Nominations Committee.

Independent Nominations Committee Members:

Clíodhna Guy	Chair, Head of Governance and Legal, Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board
Hamish Coffey	Independent Representative, Chief Operations Officer, UK Anti-Doping
Mike Earl	Independent Representative, Director of Anti-Doping & Game Equipment, World Rugby

Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ISADDP) is a panel of experts who are available to hear and determine a case or appeal arising out of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The panel has the power to determine whether an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) has been committed and/or the consequences to be imposed pursuant to the rules for an ADRV found to have been committed.

Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel Members:

Michael Collins	Chair
Helen Kilroy	Vice-Chair, Legal Representative
Rory McCabe	Vice-Chair, Legal Representative
Hugh O'Neill	Vice-Chair, Legal Representative
Adrian Colton	Vice-Chair, Legal Representative
Fidelma Macken	Legal Representative
Liz Howard	Administrative Representative
Dr. Mary O'Flynn Flannery	Medical Representative
Dr. Colm O'Móráin	Medical Representative
Dr. Pat O'Neill	Medical Representative
Dr. Denis Cusack	Medical Representative
Dr. Rachel Cullivan	Medical Representative

Registrar: Andrew Nugent

Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC)

In line with the WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE), Sport Ireland's TUEC considers applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE). The Committee is comprised of physicians who have expertise in the care and treatment of athletes, and a sound knowledge of clinical, sports and exercise medicine.

Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee Members:

Professor Sean Gaine	Chair & Respiratory Disease
Professor James Gibney	Endocrinologist
Professor Stephen Lane	Respiratory Diseases
Dr. Philip Murphy	Haematologist
Professor Sinéad Harney	Rheumatologist
Dr. Catherine McGorrian	Cardiologist
Professor Seamus Morris	Orthopaedic Surgeon

Secretariat: Cora Carraig



Anti-Doping Unit Personnel

Cólleen Devine	Director of Anti-Doping (February- present)
Melissa Morgan	Testing and Quality Manager (February 2024 - present)
Michael McNulty	Anti-Doping Executive (January - May)
	Anti-Doping Quality and Compliance Manager (May- present)
Paul O'Donovan	Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager
Elaine Cahill	Anti-Doping Education Higher Executive (March - present)
Michael Heffernan	Intelligence and Investigations Lead (part-time)
Áine Hollywood	Anti-Doping Science Officer (April - present)
Holly Murray	Anti-Doping Executive (July - present)
Lee Fanning	Anti-Doping Executive (August - present)
Carrie O'Keeffe	Anti-Doping Education Executive (September - present)
Shauna Gurhy	Anti-Doping Executive (January - November)
Shaun O'Donnell	Anti-Doping Executive (January - August)

Contact Details

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Olympic and Paralympic Games



Pre-Games Education Strategy

The Sport Ireland Pre-Games Education Strategy was designed to foster behaviours that align with the values of clean sport while proactively working to prevent doping among athletes. This strategy sought to provide comprehensive educational touchpoints for all parents, guardians, and support personnel accompanying athletes.

The Paris 2024 Clean Sport Education Strategy was a collaborative initiative led by Sport Ireland, Sport Ireland Institute, the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI), and Paralympics Ireland (PI). The Chef de Missions and Chief Medical Officers from both organisations played a pivotal role in ensuring that athletes and their entourages were fully engaged in clean sport education.

In preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, all athletes and their support personnel completed the Sport Ireland e-learning course, alongside the WADA Anti-Doping Education and Learning (ADEL) course tailored specifically for the Games. Additionally, Paralympics Ireland required all travelling athletes and support personnel to attend an online, Games-specific workshop delivered by Sport Ireland. This comprehensive approach underscores our commitment to upholding the integrity of clean sport.

Sport Ireland provided a total of 15 (11 Olympic and 4 Paralympic) in person educational touch points specifically for travelling athletes at their team days, providing crucial education, in the lead up to the Games. Tailored educational sessions were delivered to the travelling medical teams, as well as to all support personnel (e.g. strength and conditioning coach, dietitian, team manager) from the Sport Ireland Institute, ensuring that all individuals involved were well-informed and equipped to uphold the principles of clean sport.

Pre-Games Testing Strategy

In the build-up to the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the ADU worked closely with the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), other National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs), International Federations (IFs), the International Testing Agency (ITA), and International Doping Tests & Management (IDTM) service provider, to strategically test athletes who had qualified, as well as those in contention to become Olympians and Paralympians, in line with ITA and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) guidelines.

For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the ITA led an independent anti-doping programme on behalf of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). A taskforce of specialists from both team and individual sport IFs, NADOs, and Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (RADOs) representing all five world continents, formed the ITA's Paris 2024 Pre-Games Expert Group. The Expert Group was responsible for reviewing available anti-doping insights and information on athletes who were likely to compete in the Olympic Games and use this information to perform a risk assessment and deliver subsequent testing recommendations to be shared with anti-doping organisations (ADOs) to ensure that effective testing was conducted globally, through a coordinated effort, in the important phase leading up to the Olympic Games.

For the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the IPC Paris 2024 Taskforce was formed to deliver a 'Doping Control Guide for Testing Athletes in Para Sport' and sport specific testing recommendations ahead of the Games to NADOs to ensure effective and appropriate testing was conducted globally through best practice in the lead up to the Games.

In line with these guidelines and recommendations the Sport Ireland ADU held meetings with Anti-Doping Officers from the respective NGBs to discuss relevant athletes and implement monitoring processes with regards to qualification statuses in the nine-month period prior to the Games. Separate discussions were held with the ITA on behalf of the relevant IFs to streamline both the National and International testing plans to deliver a strong and diligent pre-Games testing programme.

Sport Ireland were extremely proud to have 3 members of its Sample Collection Personnel working at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

- 2 Doping Control Officers.
- 1 Doping Control Station Manager.

Furthermore, Siobhán Leonard represented Sport Ireland at the Paralympic Games as a member of the International Paralympics Council Anti-Doping Committee.



Education



HIGHLIGHTS

42

In-person Education Sessions delivered supporting 1469 athletes and athlete support personnel.

22

Education Sessions delivered by NGBs, educating 1017 athletes and athlete support personnel.

3,521

Athletes and athlete support personnel completed either Sport Ireland or WADA ADEL e-learning courses.

The International Standard for Education (ISE) is a mandatory International Standard developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. The purpose of the ISE is to support the preservation of the spirit of sport and to help foster a clean sport environment. Sport Ireland's work in the education space is guided and supported by the ISE.

The ADU continue to invest in clean sport through an education first approach, meaning an athlete should be educated on the principles and processes of doping control, before ever having to provide a sample. This is achieved through clean sport workshops, online education, outreach events, distribution of information via infographics, guideline documents, newsletters, posters etc. The ADU is committed to supporting athletes by providing education and resources that are accessible, practical, and tailored to their needs. To enhance the learning experience, we have integrated QR codes into our education sessions, utilising Linktree to streamline access to key anti-doping resources. This mobile-friendly approach ensures that athletes can easily retrieve important information, including medication checks, supplement safety guidelines, and anti-doping regulations, at their convenience - <https://linktr.ee/antidopingsportireland>



Education Touchpoints & E-Learning

In 2024, 42 in-person education sessions were delivered, supporting 1,469 athletes and athlete support personnel. Sessions included educating high performance athletes, development pathway athletes, third level students, medical professionals, athlete support personnel and all athletes and athlete support personnel travelling to Paris for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Additionally, 22 education sessions were delivered by NGBs themselves (Sport Ireland accredited tutors), educating 1,017 athletes and athlete support personnel.

Through the Sport Ireland e-learning function 1,557 users were certified as completing online education in 2024. Additionally, 1,964 users were certified as completing a WADA ADEL e-learning course. The top 8 courses which were completed are as follows:

Athlete's Guide to the 2021 Code – **480**

ADEL for Paris 2024 Olympics – **384**

ADEL for International Level Athletes – **371**

Athlete Support Personnel Guide to the Code 2021 – **146**

ADEL for Coaches for High Performance – **105**

ADEL for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games – **90**

ADEL for National Level Athletes – **81**

ADEL for Talented Athletes – **46**

In October 2024 Sport Ireland migrated all e-learning to the WADA ADEL platform whilst Sport Irelands e-learning platform undergoes redevelopment.

Clean Sport Educators

A key focus of the ISE is the development of a qualified educator pool i.e. a group of trained individuals responsible for delivering anti-doping education. The educator pool plays a crucial role in ensuring that anti-doping education is not just informative but also engaging, credible and aligned with WADA's broader goal of promoting clean sport. Sport Ireland have assigned seven educators, qualified through the International Testing Agency's International Clean Sport Educator Programme, who will be responsible for delivering face to face and online education. This will enable Sport Ireland to significantly expand the reach of the programme in 2025.



Science and Medicine



HIGHLIGHTS

19,537

Searches on the Sport Ireland
Medcheck website

4

Therapeutic Use Exemptions
approved

420

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)
Samples Reviewed (339 in 2023)

Medcheck

Medcheck is a service provided by Sport Ireland which allows athletes, athlete support personnel, and any other interested parties to check the status in sport of medicinal products purchased in the Republic of Ireland, against the WADA prohibited list. By providing athletes and support personnel with convenient and accurate information, Sport Ireland are providing them with information required to uphold clean sport.

Table 1 - Most Commonly Searched Individual Products

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Medicine Name	No of times searched 2023	No of times searched 2024	What is the medicine?	Legal status
Non-prescription medicines (number of total successful searches)						
1	1	Sudafed	287	394	Pseudoephedrine containing medicine for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	Pharmacy only
2	6	Nurofen Cold and Flu Tablets	358	369	Ibuprofen based cold and influenza product	Pharmacy only
3	3	Lemsip Max Cold and Flu Powder for Oral Solution	262	337	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale
4	10	Lemsip Cold & Flu Headcold Powder for Oral Solution	185	302	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale
5	12	Lemsip Max Sinus & Flu Hot Lemon Powder for Oral Solution	176	301	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and Paracetamol containing medicine for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	Pharmacy only
Prescription medicine (number of total successful searches)						
1	2	Ventolin Evohaler	285	386	Inhaler containing beta-2 agonist (salbutamol) for treatment and prevention of bronchospasm due to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Prescription
2	4	Deltacortril Enteric	148	226	Glucocorticoid used to treat a wide range of conditions including allergies, inflammatory conditions including musculo-skeletal, autoimmune disorders and other conditions	Prescription

Table 2 - Most commonly searched ranges of medicinal products: Non-prescription and prescription

Brand	Type of products in range	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	Total	19537	16333	16319	11821	9026
Non-prescription medicines (% of total successful searches)						
Lemsip	Paracetamol-based range of products for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds, influenza, coughs	10.2%	8%	10.41%	8.7%	8.2%
Nurofen	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory and cold and influenza products	8.4%	9.6%	12.68%	13.1%	7.8%
Panadol	Paracetamol based range of products for pain relief and symptomatic relief of cold and influenza	4.7%	4.2%	4.22%	4.3%	2.8%
Sudafed	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride containing medicines for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	3.2%	3%	4.15%	^	^
Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Therapeutic class	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Ventolin	Beta-2 agonist, primarily inhaled products	2.54%	2.31%	1.86%	2.8%	3.2%

Therapeutic Use Exemptions

In line with the World Anti-Doping Agency International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE), the Sport Ireland TUE Committee considers TUE applications for Irish athletes. A TUE allows an athlete to use an otherwise prohibited substance or method that is included on the WADA Prohibited List, subject to certain defined conditions. Athletes can apply for a TUE to either Sport Ireland or, in the case of an international level athlete, through their International Federation. For TUE approval to be granted, the athlete must have a well-documented medical condition supported by relevant and reliable medical data.

In 2024, one (1) valid pre-test TUE (for example by a registered testing pool athlete) application was made to Sport Ireland in 2024, and this was approved by the TUEC on receipt of an appropriate and up-to-date medical file. In addition, three (3) retrospective (post test) TUE applications were also approved on receipt of valid medical files. This is where the athlete has been tested by Sport Ireland and a TUE application is then submitted for review by the TUE Committee.

36 non-TUE applications were received by Sport Ireland. These were athletes who did not require a prospective TUE or where the medicines were not prohibited in sport. Advice was provided to these athletes on the preparation of a medical file if required in the future.

Science

Science plays a vital role in promoting clean competition by fostering innovation and supporting evidence-based decision-making. At Sport Ireland, science guides education strategies, testing, and results management operations. Several tools are used by the ADU to ensure that an effective testing programme is implemented:

Test Distribution Plan (TDP)

A TDP is an allocation of a number of tests per sport and this is completed on an annual basis. There are two elements to the TDP:

a. Risk Analysis: A risk analysis of each sport and the discipline within the sports is completed. Criteria used for the risk analysis include physical demands of that sport/discipline, possible performance-enhancing effects that doping may elicit, rewards/incentives available, history of doping in that sport, research on doping trends, intelligence/information received and outcomes of previous TDPs.

b. Allocation: Depending on the risk analysis of the sport and the number of registered testing pool (RTP) athletes in each sport relevant tests will be allocated to each sport.

Athlete Biological Passport

The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) program tracks specific biological markers in urine and blood samples over time, which can indirectly indicate the effects of doping on the body. The ABP program enables Sport Ireland to create individual, long-term data profiles for each athlete, allowing for the detection of any irregularities that may suggest the use of performance-enhancing substances or methods. This data also supports targeted, conventional anti-doping testing for athletes exhibiting abnormal patterns, while providing valuable evidence in cases of anti-doping rule violations.

Table 3 - ABP Samples collected by Sport Ireland

Sport	2023 No. of ABP (Blood) Samples collected	2024 No. of ABP (Blood) Samples collected
Athletics	91	118
Boxing	4	6
Canoeing	6	5
Cycling	32	36
Gymnastics	0	2
Modern Pentathlon	3	4
Para-athletics	4	4
Para-cycling	34	30
Para-swimming	0	10
Rowing	104	125
Swimming	35	46
Triathlon	26	34
Total	339	420

Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)

An APMU is a dedicated unit responsible for the timely review and management of all athletes' biological samples and passports. An APMU must be hosted independently by a WADA accredited laboratory. In 2024, Sport Ireland continued to use the Nordic APMU, hosted by the Oslo Laboratory for the management of blood passports, and the Cologne Laboratory for the management of steroidal passports. The APMU advise and support the ADU in the management of the ABP. The APMU assesses and issues recommendations on sample validity, follow-up and target testing, additional analysis, coordinating expert reviews and offers advice on priorities and strategies to optimise the efficiency of the ABP programme.

Long Term Storage and Reanalysis

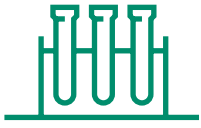
The ADU implements a Sample Retention and Reanalysis Strategy. The WADA Code allows samples to be stored for a period of up to 10 years and allows retroactive analysis with the benefit of technical progress in detection methods and development of further information surrounding such samples. Advancements in analytical methods in recent years, as well as the introduction of new technical documents by WADA, has provided Sport Ireland with the opportunity to retroactively analyse selected stored samples for substances not originally detectable at the time of collection.

Table 4 - Samples Placed into Long Term Storage

Sample Type	Number added in 2024
Urine	316
Blood	61
Dried Blood Spot	8
TOTAL	385

Dried Blood Spot Testing

In 2024, Sport Irelands Anti-Doping Unit continued collecting Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples. Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing is an innovative testing method that collects a few drops of blood from an athlete's fingertip or upper arm. This is an additional testing method approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The collection device that Sport Ireland use for DBS is the TASSO M20 and the secure transport kits are provided by InnoVero.



Testing Programme

HIGHLIGHTS

2,029

Samples collected
Highest since the programme began

11%

Increase in 2024

22% 78%

In competition samples

Out of competition samples

Samples were collected across

35

different sports

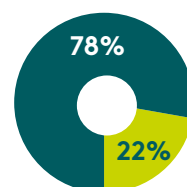
Testing remains a fundamental part of Sport Ireland’s ability to detect doping offenses and to impose sanctions on those who violate anti-doping rules. The Sport Ireland anti-doping testing programme includes in-competition and no-notice, out-of-competition testing.

Sport Ireland collected 2,029 samples (urine, blood serum, blood ABP, and DBS) in 2024, across 35 different sports. Out-of-competition samples accounted for 78% of samples collected.

Sport Ireland determines the most appropriate analyses for each urine, blood, serum, or DBS sample through combined science and testing expertise. All samples are tested for a standard list of substances based on whether they are collected in-competition or out-of-competition. Additionally, special analysis can be conducted beyond the basic screen to detect specific substances, such as erythropoietin (EPO) and growth hormone (GH), depending on the results of the basic screen and/or the evaluation of other data.

Table 5 - National Programme Testing Statistics (IC, OOC, DBS)

Sample Type	2023 No. of Samples	2024 No. of Samples
In-Competition: Urine	398	388
In-Competition: Blood ABP	0	5
Out-of-Competition: Urine	797	911
Out-of-Competition: Blood ABP	339	415
Out-of-Competition: Blood Serum	176	206
Dried Blood Spot	116	104
Total	1826	2029



- Out of competition samples
- In-competition samples

Table 6 - National Programme Testing Statistics

National Governing Body	2023 IN-COMP URINE	2024 IN-COMP URINE	2023 OOC URINE	2024 OOC URINE	2023 BLOOD ABP	2024 BLOOD ABP	2023 BLOOD SERUM	2024 BLOOD SERUM	2023 DRIED BLOOD SPOT	2024 DRIED BLOOD SPOT	2023 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
American Football Ireland	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	6
Archery Ireland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Athletics Ireland	32	40	99	129	91	118	20	33	10	11	252	331
Badminton Ireland	11	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	10
Basketball Ireland	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8
Camogie Association	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	13	8
Canoeing Ireland	4	4	14	25	6	5	2	4	2	0	28	38
Cricket Ireland	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
Cycling Ireland	38	34	69	68	66	66	12	14	7	10	192	192
Football Association of Ireland	42	40	40	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	81
Gaelic Athletic Association	46	48	89	92	0	0	36	28	9	32	180	200
Golf Ireland	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8
Gymnastics Ireland	9	4	13	22	0	2	2	4	1	0	25	32
Hockey Ireland	0	4	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	18
Horse Sport Ireland	13	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	18
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	4
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	20	8	45	71	4	6	7	7	6	10	82	102
Irish Judo Association	5	8	7	15	0	0	1	3	2	0	15	26
Irish Martial Arts Commission	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	4
Irish Rugby Football Union	0	8	179	133	0	0	64	56	41	12	284	209
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	3	3	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	7
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	12
Motor Cycling Ireland	13	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	11
Paralympics Ireland	0	0	33	46	4	14	7	9	7	0	51	69
Pentathlon Ireland	0	0	3	4	3	4	1	1	0	0	7	9
Rowing Ireland	3	12	105	132	104	125	13	25	5	4	230	298
Squash Ireland	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Swim Ireland	32	23	47	56	35	46	6	11	5	0	125	136
Table Tennis Ireland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Taekwondo Ireland	0	0	8	14	0	0	1	1	3	0	12	15
Tennis Ireland	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	9
Triathlon Ireland	16	15	28	39	26	34	3	9	0	6	73	103
Tug of War Ireland	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	8
Weightlifting Ireland	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	15	18
TOTAL	398	388	797	911	339	420	176	206	116	104	1826	2029

User Pays Testing

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the User Pays Programme, where other sports organisations – NGBs or IFs – pay for the sample collection procedure of testing to be carried out on their behalf. In 2024, 241 samples were collected under this programme – 203 urine samples, 26 blood samples, 3 blood ABP samples and 9 DBS samples.

Table 7 – User Pays Testing

National Governing Body/International Federation	2023 IN-COMP URINE	2024 IN COMP URINE	2023 OUT OF COMP URINE	2024 OUT OF COMP URINE	2023 BLOOD ABP	2024 BLOOD ABP	2023 BLOOD SERUM	2024 BLOOD SERUM	2023 DBS	2024 DBS	2023 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Anti-Doping Sweden	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Athletics Ireland	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Badminton World Federation	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Boxing Union of Ireland	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4
Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1
Fédération Equestre Internationale	12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1
Fédération Internationale d'Escrime	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fédération Internationale de Hockey	4	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5
International Federation of American Football	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
International Powerlifting Federation	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0
International Sport Fishing Confederation (CIPS)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
International Weightlifting Federation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Irish Rugby Football Union	28	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	20
Swim Ireland	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Union Cycliste Internationale	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
UK Anti-Doping	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
USADA	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0
World Anti-Doping Agency	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
World Aquatics	0	0	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	5
World Archery	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
World Athletics	16	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	33
World Baseball Softball Confederation	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
World Karate Federation	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	14	0
World Rugby	44	45	59	75	7	0	16	25	4	9	130	154
World Triathlon	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9
Total	215	114	80	89	11	3	22	26	4	9	332	241

Whereabouts

Whereabouts information is essential to Sport Ireland’s ability to conduct strategic, no-notice, out-of-competition testing. Athletes in Sport Ireland’s Registered Testing Pool (RTP) are required to submit quarterly whereabouts filings and must provide updates when their schedule changes, whether it involves unplanned travel or adding a new training location or competition. RTP Athletes have multiple ways to report their whereabouts to Sport Ireland.

Table 8 - RTP Whereabouts Failures by Quarters

	Filing Failures	Missed Tests
Quarter 1	1	0
	Rowing Ireland: 1	
Quarter 2	1	3
	Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 1	Athletics Ireland: 1
		Gymnastics Ireland: 1
		Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 1
Quarter 3	0	0
Quarter 4	3	1
	Athletics Ireland: 2	Rowing Ireland: 1
	Swim Ireland: 1	

Table 9 - NGB Unsuccessful Attempts

NGB	Unsuccessful Attempts
GAA	1
IRFU	5



Operations

HIGHLIGHTS

46

Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) attended the annual SCP training and reaccreditation day and were reaccredited for 2025.

4

Sport Ireland Doping Control Officers (DCOs) were selected to be part of the sample collection team at the Paris 2024 games.

Sport Ireland would like to thank these dedicated professionals who worked hard to protect the integrity of sport during our busiest year for testing.

Audits

The Anti-Doping Unit underwent its annual ISO 9001:2015 audit in September 2024. ISO 9001 is an internationally recognised standard for quality management that enables organisations, regardless of their size or industry, to enhance their performance, meet customer expectations, and showcase their dedication to maintaining high-quality standards.

As part of this process, an audit of the SCP in the field was conducted to ensure procedures were followed. Simultaneously, an in-house audit was conducted of the ADU.

Sport Ireland have successfully retained the ISO 9001:2015 certification for another three years. This achievement is a testament to the commitment to maintaining high standards of quality management, ensuring continuous improvement in our systems, and providing effective services in the fight against doping in sports.

On Field Sample Collection Personnel Audits

The ADU conducted two SCP audits in 2024. The SCP are audited on communications skills with athletes and other relevant stakeholders, event management of the testing mission and the sample collection process (e.g. notification, chaperoning and processing of doping control paperwork). No significant issues have been raised through these on-field audits.



Technology

Paperless Sample Collection

In 2024 Sport Ireland moved to paperless sample collection for all doping control sessions, in a bid to streamline sample collection procedures. Paperless testing will reduce the potential for human error and improve the flow of testing, as well as improving the overall security of sample collection. Feedback received from both SCP and athletes has been very positive.

Financial Performance

In 2024, the cost of the anti-doping programme was **€2,821,481**.

Expenditure	€
Testing	1,614,018
Education and Research	143,874
Salaries	509,460
Other Costs*	554,130
Total Expenditure	2,821,481
Income from Testing	135,869

* Includes legal advice associated with the programme, consultancy fees, travel and subsistence, advertising, printing, insurance and other related costs in administering the programme.

International & Stakeholder Relations

The ADU team continued to develop international and stakeholder relations, as well as upskilling and representing on expert/advisory panels through a number of international meetings in 2024.



Results Management and Intelligence



1 ADRV DECISION PUBLISHED

1 ADRV DECISION PENDING

2023 Anti-Doping Rule Violations

Sport	Rule Violation	Sanctions
Judo	10.10.1	4 years

Pending Cases

In-competition or out-of-competition	Alleged Rule Violated
Out of competition	2.1 & 2.2

Article 2.1 - The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample.

Article 2.2 - Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method.

Article 10.10.1 - Prohibition Against Participation During Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension.





Intelligence & Investigations

Intelligence and Investigations continues to play an integral role in Sport Ireland's effort to protect clean sport. Under the WADA International Standards for Testing and Investigations, Sport Ireland is required to implement processes that enable the collection of intelligence from both analytical and non-analytical information. Many of Sport Ireland's intelligence led actions are initiated through leads received via the Report Doping function on the Sport Ireland website. In addition to an online submission form Sport Ireland also provides various ways for concerned individuals to report doping in sport. Sport Ireland also receives information through collaborations with anti-doping intelligence units globally. All information received is handled in a confidential and secure manner in accordance with best practice.

To facilitate the secure exchange of intelligence, the ADU maintains relationships with trusted partners nationally and internationally. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and data sharing agreements are essential components of Sport Ireland's intelligence programme. These mutually agreed arrangements facilitate effective and secure exchange of information whilst ensuring that relevant regulatory and legal requirements are met. The legislation underpinning Sport Ireland's data sharing agreements is contained in the Sport Ireland Act, 2015. Sport Ireland currently has MOUs in place with An Garda Síochána, The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and The Health Products Regulatory Authority and continues to work toward finalising a similar arrangement with a key operational stakeholder. Sport Ireland continuously reviews its intelligence capacity to ensure that no opportunities are missed, this includes exploring technological advancements in the intelligence space.

Sport Ireland is represented on the WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (ADIIN). ADIIN is an extremely important global forum which shares intelligence and information on best practice in anti-doping intelligence and investigations. Membership is open only to accredited Intelligence and Investigations sections with advanced investigative and intelligence capability.



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