



SPÓRT
ÉIREANN
FRITHDHÓPÁIL

SPORT
IRELAND
ANTI-DOPING

Annual Review 2021

2021

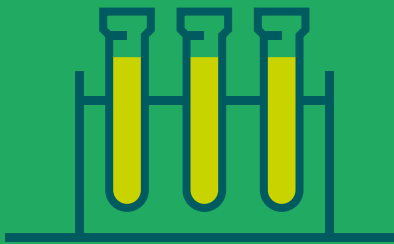
Programme Highlights



39
Sample collection personnel recredited



11,821
Searches on Eirpharm website



1,354
Samples collected

267
Samples placed in long term storage

11 Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved



3,300+
Completed anti-doping e-learning course



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Foreword

Much like the preceding year, 2021 was a year that will live long in the memory.

While the grip of Covid-19 continued to tighten for significant periods, the introduction of vaccines coupled with the various derogations permitted to sport meant we had plenty of sporting occasions to occupy both mind and heart.

A truly unique Olympic and Paralympic Games captured the collective national imagination with stellar performances across the board in Tokyo. Furthermore, Ireland continued to enhance its international reputation as a sporting nation with stunning performances at domestic, international, European and World events.

It was welcome that the fight against doping in sport was again acknowledged by the Government with the continued designation of anti-doping activity as 'essential'. Our anti-doping sample collection personnel continued their important work throughout the year in challenging circumstance and they are to be rightly acknowledged for this dedication.

Naturally, with it being an Olympic and Paralympic year – albeit belated – there was a significant increase in the number of blood and urine samples collected. 1,354 samples represents a 30% increase on 2020.

In that regard, I would like to thank all members of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) for their ongoing exceptional efforts, working in much-changed conditions to protect the integrity of sport in Ireland.

Sport Ireland continues to emphasise the importance of education as a primary deterrent to doping in sport. The importance of anti-doping education is reflected in the large numbers of people that complete the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping e-learning course annually. In 2021, over 3,300 users completed the anti-doping e-learning course. This figure is a reduction of 34% on the previous year. This reduction is down to the fact that large volumes of athletes and athlete support personnel completed the mandatory anti-doping e-learning, in Q4 2020, in preparation for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games. These figures again highlight the importance of the role of anti-doping education in the fight against doping in sport.

Indeed, along with fulfilling all obligations around the testing for the Olympic & Paralympic Games, Sport Ireland placed a strong focus on nurturing a culture of education, including the implementation of the new WADA International Standard for Education in the already comprehensive education programme.

The areas of science and investigations continue to be key components of Sport Ireland's work in the area of anti-doping. Sport Ireland was represented on a WADA selected panel of experts that assisted in the development of guidelines for Intelligence and Investigations, a Role Descriptor for Intelligence and Investigations practitioners and a training course for Intelligence and Investigations Officers and Managers.

Ireland having a seat on such panels is important for us as a nation that is committed to the clean sport agenda, while it is also reflective of the esteem in which the Irish system is held by our international colleagues.



As in previous years, partnership and collaboration continue to be at the forefront in anti-doping both at a national and international level. In that regard, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI).

As the Chair of the Anti-Doping Committee, I am privileged to work alongside many dedicated experts who give their valuable time in support of the clean sport agenda. Four such individuals moved on from their roles on Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee at the end of 2021.

I would like to extend a note of gratitude to Dr. Bill Cuddihy, Professor Pat Guiry, Ms. Wendy Henderson and Ms. Ruth Wood-Martin and thank them sincerely for their service in the fight against doping in sport.

Finally, I would like to thank the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, Chaired by Michael Collins SC, for its work during 2021. I would also like to thank Prof. Sean Gaine and his fellow members of the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) for their contribution.

Finally, the Anti-Doping Committee would like to thank, former Sport Ireland CEO, John Treacy, for his continued support during the year. John has always been a strong advocate for anti-doping both in Ireland and Internationally.



Roger O'Connor
Chairperson, Anti-Doping Committee

Introduction

We are pleased to present the twenty-second annual review of Sport Ireland Anti-Doping, covering the year 2021.

This review provides comprehensive details of the activities of the Irish Anti-Doping Programme in 2021, including the financial cost of the programme. In 2021, the programme cost €1,856,151, with a total of 1,354 blood and urine tests conducted in Ireland and overseas.

In 2021, Sport Ireland continues its close collaboration with colleagues in the HPRA, Customs and An Garda Síochána and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland from a monitoring and intelligence perspective. The strong working relationships developed with these agencies is having a tangible impact on our testing and surveillance and we look forward to continuing this relationship into 2022.

As an organisation, Sport Ireland continues to embrace innovation across all areas of the organisation. Anti-Doping is not different as we look to improve efficiencies across the board. The move to paperless testing procedures will be rolled out in 2022, with technology now playing a prominent role in the education programme.

2022 also sees key changes to WADA's prohibited list, in particular the addition of Glucocorticoids in competition. Sport Ireland will continue to highlight this, along with other changes, through public engagement and awareness.

On the international front, Sport Ireland continued to engage with our international colleagues to advocate for reform of the international doping system.

Sport Ireland was vociferous in its dismay at the decision of CAS at the end of 2020 to water down the already weak sanctions imposed on Russia by WADA. On the back of this, we saw Russian athletes competing in Tokyo, wearing Russian colours, competing under the Russian Olympic Committee. The penalty for the biggest scandal to hit international sport was not befitting of the act.

While the decision of CAS was binding, this did not deter Sport Ireland and like-minded National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs), as the push for reform continued apace. It was, and is, our firmly-held view that it is crucial that WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board is both independent and expert-led. The impact of this is two-fold. Firstly, it will remove any conflict of interest that currently exists; as it stands, major sport event organisers still have a disproportionately large hold on the governance of the organisation. Since 2016, we have been consistent in our representations on behalf of clean athletes so that they can have a voice at the table, and in our calls for an absolute removal of conflicts of interest in WADA's governance. Secondly, it will ensure that expert and experienced voices are around the table making the best decisions possible. This move is necessary to bring the organisation into the modern-era of corporate governance. Sport Ireland remains available to provide assistance to WADA wherever we can to ensure that this happens.

Collaboration with international colleagues is invaluable. With the reduction in Covid-related restrictions, Sport Ireland will take every opportunity to attend international events in 2022 e.g. Clean Sport Forum in Birmingham, continued involvement with Council of Europe, WADA Science and Education conferences etc.

As always, we wish to thank our athletes for their continued and unwavering cooperation throughout 2021. The manner in which Irish athletes continue to embrace the ethos of clean sport is to be commended. We would especially like to thank those athletes that continue to act as advocates and ambassadors for the ongoing testing, prevention and education programmes. We acknowledge that it is not always convenient, but the professional manner in which our athletes conducted themselves and adhered to protocols whenever there was a knock at the door is to be commended.

Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the outstanding service provided by the ADU in 2021. The work of Síobhán Leonard and the Anti-Doping team not only provided an innovative and adaptive approach to the robust testing programme, but also continued to work closely with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to continue the message of the importance of clean sport.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the distinguished individuals who provide dedicated service to the Anti-Doping Committee. Their hard work and relentless pursuit of sporting integrity is invaluable to the Irish Anti-Doping Programme.



Kieran Mulvey
Chairman



Úna May
Chief Executive



Background Information

Visions of the Programme

Testing

To provide an effective, quality-driven testing programme.

Education

To facilitate the development and delivery of quality education programmes for all major stakeholders.

Research

To establish a long-term research programme which compliments and progresses anti-doping research nationally and internationally.

International

To keep abreast of international best practice and to collaborate with relevant international initiatives.

Administration

To develop and maintain quality standards to ensure correct and transparent administrative procedures.





Background to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme

Under the Sport Ireland Act (2015), Sport Ireland's functions in relation to Anti-Doping include

- to facilitate, through the promulgation of guidelines and codes of practice, standards of good conduct, fair play and the elimination of doping in sport;
- to take such action as Sport Ireland considers appropriate, including testing, to combat doping in sport;
- to plan, implement, evaluate and monitor education and information programmes for good conduct, fair play and the elimination of doping in sport;
- in its capacity as the national anti-doping organisation in the State, to direct the collection of samples, to manage the testing and test results of samples and attend hearings, as required;

The significant priority given to anti-doping work by Sport Ireland is recognised through a full section, Section 4, of the Act dedicated to strengthening the anti-doping programme. Sport Ireland has been clearly designated as the National Anti-Doping Organisation in Ireland and the Irish Anti-Doping Rules have also been enshrined in this legislation. Data sharing powers have been enhanced between key state regulatory authorities and other appropriate Anti-Doping Organisations

Ireland has also ratified the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport which effectively binds the government to the implementation of a fully functioning National Anti-Doping Programme which complies with all of the relevant articles of the World Anti-Doping Code. The World Anti-Doping Code continues to be the cornerstone of the world-wide fight against doping in sport. In Ireland this code is reflected in, and consequently implemented through the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

Ireland formally ratified the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe in 2003. The Convention lays down binding rules with a view to harmonising anti-doping regulations, in particular: making it harder to obtain and use banned substances such as anabolic steroids; assisting the funding of anti-doping tests; establishing a link between the strict application of anti-doping rules and awarding subsidies to sports organisations or individual sportsmen and sportswomen; and regular doping control procedures during and outside competitions, including in other countries.

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee is an advisory committee to the Board of Sport Ireland and each member provides specialist guidance and all have their own wide-ranging areas of expertise to support the ADU.

The Committee met three times during 2021 and the Committee members were:

Mr Roger O'Connor
Interim Chair, Sport Ireland Board Member

Prof. Brendan Buckley
Former Chief Medical Officer, ICON

Dr. Bill Cuddihy
Former Medical Officer to Athletics Ireland

Dr. Elaine Breslin
Clinical Assessment Manager, HPR

Prof. Patrick Guiry
Chemist, UCD

Ms. Wendy Henderson
Anti-Doping Education Officer,
Sport Northern Ireland

Mr. Patrick O'Connor
Sport Ireland Board Member

Ms. Ruth Wood – Martin
Performance Nutritionist, IRFU

Mr. David Gillick
Athlete

Mr. Roger O'Connor
Sport Ireland Board Member

Secretariat: Dr. Úna May,
Director of Participation & Ethics, Sport Ireland

Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel 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 has been committed and/or the consequences to be imposed pursuant to the Rules for an anti-doping rule violation found to have been committed.

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel members that served during 2021 are:

Michael Collins	Chair
Helen Kilroy	Vice-Chair
Adrian Colton	Vice-Chair
Hugh O'Neill	Vice-Chair
Justice Fidelma Macken	Vice-Chair
Warren Deutrom	Admin Rep
Liz Howard	Admin Rep
Bill O'Hara	Admin Rep
Philip Browne	Admin Rep
Mary O'Flynn Flannery	Medical Rep
Colm O'Morain	Medical Rep
Pat O'Neill	Medical Rep
Denis Cusack	Medical Rep
Rachel Cullivan-Elliot	Medical Rep

Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Committee

In line with the World Anti-Doping Agency International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Sport Ireland's TUE Committee considers TUE applications for Irish athletes.

The Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee members are:

Prof. Sean Gaine, (Chairperson)
Respiratory Disease

Dr. James Gibney, Endocrinology

Prof. Stephen Lane, Respiratory Disease

Dr. Philip Murphy, Haematology

Dr. Sinead Harney, Rheumatology

Dr. Catherine McGorrian, Cardiologist

Mr Seamus Morris, Orthopaedics

Personnel

Dr. Úna May
Director of Ethics and Participation in Sport

Ms. Siobhán Leonard
Director of Anti-Doping & Ethics

Ms. Melissa Morgan
Testing and Quality Manager (on maternity leave)

Mr. Michael McNulty (Maternity Cover)
Anti-Doping Executive (Testing and Quality
Manager March – December)

Mr. Paul O'Donovan
Education and Values Manager

Mr. Gerard Nowlan
Science Officer

Ms. Janine Merriman
Anti-Doping Executive

Mr. Michael Heffernan (Part-time)
Intelligence and Investigations Officer

Ms. Ann-Marie McDonnell
Anti-Doping Executive (May – December)

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Education

One of the fundamental principles of any anti-doping programme is to ensure that an athlete's first experience of anti-doping should be education and not doping control.

As such, Sport Ireland's ADU has always invested significant time and resources into its education programme.

In 2021, with the introduction of the new International Standard for Education (ISE) to the WADA Code, Sport Ireland was mandated to introduce minimum standards for the way in which the organisation delivered the existing education programme. The introduction of the ISE also led to the development of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Plan.

The Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Plan means that NGBs must design and implement their own anti-doping education plans and submit them to the Sport Ireland ADU for review. The ADU continues to work with and support NGBs on the delivery and implementation of their anti-doping education plans. The overall purpose of the education programme is to preserve the spirit of sport and to help foster a clean sport environment in Ireland.

The primary focus of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Plan for 2021 was to provide education for Team Ireland athletes and athlete support personnel taking part in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS



3,000+

ATHLETES AND
ATHLETE SUPPORT
PERSONNEL
ACCESSED THE
E-LEARNING
PLATFORM

57

ONLINE OR
FACE TO FACE
SEMINARS

25,000

WALLET CARDS
DISTRIBUTED

1,850

ATHLETES AND
ATHLETE SUPPORT
PERSONNEL
ATTENDED ONLINE
OR FACE TO FACE
EDUCATION
SESSIONS

Council of Europe, EU and UNESCO

Sport Ireland continues to contribute to the Council of Europe advisory group on education. In 2021, Sport Ireland attended a total of five meetings as part of this group. The main body of work for these meetings centred on developing a unified framework on how NADOs engage with their stakeholders, in particular NGBs, in the development and implementation of anti-doping education.

RESPECT-P

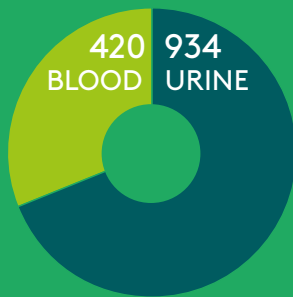
Following on from the previous RESPECT research Project, Sport Ireland's ADU are part of an Erasmus Plus Research project aimed at helping to raise the voice of athletes competing in Para Sports. The goal of this group is to bring contemporary thinkers and practitioners together to foster high quality Anti-Doping research and evidence-based doping prevention.

In 2021, as part of one of the work packages included in the study, researchers conducted six separate interviews with athlete support personnel working directly with para-athletes in Ireland. There is an athlete focus group planned to take place in early 2022 as part of the other work package included in the study. This focus group will be facilitated by a trained athlete researcher.



National Testing Programme

TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS: 1,354



OUT OF COMPETITION TESTS: 1,333



IN COMPETITION TESTS: 221



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Sport Ireland collected **1,354** blood and urine samples in 2021.

The samples collected were from **28** different sports.

30% increase in samples collected

In competition samples accounted for **16.4%** as a number of competitions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Out of competition samples accounted for **83.6%** of the samples collected

Whereabouts failures decreased from 7 in 2020 to **5** in 2021

The ADU would like to thank all Registered Testing Pool athletes and NGBs for their assistance and cooperation with testing and the rescheduling of events.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	COMP	OOC	BLOOD	TOTAL
ATHLETICS IRELAND	35	86	81	202
BADMINTON IRELAND	7	1	0	8
CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION	4	0	0	4
CANOEING IRELAND	0	15	7	22
CRICKET IRELAND	2	0	0	2
CYCLING IRELAND	19	102	100	221
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND	28	45	0	73
GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	40	76	24	140
GOLF IRELAND	4	0	0	4
GYMNASTICS IRELAND	0	6	1	7
HOCKEY IRELAND	0	15	0	15
HORSE SPORT IRELAND	9	0	0	9
IRISH ATHLETIC BOXING ASSOCIATION	4	44	8	56
IRISH JUDO ASSOCIATION	0	13	1	14
IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION	4	102	57	163
IRISH SAILING ASSOCIATION	0	17	1	18
IRISH TAEKWONDO UNION	0	3	1	4
IRISH TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION	2	0	0	2
IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION SPORT	0	3	1	4
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION	8	0	0	8
MOTOR CYCLING IRELAND	2	0	0	2
MOTORSPORT IRELAND	21	0	0	21
PARALYMPICS IRELAND	0	47	14	61
PENTATHLON IRELAND	0	10	7	17
ROWING IRELAND	5	61	61	127
SWIM IRELAND	14	53	42	109
TRIATHLON IRELAND	9	14	14	37
WEIGHTLIFTING IRELAND	4	0	0	4
TOTAL	221	713	420	1354



COVID 19

Throughout 2021, Sport Ireland's ADU continued to communicate our additional protective measures to Registered Testing Pool athletes and NGBs. This communication was key in ensuring they understood and were aware of the measures we took as we continually adhered to the protocols in place by

Health Service Executive (HSE) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines when completing Anti-Doping testing.

Sample Collection Personnel

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Sample Collection Personnel for continuing their high standard of work in a particular busy and challenging year.

User Pays

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the User Pays Programme whereby sporting organisations pay for testing. During 2021, 204 tests were conducted under this programme – 159 urine tests and 45 blood tests. As part of the User Pays Programme, Sport Ireland collected 72 samples on behalf of European Athletics, in the lead up to, and during, the European Cross-Country Championships held in Ireland.

National Governing Body	Comp	OOC	Blood	Total
Athletics Integrity Unit	0	8	8	16
Athletics Ireland	2	0	0	2
Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport	0	4	2	6
European Athletics Association	24	24	24	72
Federation Equestre Internationale	5	2	0	7
Federation Internationale de Hockey	0	2	0	2
Federation Internationale de Natation	0	1	0	1
International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	0	1	0	1
Irish Rugby Football Union	20	0	0	20
United States Anti-Doping Agency	0	3	0	3
World Athletics	6	0	0	6
World Rowing	2	0	0	2
World Rugby	20	35	11	66
Total	79	80	45	204

Whereabouts: NGB Unsuccessful Attempts

Sport	Unsuccessful Attempts
GAA	10
Soccer	4
Rugby	2
Hockey	1
Total	17

RTP Whereabouts Failures and Unsuccessful Attempts by Quarters

	Filing Failures	Missed Tests	Unsuccessful Attempts
Quarter 1	4	0	24
	Cycling: 4		Athletics Ireland: 5 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 5 Canoeing Ireland: 2 Cycling Ireland: 2 Paralympics Ireland: 2 Rowing Ireland: 6 Swim Ireland: 1 Triathlon Ireland: 1
Quarter 2	0	0	54
			Athletics Ireland: 14 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 8 Canoeing Ireland: 4 Cycling Ireland: 5 Irish Sailing Association: 9 Irish Judo Association: 1 Pentathlon Ireland: 1 Paralympics Ireland: 3 Rowing Ireland: 3 Swim Ireland: 4 Triathlon Ireland: 2
Quarter 3	0	1	12
		Athletics: 1	Athletics Ireland: 2 Cycling Ireland: 5 Irish Sailing Association: 1 Pentathlon Ireland: 1 Paralympics Ireland: 3
Quarter 4	0	0	24
			Athletics Ireland: 4 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 2 Canoeing Ireland: 1 Irish Sailing Association: 4 Judo Association: 4 Irish Paralympics Ireland: 3 Rowing Ireland 1 Swim Ireland: 4 Triathlon: 1

Filing Failure: A failure by an athlete to make an accurate and complete Whereabouts Filing that enables an Athlete to be located for Testing.

Missed Test: A failure by an Athlete to available for Testing at the location and time specified in the 60-minute slot identified in their Whereabouts Filing.

Whereabouts Failure: A Filing Failure or Missed Test.

Unsuccessful Attempt: An attempt made outside the location and time specified in the 60-minute slot identified in their

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.



Tokyo 2020

Testing for Tokyo 2020

To achieve our testing goals in 2021 we worked very closely with the NGBs, NADOs from various different countries, International Federations (IFs), International Testing Agency (ITA) and International Doping Tests & Management (IDTM) to strategically test athletes in the build up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The ITA led an independent anti-doping program for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games on behalf of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Prior to the Games the ITA's Tokyo 2020 Pre-Games Expert Group, a task force of specialists from IF's – representing both team and individual sports – and NADOs and Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (RADOs) representing all five world continents, was responsible for reviewing available anti-doping information on athletes who were likely to compete in the Games. It performed a risk assessment and shared testing recommendations 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 event. The group had already taken up its work a year ago prior to the postponement of Tokyo 2020 to the year 2021. The group later re-calibrated its efforts in order to issue recommendations in line with an updated risk assessment and adapted qualification lists.

Education for Tokyo 2020

As previously highlighted, the main focus of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Plan for 2021 was to facilitate education sessions for athletes and athlete support personnel who qualified for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In preparation for the Olympic Games, 270 athletes and athlete support personnel completed face to face education. These education sessions were provided by Sport Ireland, with the aid of Sport NI, for sports that are competed in at an all island level. Some of the NGBs also provided additional face to face education sessions internally.

The primary objectives of these education sessions were to provide information on the new WADA Code, the guidelines around the importation of medicines into Japan, the TUE application procedures in the build up to and during the games and the testing procedures in the build up to and during the games. The sessions also included clear guidance on the periods of in- and out-of-competition testing during the Games themselves.

The Sport Ireland ADU also ran similar face to face education workshops for attendees at the Paralympic Games. In total, 52 athletes and athlete support personnel were educated via these sessions.





Science

Science is a vital element of the testing programme. In order to be effective, it is essential that the ADU collect samples at the right time in an athlete's training and competition schedule. A number of 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 disciplines 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, outcomes of previous TDPs.
- b) Allocation:** Depending on the risk analysis of the sport and the number of registered testing pool athletes in each sport a number of tests will be allocated to each sport.

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

All samples collected by the ADU form part of the ABP. There are two elements to the ABP – a haematological (blood) module and a steroidal (urine) module. This is a longitudinal profile of a number of samples collected from individual athletes that can indirectly reveal the effects of doping rather than direct detection of doping.

ABP Blood Samples collected by Sport in 2021

Sport	No of ABP (Blood) Samples collected
Athletics	78
Boxing	5
Canoeing	6
Cycling	62
Modern Pentathlon	7
Paralympic Athletics	9
Paralympic Cycling	38
Rowing	60
Sailing	1
Swimming	39
Triathlon	14
Total	319



Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)

An APMU is a dedicated unit responsible for the timely review and management of all athlete biological samples and passports. An APMU must be hosted independently by a WADA accredited laboratory. Sport Ireland currently 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.

WADA Technical Document for Sports Specific Analysis (TDSSA)

This document, developed by WADA, outlines the minimum level of analysis for sports and disciplines that shall be conducted for Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents (ESAs), Growth Hormone (GH) and GH Releasing Factors (GHRFs). These analyses are conducted in addition to the routine analysis of all samples. The TDSSA is based on a scientific approach linking physiological and non-physiological demands of athlete performance with the potential ergogenic benefits of those prohibited substances.

Long Term Storage and Reanalysis

The ADU implements a Sample Retention and Reanalysis Strategy. The WADA Code allows samples 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.

Samples Placed into Long Term Storage

Sample Type	Number added in 2021
Urine	264
Blood	3
Total	267

There was an increased focus in 2021 on the storage of samples from athletes who were tracking towards qualification for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This accounts for the significant increase in the number of samples stored in comparison to previous non-Olympic years.



Medications and TUE's

Eirpharm.com is the Irish Pharmacy Website which was developed in 2000 as an online database where those subject to drug testing can check the status of their prescription and non-prescription medicines according to the current WADA Prohibited List. The database is regularly updated as new medicines are marketed, medicines are discontinued and in accordance with changes in the WADA Prohibited List. Each year, the Eirpharm website provides an updated Guide for Prescribers, in addition to a summary of the changes which may affect prescribers due to changes in the WADA list for that year.

Sport Ireland has endorsed the database as an accurate online source of anti-doping information in 2001 and since then it has grown to include over 3,600 medicines, both prescription and non-prescription which are marketed in Ireland. Site users can query the database either by medication name or by ailment, allowing them to check specific products or showing them appropriate options for their condition based on the ailment selected.

1,083

DIFFERENT MEDICINES WERE SEARCHED OF THE 3,686 MEDICINES LISTED ON THE DATABASE IN 2021

11,821

SEARCHES FOR PRODUCTS FOUND IN THE DATABASE IN 2021



Table 1: Most commonly searched individual products

Rank 2021 (Rank 2020)	Product Name	No of times searched 2021 in bold, (2020 in brackets)	What is the product?	Legal status
1 (12)	Nurofen Cold and Flu Tablets	416 (90)	Ibuprofen based cold and influenza product	Pharmacy only
2 (6)	Nurofen Plus Tablets	307 (135)	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory	Pharmacy only
3 (3)	Lemsip Max Cold and Flu	229 (245)	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale
4 (40)	Ventolin Evohaler	225 (42)	Short-acting beta-2 agonist (salbutamol) used to treat bronchospasm in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Prescription
5 (-)	Vaxzevria, COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca suspension for injection	202 (-)	COVID-19 Vaccine	Prescription

(-) This product was unavailable in 2020

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

Non-Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Type of products in range	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	Total	11821	9026	25780	25049	47555
Nurofen	Ibuprofen based range of anti-inflammatory and cold and influenza products	13.1	7.8	14.9	7.8	6.7
Lemsip	Paracetamol-based range of products for symptomatic relief of colds, influenza, coughs	8.7	8.2	6.6	9.8	10.5
Panadol	Paracetamol based range of products for pain relief and symptomatic relief of cold and influenza	4.3	2.8	^	^	^
Zirtek	Range of treatments for allergic rhinitis and urticaria	2.4	^	^	^	^
Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Therapeutic class	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Ventolin	Beta-2 agonist, primarily inhaled products	2.8	3.2	2.5	3.6	2.4

^ The percentage was not sufficiently large to be included in the annual report of that year. For more supplemental information on Eirpharm searches throughout 2021, please see Appendix 4 below

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allows an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method that is included on the WADA Prohibited List, subject to certain defined conditions.

Athletes can apply to either Sport Ireland or, in the case of an International Level Athlete, the International Federation for a TUE. For TUE approval to be granted, the athlete must have a well-documented medical condition supported by relevant and reliable medical data.

Of the valid TUE applications made to Sport Ireland in 2021 (n=15), 11 were approved by the TUE Committee (TUEC) on receipt of an appropriate and up-to-date medical file. Four applications remained as incomplete applications by the end of 2021 due to these TUEs being classified as suitable to apply as post-test TUE applications, whereby under the Irish Anti-Doping Rules certain athletes do not need to get a TUE in advance. In addition, the TUE Committee also approved one Post-Test TUE application on receipt of a valid medical file.



Figure 1: Number of TUE Applications approved in 2021 by Sport

Overall, there was a reduction in the number of approved TUE applications in 2021 (11) when compared to 2020 (18). Seven sports had TUE applications approved in 2021; three sports had a single TUE approved in 2021, this was down from 4 in 2020 and 11 in 2019. Four sports had two approved applications each.



Anti-Doping Unit Operations

The ADU works on a number of projects related to the management, development and implementation of the National Anti-Doping Programme. These projects ensure Sport Ireland has an effective and efficient Anti-Doping Programme and that there is a quality assurance procedure in place for our stakeholders.

Sample Collection Personnel Training Days

The annual Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) training took place online in November 2021 with 39 SCP now accredited for 2022. The ADU will be looking to recruit new sample collection personnel in 2022 to increase the number of accredited personnel available.

ISO Audit and Internal Audit

The ADU's Annual ISO Certification audit took place on Thursday, October 21st 2021. No findings were recorded and the Anti-Doping Unit's ISO Certification has been maintained until November 2022.

The ADU's internal audit took place on Friday, November 26th 2021. 3 minor findings were found. On the basis of internal audit findings, KOSI concluded that excellent assurance can be placed on the manner in which the ADU is managed internally in Sport Ireland.





Intelligence and Investigations

During 2021 Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Department participated in a WADA selected panel of experts which developed guidelines for Intelligence and Investigations, a Role Descriptor for Intelligence and Investigations practitioners and a training course for Intelligence and Investigations Officers and Managers. The training course was delivered as a pilot project, over a ten week period, to trainees from European NADO's by Sport Ireland, Anti-Doping Norway and WADA Intelligence and Investigations Units.

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping continues to actively participate in an intelligence sharing forum. This nationwide forum includes representatives from sporting organisations, where an Anti-Doping function is required (e.g. Horse Sport Ireland), as well as, the department of agriculture and state laboratory. The primary functions of this group are to discuss emerging trends within the anti-doping community and to share relevant information across all partners.

The Sport Ireland Anti-Doping website operates a Report Doping function to gather intelligence on doping in sport. All reports are assessed, and if necessary investigated.

Sport Ireland continues to engage with key strategic partners both nationally and internationally, in particular those which are nominated in the Sport Ireland Act, 2015. Arrangements to finalise and update data sharing agreements with several bodies are progressing.

Sport Ireland Intelligence and Investigations Department is represented on the WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (ADIIN). The ADIIN is an important global network to share best practice methods in intelligence and investigations. The ADIIN is open only to accredited intelligence and investigations agencies.

Appendices



Appendix 1: Anti-Doping Rule Violations

2021

Sport	Type of Test	Rule violated	Substance	Substance category	Sanctions
Motorsport	In Competition	2.1	Benzoyllecgonine	S6. Stimulants	3 months

2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's sample

Appendix 2: Costs of the Programme

Expenditure Heading	2020	2021
Testing (1)	839,873	1,015,691
Education & Research (2)	51,311	69,919
Salaries (3)	323,528	365,067
Other Costs (4)	689,670	405,474
Total	1,904,382	1,856,151
Erasmus Income	10,040	5,313
Income from Testing	59,569	80,861

1. Includes the cost of sample collection, transportation, laboratory analysis contracts, mobile unit costs and the in-house testing programme.
2. Includes direct education and research costs associated with the programme
3. Gross salary costs, including Employers PRSI of the six staff members of the ADU.
4. Includes legal advice associated with the programme, consultancy fees, travel and subsistence, advertising, printing, insurance and other related costs in administering the programme.

Appendix 3: Online International Meetings and Webinars

2021	Meetings and Webinars
January 22nd	ADAMS set up and Training
February 8th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education
February 9th	UNESCO Virtual consultations dedicated to the ADLogic system
February 12th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
February 25th	WADA - 2021 COVID-19 and Clean Sport Update
March 12th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
March 30th	WADA Webinar – How Athletes Can Contribute to Clean Sport
April 9th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
April 12th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education
April 13th	NADO Science Group
April 16th	Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO) General Assembly
April 20th	iNADO Capability Register
April 20th	Meeting with WADA Executive
April 22nd	WADA TUE Virtual Symposium
May 10th -11th	CAHAMA Meeting
May 12th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
May 18th -19th	International Symposium on National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) Governance
May 27th	iNADO Conference Call with WADA: findings of WADA's Governance Working Group, progress of Code 2021 implementation, Covid-19 challenges
June 1st	NADO Science Group
June 3rd	MIDAS Group
June 7th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education
June 10th and 11th	Council of Europe - Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention
June 11th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
July 1st	Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention Advisory Group on Science
July 2nd	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
August 4th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
August 25th	iNADO Discussion about WADA Audits and Corrective Action Reports
September 2nd	NADO Testing Expert Group Meeting
September 6-7th	CAHAMA Meeting
September 17th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education

September 17th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education
September 24th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
September 28th	ITA Competition. Cheating in sport: preventing competition manipulation and doping
Sept 30th	iNADO Webinar: Clean Sport Education Repository (ERASMUS+ IMPACT)
October 1st-4th	USADA Symposium on Anti-Doping Science "Synergies between Anti-Doping Science and Investigations to protect clean athletes and sport"
October 19th	iNADO Webinar: Berlinger Special AG and BD push innovation in Blood Collection with the new MDR (Medical Device Regulation)
October 22nd	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
November 3rd	Anti-Doping Testing in 2021: Olympics, Paralympics, COVID-19 and future testing changes
November 8th	Council of Europe - Group on Anti-Doping Education
November 19th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
November 25th	Implementing Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing
December 13th -14th	Council of Europe - Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention
December 15th	Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network
December 17th	RESPECT-P Research Group Meeting
December 21st	PASS (ITA Anti-Doping database) set up and training

Appendix 4: Eirpharm Searches – Supplementary Information

Outcome of Successful Searches: Status of medicines in sport

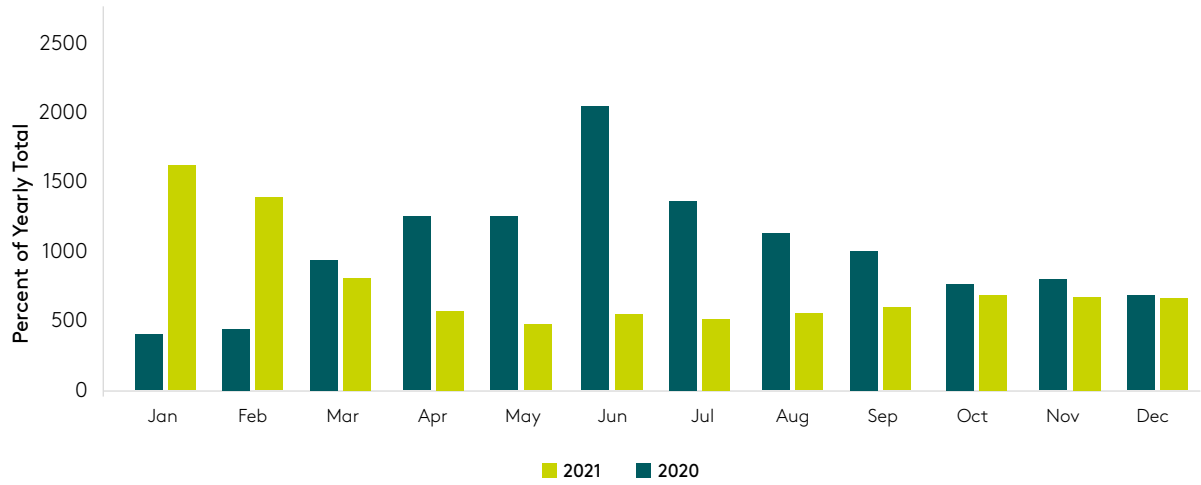
Status of Products Searched	2021 Total	2021 (%)	2020 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	2017 (%)
Permitted	9428	79.76	81.4	87.35	80.28	78.42
Prohibited	191	1.62	3.27	2.24	3.19	3.27
Prohibited In-competition Only	1451	12.27	8.95	7.60	10.58	12.08
Prohibited in-Competition or Permitted Route dependent	28	0.24	0.16	0.14	0.22	0.37
Prohibited in specific sports	18	0.15	0.34	0.11	0.18	0.32
Prohibited in men only	11	0.09	0.07	0.02	0.10	0.15
Restricted - Inhaled Salbutamol	369	3.12	4.43	1.89	3.90	3.97
Restricted - Inhaled Formoterol	108	0.91	1.04	0.39	0.98	0.90
Restricted - Inhaled Salmeterol	191	1.62	0.37	0.25	0.55	0.54
Restricted - Inhaled Vilanterol	26	0.22	-	-	-	-

Searches based on time of Year

% of yearly total	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Jan	3.4	18.0	7.5	17.2	9.6**
Feb	3.6	15.8	8	9	8.9
Mar	8.0	8.9	10	13.1	8.4
Apr	10.2	6.2	9.6	9.4	7.8
May	10.0	5.2	9.8	9	9.6
Jun	17.1	6.0	10.8	8.4	9.6
Jul	11.5	5.8	9.7	8.3	11.6
Aug	9.6	6.2	8.8	8	10.8
Sep	8.5	6.2	8.7	5.5	12.1
Oct	6.2	7.5	7.6	3.7	4.1
Nov	6.6	7.2	4.2	3.8	3.4
Dec	5.4	6.9	5.2	4.6	4.3

**Searches took place in January 2017 but were not logged due to a server set up error and the January 2017 figure is a replicate of January 2016.

Successful searches per month





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