
WHAT IS A THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION (TUE)?

Athletes may have illnesses or conditions that require them to take medications or undergo procedures. If the medication or method an athlete is required to use to treat an illness or condition is prohibited as per the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) [Prohibited List](#) a TUE may give that athlete the authorization to use that substance or method while competing without invoking an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) and applicable sanction. Applications for TUEs are evaluated by a panel of physicians, the TUE Committee (TUEC).

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTING A TUE?

All of the four following criteria must be met (for more details, please refer to the [WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\) Article 4.2](#)):

- The athlete has a clear diagnosed medical condition which requires treatment using a prohibited substance or method;
- The therapeutic use of the substance will not, on the balance of probabilities produce significant enhancement of performance beyond the athlete's normal state of health;
- The prohibited substance or method is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted therapeutic alternative;
- The necessity to use that substance or method is not a consequence of the prior use (without a TUE), of a substance or method which was prohibited at the time of use.

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR A TUE? WHERE AND WHEN TO APPLY?

Athletes who are subject to anti-doping rules would need a TUE to take a prohibited substance or use a prohibited method. You should verify with [IMWA / EMWA](#) to know to whom you need to apply and if you can apply retroactively.

First, check if the required medication or method you intend to take, or use is prohibited as per the WADA Prohibited List.

[Prohibited List / page] You may also use a 'check your medication' online too or ask your NADO if it has one.

You have a responsibility to inform your physician(s) that you are an Athlete bound to anti-doping rules. You and your physician(s) should check the [Prohibited List](#) for the substance/method you are prescribed. If the substance/method is prohibited, discuss non-prohibited alternatives, if there are none, apply for a TUE. Remember Athletes have the ultimate responsibility. Contact your NADO or [IMWA / EMWA](#) if you are having difficulties.

Please note that the following *Athletes* shall be considered to be *International-Level Athletes*, and, therefore, the specific provisions IMWA/EMWA Anti-Doping Policy applicable to *International-Level Athletes* (e.g., *TUEs*, and *Results Management*) shall apply to such *Athletes*:

- a) all *Athletes* who participate in such capacity in *Events, Competitions* and other activities organized, convened, authorized or recognized by *IMWA*, or its any *Continental Federation*,

- b) all *Athletes* who want to compete in *Events, Competitions* and other activities organized, convened, authorized or recognized by *IMWA*, or its any *Continental Federation*.

➔ **If it is determined that you are an International-Level Athlete** (see above) you must apply to your NADO in advance, as soon as the need arises, unless there are emergency or exceptional circumstances.

For substances prohibited in-competition only, you should apply for a TUE at least 30 days before your next competition, unless one of the exceptions on retroactive TUEs (see below) apply.

Please refer to the section “How to apply to **IMWA/EMWA** for a TUE?” below.

If you already have a TUE granted by your National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO):

Important: **IMWA/EMWA** will automatically recognize all TUEs granted by National Anti-Doping Organization for purposes of **IMWA/EMWA** Events without the need to review the relevant clinical information!

In such case, please notify **IMWA/EMWA** that you have a TUE granted by your NADO.

CAN I GET A RETROACTIVE TUE?

You may only apply retroactively for a TUE to your NADO if:

- You required emergency or urgent treatment of a medical condition.
- There was insufficient time, opportunity or other exceptional circumstances that prevented you from submitting the TUE application, or having it evaluated, before getting tested.
- You are a lower level athlete who is not under the jurisdiction of **IMWA/EMWA** or NADO and were tested.
- You tested positive after using a substance Out-of-Competition that is only prohibited In-Competition (for example glucocorticoids).

In rare and exceptional circumstances and notwithstanding any other provision in the ISTUE, you may apply for and be granted retroactive approval for a therapeutic use of a prohibited substance or method, if considering the purpose of the Code, it would be manifestly unfair not to grant a retroactive TUE.

This unique retroactive TUE will only be granted with the prior approval of WADA (and WADA may in its absolute discretion agree with or reject the **IMWA/EMWA**'s decision).

Important note:

Using a prohibited substance or method without a TUE could result in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

In case an application for a retroactive TUE is necessary following sample collection, you are strongly advised to have a medical file prepared and ready to submit for evaluation.

HOW TO APPLY TO **IMWA/EMWA** FOR A TUE?

Since TUE applications must be sent to your National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO), please consult your NADO's website for further information. Most of the NADOs accept TUE applications only via ADAMS, while some of them accept paper-based applications too.

If you do not have an ADAMS account yet, please contact your NADO to have your account set up.

Your TUE application must be submitted in legible capital letters or typing.

The medical file must include:

- A comprehensive medical history, including documentation from the original diagnosing physician(s) (where possible);
- The results of all examinations, laboratory investigations and imaging studies relevant to the application.

Any TUE application that is not complete or legible will not be dealt with and will be returned for completion and re-submission.

To assist you and your doctor in providing the correct medical documentation, we suggest consulting the WADA's [Checklists for TUE applications](#) for guidance and support, and [Medical Information to Support the Decisions of TUECs](#) for guidance on specific common medical conditions, treatments, substances, etc.

Keep a complete copy of the TUE application form and all medical information submitted in support of your application, and proof that it has been sent.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A DECISION ON MY TUE APPLICATION [OR REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION]?

The Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) of the competent NADO shall promptly evaluate and decide upon the application in accordance with the relevant provisions of the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions and usually (i.e., unless exceptional circumstances apply) within no more than twenty-one (21) days of receipt of a complete application. Where the application is made in a reasonable time prior to an Event, the TUEC must use its best endeavors to issue its decision before the start of the Event. Please make sure that your TUE application is filed as early as possible.

WHAT IF I NEED TO RENEW MY TUE?

Each TUE has a specific duration, at the end of which it expires automatically. Should you need to continue to use the prohibited substance or method, it is your responsibility to submit a new application for a TUE with updated medical information ahead of the expiry date, so that there is sufficient time for a decision to be made prior to the expiry of the current TUE.

Important note:

The presence (following sample collection), use, possession or administration of the prohibited substance or method must be consistent with the terms of your TUE. Therefore, if you require a materially different dosage, frequency, route or duration of administration, you should contact your NADO, as you may be required to apply for a new TUE. Some substances and dosages, e.g. insulin, are often modified during treatment and these possible fluctuations should be mentioned by the treating physician in the TUE application and would usually be accepted by the ADO TUEC.

WHAT IF MY TUE APPLICATION IS DENIED?

A decision to deny a TUE application will include a written explanation of the reason(s) for the denial. If it is not clear to you, please contact your NADO to understand exactly why the TUE was denied. Sometimes, there may be a critical piece of information, diagnostic test, laboratory results missing, etc. In which case, you should re-apply to us.

You may refer the matter to WADA for review no later than 21 days after notification of the TUEC decision. You should send the same information that you submitted to us, and on which the decision to deny the TUE was based on, via a secure on-line method or by registered mail at:

WADA Medical Department
World Anti-Doping Agency
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Place Victoria (Suite 1700)
P.O. Box 120
Montreal (Quebec) H4Z 1B7
Canada

The email address to enquire and/or send the request for review is: medical@wada-ama.org

It should be noted that WADA is not obliged to proceed with a request for a review. In that case, you and/or your NADO may appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

WILL MY MEDICAL INFORMATION BE TREATED IN A CONFIDENTIAL MANNER?

All the information contained in a TUE application, including the supporting medical information and any other information related to the evaluation of your TUE request is kept strictly confidential and treated in accordance with the Athlete's Declaration contained in the ADAMS TUE process. All National Anti-Doping Organizations who will deal with your TUE requests, and members of the NADO TUEC and any other authorized recipients of your TUE request and related information are subject to a professional or contractual confidentiality obligation.

Your TUE request-related information will be retained by your National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) and any other authorized recipients for no longer than necessary for the purposes stated in the Athlete's Declaration, in accordance with the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a doubt as regards to which organization you should apply for a TUE, or as to the recognition process, or any other question about TUEs, please contact us at: [\[Insert applicable contact details\]](#)

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

[WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#)

[WADA Checklists for TUE Applications](#)

[WADA Guidelines for the 2021 International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#)

[WADA Anti-Doping Education and Learning \(ADEL\)](#)