

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY SAMPLE?

Every sample you provide is collected, analysed and investigated according to international rules set out in the World Anti-Doping Code. These rules are designed to protect your rights, and ensure the process is the same no matter where you are tested in the world. Let's explore the journey your sample takes from collection to storage.



STEP 1

SAMPLE COLLECTION

The Sample Collection Officer will identify themselves and notify you that you have been selected for testing. They could be from Sport Integrity Australia, or another sample collection agency used by your International Federation. In Australia there are multiple agencies who can collect samples.

A Sample Collection Officer will observe you as you provide a sample. They will then manage the sample collection process including assisting with paperwork, instructing you on how to divide the sample into A and B parts, and how to seal it in a special tamper-evident bottle.



TIP

who is testing you.

TIP

rights can be found in the

Athlete Testing Guide.

STEP 2

SAMPLE TRANSPORTATION

Your sample is shipped to an independent WADA accredited lab, usually the local one. In Australia, that's in Sydney. If the test is conducted overseas, it can go to one of 30 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited labs. It can't just go to any lab.

Only authorised couriers are used to ensure a chain of custody for the sample is maintained.



STEP 3

SAMPLE INSPECTION

When the sample arrives at the lab, it is inspected for any evidence of tampering or leaking that may affect the integrity of the sample. The sample analysis process is completely anonymous - there is no way for the lab to identify which athlete provided the sample, they can only see the identification numbers on the kit.

TIP

I his is why you should always double check the identification numbers on your kit match the ones on your paperwork





SAMPLE ANALYSIS

The lab securely stores the B sample, and prepares the A sample for analysis. The B sample is only opened in the event of a positive test.

A lab technician opens the A sample and removes a small amount, which is tested for prohibited substances, or markers that indicate a prohibited substance or method has been used. For most samples, the Lab will determine whether it is negative, positive, or atypical.



STEP 5

SAMPLE RESULTS

After analysis is complete, the results are entered into a global database called ADAMS and reported to the organisation that ordered the test – either Sport Integrity Australia, the International Federation or a Major Event Organisation. If a sample is negative, you will not be contacted. No news is good news.

An atypical sample is neither positive nor negative and is extremely rare. If this happens, Sport Integrity Australia will be notified and will be required to investigate why the atypical result has occurred.

If a sample returns a positive result for a prohibited substance or method, the lab will certify the result before submitting a report to the database. The investigation process for a positive sample is explained below.



STEP 6

SAMPLE STORAGE

Your sample may be stored for up to 10 years. A sample can be re-analysed at any time using new, state-of-the-art detection methods. You can also consent to having your sample stored for anonymous scientific research to help keep sport clean and fair.

INVESTIGATION

IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE TEST

If a positive result is confirmed during sample analysis, the Lab submits a report into ADAMS and Sport Integrity Australia is notified of the positive result. Sport Integrity Australia matches the testing kit identification numbers on the report to the athlete who provided the sample. The athlete will then be notified of the positive result. The athlete is advised of their rights during the investigation process, and options for wellbeing support.

In the event of a positive test, all athletes have the right to have their B sample analysed. Athletes may attend the B sample

opening and analysis in person, or appoint a representative. Alternatively, athletes can waive their right to have their B sample analysed.

From here, Sport Integrity Australia will undertake its investigation process according to the investigation rules set by the Code. This process is designed to gather all the evidence and facts that led up to the positive result. This is especially important when an athlete can't remember or show how the substance entered their system. An investigation may involve interviewing witnesses,

including the athlete. Depending on the substance or method involved, the athlete may be suspended while the investigation takes place – there are strict rules in the Code about this, and the rules are the same worldwide. It is up to the Anti-Doping Organisation conducting the investigation as to whether any provisional suspension is announced publicly or not.

Once the investigation is finalised, the length of sanction, if any, is determined and a report is prepared for WADA. After a sanction is received by the athlete, they can elect to contest the outcome

in a hearing - this could be before the National Sports Tribunal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport or a sport's disciplinary body. WADA and the International Federation have 30 days to appeal any decision by Sport Integrity Australia, or a tribunal. Once this process is over, the outcome will be published on the Sport Integrity Australia website, according to the Code.