



No. 35/2024

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS
TO CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN UEFA COMPETITIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference

Date

ZBA/RLE

1 July 2024

Anti-doping information letter season 2024/25

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the start of the new season, I am writing to inform you about several aspects of UEFA's anti-doping programme that need to be communicated to players and relevant staff at your association or club. While this letter will be sent directly to clubs qualified for UEFA competitions, we ask that Member Associations ensure it is forwarded to the team representatives and team doctors from each of their national teams.

Anti-doping

Player and player support personnel education

A core principle of UEFA's anti-doping programme is that all players should receive education prior to their first test. UEFA conducts doping controls in all its competitions; therefore, it is crucial that players from national teams and qualified clubs receive education prior to competing at international level. Given the crucial role that player support personnel have in helping players to stay clean, they should also be included in any education activity.

To support this aim, UEFA has included funding for anti-doping education activities in the HatTrick VI. To receive the funding, Member Associations, in collaboration with their National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), are required to deliver anti-doping education activities that are designed to raise awareness, inform, instil values, and develop decision-making abilities in players and player-support staff to prevent intentional and unintentional doping.

Member Associations must ensure that players and player support personnel (medical staff and coaches) of national teams in UEFA competitions complete anti-doping education at least once every two years. Furthermore, as per the Youth Competition regulations, for Youth players in U17, U19, WU17, WU19 and Futsal U19, this education must be face-to-face.

All education sessions must be delivered by a trained and competent person and they should include, as a minimum, information on the following topics: principles and values associated with clean sport, player and player support personnel's rights and responsibilities, doping control procedures, prohibited substances and methods, anti-doping rule violations, consequences of doping, how to report doping concerns, safe use of medication and risks of food supplements and social drugs. Players should be

informed that doping controls can be carried out at any time, both in- and out-of-competition, and that both urine and blood samples may be collected.

Players should also be shown the enclosed "Doping control data – information for players" document, which contains details on their rights and responsibilities during a doping control, the information included on the doping control form and also their acknowledgement and agreement to the processing of their data.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the UEFA anti-doping unit at antidoping@uefa.ch. Players, Parents, Coaches and Team Doctors can also be directed to WADA's [E-Learning platform, ADEL](#) where there is dedicated education for each target group.

Doping controls

UEFA have in-competition and out-of-competition testing authority over players in all its competitions. In addition to UEFA doping controls, players must be aware that tests may also be conducted by NADOs or by FIFA out-of-competition and in competitions falling under their respective competence. UEFA aims to coordinate its doping controls as much as possible with these other organisations and has signed collaboration agreements with 33 European NADOs for this purpose. Nevertheless, teams and players may be tested several times in quick succession, either randomly or targeted.

UEFA's testing procedures can be found in the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations (ADR), however, for additional clarity, please note the following two points below:

Immediate Reporting to the Doping Control Station (DCS)

In accordance with Article 21.10 of the ADR, players selected for a doping control are required to report immediately to the DCS, once notified by the UEFA Doping Control Officer (DCO) or Chaperone. Players are not permitted to return to their dressing room. Any breach of this regulation may be sanctioned in accordance with Annex A VI of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations.

Evasion, refusal or failing to undergo a doping control can be considered as an anti-doping rule violation under Article 2.3 ADR and can result in the player being banned for up to four years in accordance with Article 10.3.1 ADR.

Injured Players

If a player is injured either before or during the match and the Team Doctor intends to evacuate them to hospital, the UEFA DCO must examine them first to assess the severity of the injury. It is the DCO's decision whether they can leave the stadium to go to hospital immediately or whether they must undergo any potential doping control first.

If this is not complied with, the player could face a potential anti-doping rule violation if selected and fails to report to the DCS under Article 2.3 and 2.5 ADR.

Instructions to organisers of UEFA matches

The home team must provide a DCS as described in Annex B of the UEFA ADR. For certain competitions, UEFA sets additional requirements for the DCS, details of these can be found in the relevant Competition Manuals.

Match organisers should also ensure that the Wi-Fi is sufficiently strong in the DCS and the Wi-Fi network name and password are clearly displayed so that UEFA's Digital Doping Control Forms can be used by the UEFA Doping Control Officer (DCO).

For each match, the home team is requested to identify one person who could operate as a Doping Control Chaperone (DCC), in case of the arrival of a UEFA DCO. The person identified as the DCC is able to undertake other tasks, such as security, ticket collection, stewarding, etc., but must be available for a short training session upon the DCO's arrival and must remain fully at their disposal from the 80th minute of the match until the doping control has been completed. Further information on the requirements of the DCC can be found in the [Documents section](#) in TIME. For certain competitions, more than one chaperone is required. Further details can be found in the relevant Competition Manuals.

For each match where UEFA **does not** have a Venue Director/Match Manager present, the home team is requested to designate one person to act as a Doping Control Liaison Officer (DCLO). Their duty is to ensure that the DCS and all necessary materials and equipment are available and ready for the purposes of the doping control. The DCLO does not need to be medically trained and can undertake other match organisational tasks (including those to be completed by the Chaperone, if they fulfil the necessary requirements). They should, however, be able to speak English and must remain available until the doping control has been completed.

At each match, two top-category seats must be reserved for UEFA DCOs in the directors' box or equivalent. These seats should be located at the end of a row, near the seat reserved for the UEFA match delegate and must provide easy access to the DCS.

Stewards at the main stadium gates must be informed that persons who show UEFA DCO identification are to be granted free access to the stadium. At all matches where a DCO is present, the home team must also organise transport for the DCO back to their hotel on completion of the doping control.

Minors

There are certain specific requirements for collecting a sample from a minor that must be adhered to in the test procedures. A minor is defined in the UEFA ADR as a natural person who has not reached the age of 18.

Players who are minors must be accompanied by a team representative throughout the entire doping control process. If no team representative is available, the minor must be accompanied by a representative of the DCO.

Member Associations and clubs participating in UEFA competitions undertake to ensure that the enclosed 'Acknowledgement and agreement form for minors' is duly completed and signed for each minor participating. Please note that this must be done before the start of a competition, and not only before final rounds. The completed forms must be kept by the Member Associations or clubs and submitted to UEFA upon request.

WADA Prohibited List

Each year, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) publishes on its website (<https://www.wada-ama.org>) a list of substances and methods that are prohibited in all sports. The Prohibited List comes into effect

on 1 January each year and is published by WADA three months prior to coming into force; however, in exceptional circumstances, a substance may be added to the Prohibited List at any time.

Players are personally responsible for ensuring that that no prohibited substance, drug or medication enters their body.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

Players who are participating in UEFA competitions or in senior international (national A team) friendly matches and need to use a prohibited substance or prohibited method for therapeutic reasons must request prior authorisation from UEFA by submitting an application through UEFA's digital [TUE application form](#). The TUE form can also be found by simply typing **tue.uefa.com** into any search engine. Applications must be made to UEFA only and not to NADOs.

TUE applications that are sent to UEFA will be processed in accordance with WADA's [International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#). A complete file of medical evidence and written consent from both the player and the treating physician must be submitted with the application. Unless emergency or urgent treatment of a medical condition is necessary, (to be proven when applying for a TUE), doctors must not administer a prohibited substance or prohibited method before a TUE has been granted or recognised by UEFA.

Doctors, together with the player, shall ensure that all the requirements are met before applying to UEFA for a TUE; otherwise, applications will be sent back to the applicant for further information and the process for granting a TUE will be delayed. WADA publishes checklists on the requirements for TUE applications for many common medical conditions. These checklists can be downloaded from the [WADA website](#).

WADA has also developed a guidance document on [Glucocorticoids \(GCs\) and Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(TUEs\)](#) in order to assist team doctors in their understanding of the rules regarding injectable routes of administration of GCs which came into force in January 2022.

TUEs granted by FIFA are automatically valid for UEFA competitions. However, TUEs granted by NADOs are not valid for UEFA competitions unless they have been recognised by UEFA. In case of a NADO TUE recognition request, please email anti-doping@uefa.ch with the ADAMS reference of the NADO TUE.

Players participating in youth-level international friendly matches (i.e. any national youth team up to and including Under-21) must apply to their NADO for a TUE, and not to UEFA. If the player is subsequently called up to play in an official UEFA youth competition, they must apply to UEFA for recognition before the start of the competition.

Please forward this circular, the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations, 2021 edition, and the 2024 WADA Prohibited List immediately to your team doctors, who must in turn inform their players.

Anti-doping section of UEFA.com

All documents related to anti-doping matters (UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations, edition 2021; 2024 WADA Prohibited List; WADA Summary of major modifications to the List, UEFA Guide to the WADA Prohibited List and TUEs; UEFA Circular Letter No 60/2023 concerning the 2024 WADA Prohibited List; players'

education leaflets, WADA Guidance on Glucocorticoids) and any other relevant anti-doping information may be downloaded in several languages from the dedicated anti-doping section of [UEFA.com](https://uefa.com). They can also be downloaded from the anti-doping section in TIME.

Integrity Platform

UEFA has a confidential Integrity platform which has been designed to enable players and team staff to report their doping suspicions. UEFA encourages anyone who has witnessed an anti-doping rule violation being committed, or who has reasonable grounds to believe that doping has taken place in football, to get in touch via the platform. Informers can provide their contact details if they wish or can access a secure post-box where information can be reported anonymously. The Integrity platform can be accessed online via UEFA's website <https://integrity.uefa.org/index.php> or via the 'UEFA Integrity App' that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Should you have any queries or require additional information please contact antidoping@uefa.ch

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosures

- [UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations, edition 2021](#)
- [UEFA Disciplinary Regulations, edition 2024](#)
- [Summary of major modifications and explanatory notes of the 2023 WADA Prohibited List](#)
- [WADA Guidance on Glucocorticoids](#)
- [UEFA Circular Letter No 60/2023](#)
- Doping control data – information for players
- Acknowledgement and agreement form for minors
- UEFA Guide to the WADA Prohibited List and TUEs
- [UEFA TUE application form](#)

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA Medical Committee
- FIFA, Zurich