

Therapeutic Use Exemptions

1. What is a Therapeutic Use Exemption?

A Therapeutic Use Exemption, or “TUE”, authorizes an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method to treat a legitimate medical condition or illness while continuing to play wheelchair rugby. Athletes with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a prohibited substance or method are required to obtain a TUE before beginning treatment.

Without a TUE, athletes risk committing an anti-doping rule violation, an offence that may result in a sanction regardless of the medical circumstances.

2. When should an athlete apply for a TUE?

- a. When an athlete is advised by their medical doctor or specialist that they require a Prohibited Substance to treat their medical condition or illness and has supporting medical evidence to prove this.
- b. When an athlete is administered a prohibited substance in a medical emergency. In this case the athlete is required to apply retroactively for a TUE. Note that a retroactive TUE will only be granted in emergency situations or in exceptional circumstances where there was insufficient time or opportunity for an athlete to submit, or the TUE Committee to consider an application prior to doping control.
- c. In addition to the circumstances outlined in (a) and (b) above an athlete should only submit a TUE application to either IWRF or their National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) when they meet the required criteria.

3. What are the criteria for granting a TUE?

A TUE will be granted only in strict accordance with the following criteria:

- a. The athlete would experience significant health problems without taking the prohibited substance or method;
- b. The therapeutic use of the substance would produce no additional enhancement of performance other than that which might be anticipated by a return to a state of normal health following the treatment of a legitimate medical condition; and
- c. There is no reasonable therapeutic alternative to the use of the otherwise prohibited substance or method.

4. Who has to apply for a TUE and where do they submit it?

All wheelchair rugby athletes should obtain a TUE in advance of the administration of the prohibited substance or method.

Athletes who are not competing internationally should apply for and obtain TUEs in accordance with the procedures of their national IWRF member organization.

Athletes included in the IWRF Registered Testing Pool must apply for and obtain TUEs from the IWRF Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC).

Athletes who are not in the IWRF Registered Testing Pool but who participate in IWRF-sanctioned international competitions should apply for and obtain TUEs in accordance with the procedures of their national IWRF member organization. A copy of all approved TUEs for these athletes must be forwarded to the IWRF TUEC for review.

Applications should be submitted at least 30 days prior to an athlete's participation in IWRF-sanctioned international competitions.

The **IWRF TUE Application Form** can be downloaded from the anti-doping section of the IWRF web site at www.iwrf.com. Applications can be submitted by email to info@iwrf.com.

5. What about medical emergencies or acute medical situations?

In the case of medical emergencies, where a substance is required to administered for a life-saving situation, an application can be submitted retroactively. If a medical emergency requiring a retroactive TUE arises within 30 days before an IWRF sanctioned international competition, this application should be submitted to the IWRF TUEC.

In exceptional circumstances*, where an acute medical situation arises that requires treatment with a prohibited substance or method within 30 days before an IWRF sanctioned international competition, a TUE application should be submitted to the IWRF TUEC. In this situation, treatment with the prohibited substance or method must not begin until the TUE application has been approved.

***Failure to apply for a TUE for an existing medical condition prior to 30 days before an IWRF-sanctioned international competition does not constitute an exceptional circumstance.**

6. What is Mutual Recognition of TUEs?

IWRF will recognise TUEs granted by other Anti-Doping Organisations under the mutual recognition provision of the WADA Code upon submission of a current and valid copy of the TUE application and certificate of approval subject to the approval of the IWRF

TUEC. The IWRF TUEC has the right to review and appeal all TUE approvals where approval has been granted by another Anti-Doping Organisation.

7. How do I know if my application has been approved?

The IWRF TUEC or other TUEC will issue a Certificate of Approval to the athlete which will be for the specified medication, the defined route of administration, dose and will outline the expiry date. Athletes must comply with all the treatment conditions outlined in their TUE Certificate of Approval and should reapply well in advance of their current TUE expiring.

8. What if my TUE is denied?

If an athlete who is part of IWRF's Registered Testing Pool or who is going to participate in an IWRF-sanctioned international competition has a TUE application denied then they may appeal the decision of the IWRF TUEC to WADA.

Any decision by WADA reversing the granting or denial of a TUE may be appealed exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) by the athlete or IWRF.

Decisions by IWRF TUEC which are not reversed by WADA may be appealed by the athlete to CAS.

9. List of IWRF-sanctioned international competitions that require a TUE application or copy of a TUE certificate to be sent to IWRF:

- IWRF World Championship
- All IWRF Zone Championships
- Qualifying events for IWRF Championships and Paralympic Games
- All other international tournaments sanctioned by IWRF (e.g. Canada Cup, Denmark Challenge, etc.)

For all other wheelchair rugby events and tournaments, athletes should submit their TUE application to their NADO. If a national IWRF member organization does not have a NADO then the TUE application may be submitted to IWRF TUEC.

10. Where can I find more information?

A full copy of the IWRF Anti-doping Rules can be found in the anti-doping section of the IWRF web site at www.iwrf.com.

This is an educational guide only. In the event of any inconsistency the IWRF Anti-doping Rules shall take precedence.