

VADA Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Policy

1. It is each Athlete's personal duty to ensure that no prohibited substance enters his or her body. Athletes are responsible for any prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers found to be present in their samples. Athletes and their physicians may apply for permission to use a prohibited method or a substance prohibited by VADA for legitimate therapeutic purposes.

2. The application for a TUE must be reviewed by a VADA-appointed representative. The final decision of whether to grant or revoke a TUE lies solely with VADA.

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

- a. The Athlete would experience significant health impairment if the method or substance were withheld in the course of training or competition.**
- b. The therapeutic use of the prohibited substance or method will not produce any additional enhancement or provide the Athlete with an unfair advantage or disadvantage other than that which might be anticipated by treating a legitimate medical condition that will maintain the Athlete's normal health.**
- c. There is no reasonable therapeutic alternative other than the prohibited substance or method.**

4. A TUE will be valid during the current time period the Athlete is registered in the VADA program but will not extend beyond the Athlete's next scheduled competition / fight. The athlete will need to reapply or request to have their TUE extended should they re-enter the VADA program for another bout.

5. TUE Application Process.

- a. The athlete should submit a TUE application as soon as possible, in most cases no less than twenty-one (21) days before he/she needs approval (for instance, when registering as a VADA Athlete).**
- b. The application shall list any previous and or current TUE requests, to whom the request was made, the decision of that organization, and the decisions of any other body on review or appeal.**
- c. The application must include a comprehensive medical history, including the results of examinations, laboratory investigations and imaging studies relevant to the application.**

d. The application must include a statement by an appropriately qualified physician attesting to the necessity of the otherwise prohibited substance or prohibited method in the treatment of the player and describing why an alternative, permitted medication cannot, or could not, be used in the treatment of this condition.

e. The substance, method, dose, frequency, route and duration of administration of the prohibited substance or method shall be specified. If any of these change, a new application must be submitted promptly.

f. VADA reserves the right to request any additional information, including but not limited to documents and data related to the clinical diagnosis and the Athlete's medical history. This may occur before or after the TUE application has been approved.

g. Decisions regarding the TUE application will be submitted in writing to the Athlete, in most cases within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the TUE application from the Athlete.

6. An application for a TUE will not be considered for retroactive approval except in extremely rare cases where:

a. emergency treatment or treatment of an acute medical condition was necessary, or

b. due to exceptional circumstances, there was insufficient time or opportunity for an applicant to submit, or VADA to consider, an application prior to doping control.

The Athlete MUST inform VADA as soon as possible by fax or email if one of these circumstances occur. A TUE will not be considered for retroactive appeal if there is a failure to timely inform VADA of the exceptional circumstances.

7. A TUE will be cancelled if any of the following apply:

a. The Athlete does not promptly comply with any requirements or conditions imposed by VADA granting the exemption.

b. The TUE term has expired.

c. The Athlete was advised the TUE has expired; or

d. A decision granting the TUE has been reversed by VADA.

8. Confidentiality of Information. The collection, storage, processing, disclosure and application regarding a TUE will not be released to unauthorized persons

without the written consent of the Athlete. As part of the TUE application, VADA will require the Athlete's written consent for transmission of all information relating to the TUE request for appropriate review by independent medical or scientific experts and staff in review, management or appeal of the TUE.

9. VADA may amend these policies at any time at its sole discretion. Athletes and their agents are responsible for being aware of the current policies.

10. The TUE application is available on the forms section of VADA's website. The application should be submitted by the Athlete or his/her representative as early as possible by fax or email to VADA. It is the Athlete's responsibility to ensure that the TUE application has been received by VADA. If the Athlete does not receive confirmation of receipt of the TUE application with three business days of its submission, the Athlete should contact VADA immediately.