



## **Eligibility, Requirements, and Results Management Policy**

VADA's policy is to promote the anti-doping principles of fair competition, the health and safety of athletes, and the integrity of sport. To that end, eligible athletes participating in the VADA program will be subject to frequent biological testing. All results may be reported to a commission or other organization with the authority to levy appropriate and adequate sanctions, suspensions, and/or penalties against any athlete who violates these principles.

### **I. Athlete Eligibility**

#### **A. Boxers and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Fighters**

1. In order to be eligible for participation in the VADA program, a fighter must be currently licensed, or have a pending application for a license, in the jurisdiction in which the Athlete's next scheduled bout or competition will take place.
2. The program participation application should be submitted as early as possible, but in most cases no less than eight (8) weeks before the bout / competition is scheduled to take place.
3. VADA may refuse a fighter admission into the program where VADA finds, in its discretion, that the Athlete's participation in the program would not promote VADA's mission. VADA may investigate the background of athletes through resources such as the Federal Suspension List and Fight Fax.

#### **B. Other Athletes**

1. Although the VADA program was primarily intended for participation by boxers and MMA fighters, other athletes may qualify for participation at VADA's discretion.
2. In order for an athlete other than a boxer or MMA Fighter to be eligible for participation in the VADA program, the athlete should be a member of an organization, league, or other sanctioning body that has adequate policies in place to levy appropriate sanctions and/or penalties against an athlete who is found to be guilty of a doping violation. The adequacy of

these anti-doping policies shall be determined at the sole discretion of VADA.

## **II. Athlete Responsibilities**

- A. Athletes shall be responsible for knowing what constitutes an anti-doping rule violation and the substances and methods which are prohibited by VADA. These substances and methods are described on the Prohibited List, which can be found at VADA's website.
- B. 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 biological samples. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing use on the Athlete's part be demonstrated in order to establish a doping violation.
- C. Athletes must be very cautious about the use of any dietary supplements or medications. Certain dietary supplements or medications may contain small amounts of banned substances, even when those substances are not listed on the label. Athletes are strictly liable for any substance found in their bodily specimen, regardless of how the substance got there.
- D. Notification
  1. Upon admission into the VADA program, an athlete must notify the state commission in which the bout / competition is being held that the athlete has entered the VADA program. An athlete will also notify the promoter of the bout / competition and the sanctioning body, if applicable.
  2. Although VADA may also communicate with the relevant commission, promoter, or sanctioning body about the athlete's participation in VADA, the athlete is responsible for giving such notification.
  3. An athlete shall not be considered admitted into the VADA program unless he or she has received written notification from VADA informing the athlete that he or she has been admitted.
  4. Athletes must notify VADA as soon as possible if there is any change of venue, date, or time for the bout / competition.

- D. Athletes must be available for potential specimen collection on every day following their admission to the VADA program. If an Athlete's participation in the VADA program is scheduled to terminate following a particular bout / competition, the Athlete must be available for potential specimen collection for up to 48 hours following the bout / competition.

### **III. Management of Testing Results**

#### **A. Review of Results**

1. All laboratory analysis results will be reviewed by VADA.
2. An "Adverse Analytical Finding" is defined as a report from a laboratory that identifies in a sample the presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers (including elevated quantities of endogenous substances) or evidence of the use of a prohibited method.
3. Upon receipt of an A Sample Adverse Analytical Finding, VADA shall conduct a review to determine whether (a) the Adverse Analytical Finding is consistent with an applicable TUE, or (b) there is any departure from laboratory standards.
4. If the initial review of the Adverse Analytical Finding by VADA does not reveal an applicable TUE, or departure from laboratory standards that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, VADA shall promptly notify the Athlete of the A Sample Adverse Analytical Finding and the Athlete's right to promptly request the analysis of the B Sample or, failing such request, that the B Sample analysis may be deemed waived. VADA shall also promptly notify the applicable promoter and athletic commission of the A Sample Adverse Analytical Finding.
5. An "Atypical Finding" is defined as a report from a laboratory that further investigation is warranted. This may occur in the case of samples containing prohibited substances that are produced endogenously. VADA will conduct an investigation into the cause of any Atypical Findings and the Athlete agrees to assist in any such investigation, including submission to further testing.

#### **B. Dissemination of Results**

1. VADA will send all adverse or atypical results—including A Sample Adverse Analytical Findings, B Sample Adverse Analytical Findings, and Atypical Findings—to the bout promoter and appropriate commission of the state in which

the bout or competition is being held (or other authority, such as a sanctioning body, if deemed appropriate by VADA).

VADA may also, in its discretion, report to the appropriate promoter, commission, and/or other authority if VADA deems that the B Sample analysis is being unduly delayed. VADA may also report negative results.

2. VADA may send all results to Fight Fax or other official record keeper that may submit the appropriate information to the Federal Suspension List.
3. VADA may send the results of any Adverse Analytical Findings or Atypical Findings to the Association of Boxing Commissions and/or any sanctioning body, if applicable.
4. VADA will cooperate with the commission or other sanctioning body for the purpose of levying penalties, suspensions, or other sanctions against an Athlete in violation of VADA policy.

#### C. Violations of VADA Policy

1. A doping violation or another violation of VADA policy will result in the removal of the Athlete from the VADA program.
2. Sufficient proof of a doping violation is established by either of the following: presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in the Athlete's A Sample where the Athlete waives analysis of the B Sample and the B Sample is not analyzed; or, where the Athlete's B Sample is analyzed and the analysis of the Athlete's B Sample confirms the presence of the prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers found in the athlete's A Sample. VADA may in its discretion choose to have the B Sample analyzed even if the athlete does not request the analysis of the B Sample. VADA may establish that a doping violation has been committed if it finds that analysis of the B Sample is being unduly delayed.
3. Excepting those substances for which a quantitative threshold is specifically identified in the Prohibited List, the presence of any quantity of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an Athlete's Sample shall constitute a violation of VADA policy.
4. There also may be special criteria established for the evaluation of prohibited substances that can also be produced endogenously (e.g. EPO, hGH, testosterone, etc.).
5. The success or failure of an athlete's use of a prohibited substance or prohibited method is not material. It is sufficient that the prohibited substance or prohibited method was used

or attempted to be used for a violation of VADA policy to be committed.

6. A violation may also be established by other reliable means such as admissions by the Athlete, witness statements, documentary evidence, conclusions drawn from longitudinal profiling, or other analytical information which does not otherwise satisfy all the requirements to establish a doping violation. For example, a doping violation may be established based upon reliable analytical data from the analysis of an A Sample (without confirmation from an analysis of a B Sample) or from the analysis of a B Sample alone where the laboratory provides a satisfactory explanation for the lack of confirmation in the other sample.
7. Possession of a prohibited substance or method will constitute a doping violation, unless the Athlete establishes that the possession is pursuant to a therapeutic use exemption ("TUE") that has been granted by VADA or other acceptable justification.
8. A *Whereabouts* failure may also constitute a violation of VADA policy and warrant removal from the program. Please refer to VADA's *Whereabouts Policy*.
9. The decision of VADA is final.