

2027 CODE & IS UPDATE PROCESS

International Standard for Testing

Concepts for Consideration and Feedback

Executive Summary

The International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) is a comprehensive, technical, and specialized International Standard that has undergone multiple rounds of revision since its first publication in 2003. The scope of the ISTI is to plan for intelligent and effective testing, both in-competition and out-of-competition, and to maintain the integrity, identity and security of the samples collected from the point the athlete is notified of their selection for testing, to the point the samples are delivered to the laboratory for analysis. To that end, the ISTI (including its Annexes) establishes mandatory requirements for test distribution planning (including collection and use of athlete whereabouts information), notification of athletes, preparing for and conducting sample collection, security/post-test administration of samples and documentation, and transport of samples to laboratories for analysis.

As a result of the development of the new International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations (ISII), the Investigations (I) element of the IST(I) will be removed, and the IS will become the International Standard for Testing (IST). As such, current Articles 11 (*Gathering, Assessment and Use of Intelligence*) and 12 (*Investigations*) of the ISTI will be amended and or removed accordingly.

The IST Drafting Team has identified the following concepts which it considers will help further strengthen and clarify the IST as part of the 2027 Code & IS Update Process and welcomes stakeholder feedback on these concepts and related procedures.

Concept #1 – The Timely Analysis of Samples Collected prior to a Major Event¹

In the past, there have been a number of situations where athletes had samples collected from them shortly before the start of a major event (e.g., before athletes travel from their home country to the country of the major event), and the analytical results of those samples were reported by WADA accredited laboratories during the event or after it had concluded. In some cases, this has resulted in an adverse analytical finding (AAF). This poses further issues when the athlete who returns an AAF finishes on the podium and following a result management process has an anti-doping rule violation confirmed, and therefore medals have to be re-allocated at a later date. This situation may also prevent another athlete from having the opportunity to compete at the major event in the place of the athlete who committed the anti-doping rule violation.

¹ For the purpose of this concept a major event includes the Olympics or Paralympic Games, World Championships or other multi-sport events.

As such the IST Drafting Team proposes that if testing authorities plan to collect samples from athletes shortly before a major event takes place e.g., within 21 days, they must arrange with a WADA accredited laboratory e.g., via ADAMS, to prioritize these samples for a quick turnaround analysis. Ideally, the reporting of the results and the initiation of any results management process for these samples should occur at the latest before the athlete travels to the major event.

The IST Drafting Team acknowledges that there will be situations where testing will need to occur immediately before the major event or where the laboratory requires additional time to confirm specific analyses or confirm initial analytical procedures (such that the results management process cannot occur before the major event). However, the main objective is to minimize the risk of such situations occurring. In proposing this concept, the 21 days before a major event should not become a 'no testing window' for Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs).

Concept #2 – Whereabouts Requirements for Athletes

The IST establishes the requirements for athletes in a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and stipulates that their whereabouts information must be filed in ADAMS (see Code Article 14.5.b). In addition, the ability for ADOs to include athletes in a Testing Pool (TP), which is the whereabouts pool below an RTP, was introduced in the 2021 version of the ISTI. Athletes in a TP are also required to file accurate whereabouts to assist ADOs in locating them for testing. Currently ISTI Article 4.8.10.4 states that whereabouts information for TP athletes should be filed in ADAMS. Following the successful use of TPs by ADOs since 2021 (there are over 15,000 athletes in a TP in 2023), the IST Drafting Team proposes that whereabouts information for athletes in a TP become mandatory to file in ADAMS.

At the moment, there is no requirement in the ISTI to record in ADAMS the date on which an athlete first enters an RTP or TP and the date on which the athlete no longer fulfills the criteria to be part of an RTP or TP and as such is removed from the whereabouts pool.

The IST Drafting Team wishes to propose that the start and end dates for athletes in either an RTP or TP must be mandatorily entered into ADAMS.

To facilitate the planning and readiness for the testing of athletes in a whereabouts pool on the 1st day of the quarter as well as to avoid any gaps in the ability to test due to a lack of whereabouts for the start of the following quarter, the IST Drafting Team proposes a change to the filing date deadline for athletes to submit their whereabouts information under ISTI Article 4.8.8.2 from the 1st day of the quarter to the 15th day of the month preceding the start of the quarter. As a result of this proposal, consequences to an athlete for not filing their whereabouts by the 15th day of the month deadline would apply rather than the 1st day of the quarter under the current ISTI.

ADOs are currently required under ISTI Article 4.8.6.1 to plan independently or in coordination with other ADOs and to test any athlete in an RTP a minimum of three times out-of-competition (OOC) per year. In addition, under ISTI Article 4.8.10.1, ADOs are currently required to ensure athletes in a TP have a minimum of one planned OOC test per year. The IST Drafting Team is seeking input from stakeholders as to whether the current level of OOC tests for both RTP athletes and TP athletes is sufficient to deter and detect doping and whether it should be increased by one OOC test per year per for athletes in either an RTP and or a TP.

Finally, in reference to conducting an OOC test on an RTP athlete during their 60-minute time slot/location, and in an attempt to reduce the predictability of testing and to promote greater deterrence, the IST Drafting Team is proposing that at least one of the required three OOC tests planned on RTP athletes be conducted outside the 60-minute time slot/location. This is in accordance with guidance included in WADA's Guidelines for Implementing an Effective Testing Program, which states that "an effective testing program is as unpredictable

as possible to the athlete” and “[e]xamples of implementing an unpredictable testing program include testing in and outside of the athletes 60-minute time slot.”

Concept #3 – Identification Requirements for Athletes selected to provide a Sample for Analysis

In accordance with ISTI Article 5.3.4, the testing authority shall establish criteria to validate the identity of an athlete selected to provide a sample. The inclusion of such a broad rule creates inconsistency among athletes and ADOs.

As such, the IST Drafting Team is proposing that the above provision also refers to specific types of documents accepted to validate an athlete’s identity. This would likely include government issued documents with a photo. Furthermore, rules concerning third party validation of an athlete’s identity also need to be established so there is consistency. The benefits of having athletes in a RTP or TP (or their ADO) uploading a photograph of the athlete into their ADAMS profile page to further assist with identification would also be part of this review. In addition, the ability for doping control officers to take a photo of the athlete in certain situations as part of validating their identity for the sample collection session will also be considered.

The IST Drafting Team will also consider the identification requirements for all sample collection personnel and seeks input from stakeholders on this concept.

Concept #4 – Enhancements to the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

There are several items listed in the ABP Operating Guidelines document that the IST Drafting Team proposes to move into IST Articles 4 (*Planning Effective Testing*), 10 (*Ownership of Samples*), Annex D (*Collection of Venous Blood Samples*) and Annex I (*Collection, Storage and Transport of Blood ABP Samples*) to ensure they are inclusive of the overall ABP procedures.

The IST Drafting Team is considering the inclusion of the following:

- Ensuring that an athlete has only one blood ABP established;
- Ensuring that passport ‘read only’ access rights can easily be provided to other ADOs that share testing jurisdiction over the athlete and that the procedures for the attribution and transfer of passport custodianship are mandatorily followed by ADOs; and
- Ensuring that ADOs work cooperatively so that testing is coordinated appropriately with all results collated in the athlete’s passport in ADAMS.

In addition, the information collected from the athlete during the collection of a blood ABP sample on the ABP Supplementary form (ISTI Annex I.2.9) will be updated.

Finally, with the inclusion of venous blood serum samples for the new ABP endocrine module, the addition of a mandatory period of time an athlete must wait post training/competition and prior to the collection of a venous blood serum sample is required to be documented.

Concept #5 – Sample Retention and Further Analysis of Samples²

ISTI Article 4.7.3 stipulates the requirement for ADOs to have a written strategy on the retention and further analysis of samples for long-term storage.

The IST Drafting Team is considering whether the requirements of ISTI Article 4.7.3 can be further specified and whether to evaluate the circumstances where it shall be mandatory to conduct further sample analysis such as for a prohibited substance that is contained within the TDSSA upon an APMU recommendation.

Furthermore, it may also be useful to develop additional criteria concerning the circumstances when samples shall be put in long-term storage, be subject to further analysis, and be discarded when they no longer meet the sample retention and further analysis strategy.

Accordingly, the IST Drafting Team welcomes stakeholder feedback on circumstances where sample storage should be mandatory as well as criteria as to when further analysis should be conducted or when samples in long-term storage should be discarded.

Concept #6 – Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes and Procedures for Sample Collection³

The IST Drafting Team is seeking further clarification as it relates to sample collection procedures for transgender and gender diverse athletes. While gender identity is complex, simply put, gender refers to how an athlete identifies themselves, which may differ from their biological sex assigned at birth. A transgender athlete is a person whose gender identity differs from the sex that was assigned at birth. Athletes may also have identities outside the binary gender system and are defined as gender diverse.

In this respect, it is to be noted that as outlined in ISTI Annex C.4.5, the gender of the sample collection personnel who is responsible for witnessing the sample provision, is currently the same gender as the event in which the athlete competed. Moreover, the sport gender of the athlete is recorded on the doping control form in accordance with ISTI Article 7.4.5 f).

The IST Drafting Team welcomes stakeholder feedback on how the current sample collection procedures and processes could be enhanced for transgender and gender diverse athletes, and sample collection personnel.

Concept #7 – Reporting of ADO Testing Statistics by each Athlete

Under Code Article 14.4, ADOs are required to publish annually their anti-doping activities. In addition, ADOs may also publish reports showing the name of each athlete tested and the date of each test. The IST Drafting Team is seeking feedback from ADOs concerning the publishing of athlete test information and the information which should be included, the time period that such information should remain available after publication, the level of athlete to whom the reporting should apply, and whether the publishing of such data should become mandatory subject to data privacy rules.

² To assist ADOs in documenting and managing samples in long-term storage, there is a new functionality available in ADAMS.

³ WADA has also published a [FAQ on Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes and Anti-Doping](#).