



IAAF Medical & Anti-Doping Department

Advisory Note – Anti-Doping Rule Violations &
Sanctions, 2015

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS FEDERATIONS

ADVISORY NOTE – ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS & SANCTIONS

(Article 32 – [IAAF Competition Rules](#))

Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the following anti-doping rule violations:

- The **Presence of prohibited Substance** or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample;
- The **Use or Attempted Use** by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;
- **Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample collection**;
- **Whereabouts Failures**, meaning any combination of three Missed Tests and/ or Filing Failure within a twelve-month period by any Athlete in a Registered Testing Pool;
- The **Tampering or Attempted Tampering** with any part of Doping Control, meaning: a conduct which subverts the Doping Control process but which would not otherwise be included in the definition of prohibited Method. Tampering shall include, without limitation, intentionally interfering or attempting to interfere with a doping Control Official, providing fraudulent information to an Anti-Doping organisation or intimidating or attempting to intimidate a potential witness;
- The **Possession** of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;
- The **Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking** in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method;
- The **Administration or Attempted Administration** to any Athlete *In-Competition* of any Prohibited Method or Prohibited Substance, or administration or attempted administration to any Athlete *Out-of-Competition* of any Prohibited Method or Prohibited Substance that is prohibited *Out-of-Competition*.
- **Complicity**, meaning: assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity involving an anti-doping rule violation, attempted anti-doping rule violation or a violation of the prohibition against participation during a period of ineligibility.
- **Prohibited Association** by an Athlete or other person subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping organisation in a professional or sport-related capacity with any Athlete Support Person (manager, coach, doctor....) who is serving a period of ineligibility as a result of an anti-doping rule violation, or who has engaged in conduct which could be regarded as an anti-doping rule violation had IAAF Rules applied to this person, or who is serving as a front or intermediary for any individual described above.

The IAAF Anti-Doping Rules and Regulations are, primarily, directed towards athletes. However, some are also intended to apply equally to athlete support personnel, such as coaches, doctors, representatives et al.

An Anti-Doping rule violation can result in disciplinary action against the athlete or athlete's support personnel even up to 10 years after it has actually been committed.

What are the sanctions for athletes committing a doping offence?

The standard sanction for a first-time doping offence for the presence, use or possession of a prohibited substance or method is a four-year period of ineligibility from all athletics competitions, both nationally and internationally, where the athlete fails to establish that the violation was not intentional (non-specified substances) or the Anti-Doping Organisation can prove that the violation was intentional (specified substances).

"Intentional" under IAAF Rules means that the athlete engaged in conduct which he or she knew constituted a doping offence or knew there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in a doping offence.

When an athlete can prove no significant fault or negligence in a case involving a specified substance or a contaminated product and that the Anti-Doping organisation cannot prove an intentional violation, the period of ineligibility may range from a public warning to two years.

In most cases, an athlete simply claiming that they were unaware that they were consuming a prohibited substance – or engaging in a prohibited practice – will not be considered as grounds for a reduction in sanction, as negligence is not regarded as a valid excuse.

However, athletes who assist the IAAF, or another Anti-Doping Organisation, in discovering and establishing doping offences against third parties may have their initial sanction reduced, subject to the conditions set out under IAAF Rules.

In addition to serving a period of ineligibility, athletes found guilty of a doping offence will, unless fairness requires otherwise, have all their results disqualified from the date of the doping offence (in case of an adverse analytical finding, the date of sample collection) with all resulting consequences including the forfeiture of titles, awards, medals points and prize an appearance money.

If the athlete competed as a member of a relay team, the results of the relay team will be disqualified.