

# Strategic Testing Expert Advisory Group Virtual Meeting

## Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations

2 June 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) [Strategic Testing Expert Advisory Group \(EG\)](#) met virtually on 27 April 2022 and focused its discussions on the following main topics:

- A review of a new draft Annex of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) on the Collection of Urine Samples in a Virtual Environment During a Pandemic using a hybrid (partially virtual) system.
- Updating the relevant Guidelines for Sample Collection Procedures During a Pandemic with the addition of new sample collection procedures linked to the new draft Annex of the ISTI;
- Additional measures to confirm the identification of athletes and the storage of samples for the purpose of DNA analysis to prevent and/or detect doppelgangers; and
- A review of a draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that provides guidance to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) when collecting doping control samples from transgender or gender diverse athletes.

The main outcomes of the meeting and recommendations are outlined below:

1. Draft ISTI Annex on the Collection of Urine Samples in a Virtual Environment During a Pandemic, and Guidelines for Sample Collection Procedures During a Pandemic

Since early 2021, a Working Group consisting of five members from the EG and WADA staff has been conducting a feasibility study into the use of alternative sample collection programs which were piloted by a number of National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the completion of the work of the Working Group, the WADA Testing team presented to the EG the first draft of an ISTI Annex on the collection of urine samples in a virtual environment during a pandemic (ISTI Annex). It includes the mandatory requirements for ADOs to implement a hybrid (partially virtual) collection of a urine sample for use only when movement restrictions prevent standard in-person sample collection during a pandemic i.e., Doping Control Officers are not permitted to enter an athlete's residence or training facility for an out-of-competition sample collection, and additional safeguards developed to protect the integrity of such sample collection process.

The draft of these procedures will be circulated for consultation to all ADOs as part of a wider ISTI update in June 2022.

In addition, the EG also discussed updated guidelines for sample collection procedures during a pandemic. These guidelines support and elaborate on the ISTI Annex but also include further guidance for ADOs while conducting in-person testing during a pandemic. The existing [Guidance](#) document that WADA issued in December 2021 was expanded to include additional information. The parts of the guidelines that refer to the new draft ISTI Annex will be part of the stakeholder consultation to provide further context to it.

➤ **Outcome/Recommendation No 1:**

*WADA will circulate the proposed ISTI Annex on the Collection of Urine Samples in a Virtual Environment During a Pandemic for consultation in June 2022 for ADOs and other stakeholders to provide their feedback and will include parts of the relevant guidelines to provide additional clarification to the ISTI Annex.*

2. Measures for the Identification of Athletes to prevent Doppelgangers

Following a recommendation contained in WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department (WADA I&I) October 2020 [public report](#) on weightlifting and a discussion during the WADA Executive Committee in November 2021, the EG was tasked to consider measures to prevent and/or detect doppelgangers. The discussion included various measures such as DNA profiling, biometric security, long-term sample storage strategy and extension of the minimum mandatory period of storage of doping control samples. This is a complex area that requires further exploration from a science, legal, and IT perspective. However, the EG decided that as a first step, it is important to have a mechanism in place in ADAMS to easily identify the samples that are being stored long-term along with the associated sample information. The EG will discuss this matter further at its next meeting planned for August 2022.

➤ **Outcome/Recommendation No 2:**

*The EG recommended the creation of a functionality within ADAMS that will clearly identify samples that are stored long-term (beyond the required initial three months) by an ADO. Discussions on the issue of additional measures for the identification of athletes at the point of sample collection and the use of samples for DNA analysis will continue at the next STEAG meeting planned for August 2022.*

3. FAQ Document for Transgender and/or Gender Diverse Athletes and Anti-Doping

During its last [meeting](#) in September 2021, the EG recommended the development of an FAQ document to provide guidance to ADOs when working with transgender and gender diverse athletes in anti-doping. The EG reviewed the draft FAQ which is planned to be released to all ADOs in the coming weeks.

➤ **Outcome/Recommendation No 3:**

*The FAQ for transgender and/or gender diverse athletes will be shared with ADOs and placed on WADA's website.*

We hope you find this update useful. Should you have any comments or questions regarding the above, please contact WADA at [testing@wada-ama.org](mailto:testing@wada-ama.org).

Thank you for your continued commitment to clean sport.

Yours sincerely,

**Tim Ricketts**  
Director, Testing

**Matt Fedoruk**  
Chair, Strategic Testing Expert Advisory Group