



SPÓRT
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SPORT
IRELAND
ANTI-DOPING

Annual Review 2022

2022

Programme Highlights



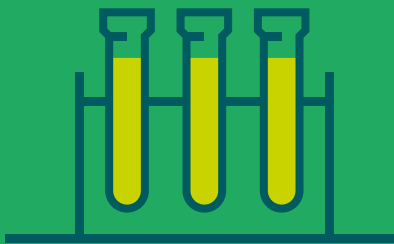
51

Sample collection personnel reaccredited



16,319

Searches on Eirpharm website



1,415

Samples collected

12

Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved



10

Anti-Doping Education Tutors completed Tutor Training



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Foreword

I am delighted to present the 2022 Anti-Doping Annual Report to the sector and highlight the fantastic work done throughout the year.

It has been a very proactive year for the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) which saw a focus on incorporating an education-centric approach into the anti-doping program.

The ADU collaborates with its stakeholders to support the creation and implementation of high-quality anti-doping education initiatives for all. Sport Ireland has consistently recognised the significance of ongoing improvement in its anti-doping education program.

Sport Ireland continues to emphasise the importance of education as a primary deterrent to doping in sport. The Anti-Doping Unit continued to work as a member of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Education drafting group. In 2022, most of the work that was carried out was to prioritise the work of the group based on feedback from partner National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs).

The ADU delivered 29 in-person or online seminars for their education programme. Of the 29 face-to-face sessions delivered by the ADU, 10 of these sessions (34%) included second or third-level students, or athletes involved at a development squad/pathway level in their respective sports.

Annually, the ADU facilitates education through in-person sessions for athletes, a tutor training program, the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping website, the Sport Ireland E-Learning program, and wallet cards. Notably, in 2022, wallet cards were distributed digitally for the first time.

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the User Pays Programme. This is where sporting organisations pay for testing. This allows for the National Governing Bodies to be vigilant with their testing and ensure a clean sport in the process.


The Anti-Doping Unit collected 1,415 Urine and Blood Samples in 2022. This is the highest number of samples collected since the programme began in 1999. The tests collected were from 32 different sports. Out-of-competition tests accounted for 76% of the tests collected.

The Anti-Doping Unit recruited 15 new sample collection personnel, who each successfully completed their two day theoretical training, exam and practical in-field training and are now accredited chaperones.

The annual sample collection personnel training and reaccreditation day took place in person, for the first time since 2019, on October 22nd and November 29th. 51 Sample Collection Personnel attended these training days and were reaccredited for 2023.

During 2022 Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Officer who is a qualified and accredited WADA trainer, continued to deliver training in Intelligence and Investigations to a Europe-wide cohort.

I would like to thank all members of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) for their ongoing exceptional efforts, working in much-changed conditions to protect the integrity of sport in Ireland and also extend a special thank you to the Sample Collection Personnel for continuing their high standard of work in a particularly busy year.



As the Chair of the Anti-Doping Committee, I am privileged to work alongside many dedicated experts who give their valuable time in support of the clean sport agenda.

I would like to thank Chair Michael Collins SC, his fellow members of the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and Chair Prof. Sean Gaine, his fellow members of the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) for their contribution.

Finally, the Anti-Doping Committee would like to thank all the athletes and sports that have engaged with the protocols and measures in 2022.



Roger O'Connor

Chairperson, Anti-Doping Committee

Introduction

We are pleased to present the twenty-third annual review of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit, covering the work of the department over the previous twelve months. This review provides comprehensive details of the activities of the Irish Anti-Doping Programme, including the financial cost of the programme.

In 2022, the programme cost €2,051,706, with a total of 1,415 blood and urine tests conducted in Ireland and overseas, which is an increase on the figures from 2021.

As an organisation, Sport Ireland continues to embrace innovation across all areas of the organisation. Anti-Doping is no different as we look to improve efficiencies across the board. The Anti-Doping Unit continue to develop the paperless testing procedures which will be rolled out in 2023, with technology now playing a prominent role in the education programme.

It is highly encouraging to see that over 1,800 people accessed the e-learning programme in 2022, and we upskilled 10 newly trained tutors to facilitate the delivery of the anti-doping education programme. The significance of increasing the number of tutors is highly valued and is an important step in the process of delivering anti-doping workshops for the ADU. Also, it is imperative that the athletes access the learning portal to understand the obligations of being a high-performing athlete.

Sport Ireland additionally administers testing through the User Pays Program, where sporting organizations cover the testing costs. This approach empowers National Governing Bodies (NGB's) to maintain vigilance in their testing efforts, thereby contributing

to the promotion of clean sports. In 2022, 196 tests were conducted under this programme – 172 urine tests and 24 blood tests.

In 2022, the Anti-Doping Unit achieved a record-high collection of tests, marking the highest number since the program's inception. These tests encompassed athletes from 32 distinct sports, with out-of-competition tests constituting 76% of the total.

Sport Ireland took the opportunity to attend international events in 2022 such as the Clean Sport Forum in Birmingham, along with continued involvement with the Council of Europe, and the WADA Science and Education conferences. This allows for stronger relationships with our international colleagues working in this field.

In September 2022, the Anti-Doping Unit participated in the WADA Global Education Conference (GEC). The GEC served as a platform for global anti-doping practitioners and researchers to convene, exchange insights on emerging trends, collaborate on education program advancement, and explore strategies for enhancing the education efforts of Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs).

Of the valid pre-test TUE applications made to Sport Ireland in 2022, 12 were approved by the TUE Committee (TUEC) on receipt of an appropriate and up-to-date medical file. A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application allows an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method that is included on the WADA Prohibited List, subject to certain defined conditions.

There are a number of key highlights achieved by the ADU in 2022, which you will be able to see in detail throughout the report, however increased numbers of tests, newly upskilled tutors and the move to a paperless system for Anti-Doping are some of the key areas within the report.

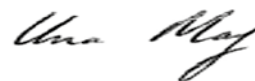
I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our athletes for their consistent and steadfast cooperation throughout the year 2022. The dedication of Irish athletes in upholding the principles of clean sport is truly commendable. Special appreciation goes out to those athletes who have taken on the role of advocates and ambassadors for our ongoing testing, prevention, and education initiatives. We recognize that it's not always easy, but the professionalism displayed by our athletes in adhering to protocols, even when faced with unexpected testing, is truly praiseworthy. \

Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the outstanding service provided by the ADU in 2022. The work of the Anti-Doping team not only provided an innovative and adaptive approach to the robust testing programme, but also continued to work closely with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to deliver the message of the importance of clean sport.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the distinguished individuals who provide dedicated service to the Anti-Doping Committee. Their hard work and relentless pursuit of sporting integrity are invaluable to the Irish Anti-Doping Programme.



John Foley
Chairperson



Úna May
CEO



Background Information

Visions of the Programme

Testing

To provide an effective, quality-driven testing programme.

Education

To facilitate the development and delivery of quality education programmes for all major stakeholders.

Research

To establish a long-term research programme which compliments and progresses anti-doping research nationally and internationally.

International

To keep abreast of international best practice and to collaborate with relevant international initiatives.

Administration

To develop and maintain quality standards to ensure correct and transparent administrative procedures.





Background to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme

Under the Sport Ireland Act (2015), Sport Ireland's functions in relation to Anti-Doping include

- to facilitate, through the promulgation of guidelines and codes of practice, standards of good conduct, fair play and the elimination of doping in sport;
- to take such action as Sport Ireland considers appropriate, including testing, to combat doping in sport;
- to plan, implement, evaluate and monitor education and information programmes for good conduct, fair play and the elimination of doping in sport;
- in its capacity as the national anti-doping organisation in the State, to direct the collection of samples, to manage the testing and test results of samples and attend hearings, as required;

The significant priority given to anti-doping work by Sport Ireland is recognised through a full section, Section 4, of the Act dedicated to strengthening the anti-doping programme. Sport Ireland has been clearly designated as the National Anti-Doping Organisation in Ireland and the Irish Anti-Doping Rules have also been enshrined in this legislation. Data sharing powers have been enhanced between key state regulatory authorities and other appropriate Anti-Doping Organisations

Ireland has also ratified the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport which effectively binds the government to the implementation of a fully functioning National Anti-Doping Programme which complies with all relevant articles of the World Anti-Doping Code. The World Anti-Doping Code continues to be the cornerstone of the world-wide fight against doping in sport. In Ireland this code is reflected in, and consequently implemented through the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

Ireland formally ratified the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe in 2003. The Convention lays down binding rules with a view to harmonising anti-doping regulations, in particular: making it harder to obtain and use banned substances such as anabolic steroids; assisting the funding of anti-doping tests; establishing a link between the strict application of anti-doping rules and awarding subsidies to sports organisations or individual sportsmen and sportswomen; and regular doping control procedures during and outside competitions, including in other countries.

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Committee is an advisory committee to the Board of Sport Ireland. The Anti-Doping Committee provides specialist guidance to Sport Ireland and all committee members have their own wide-ranging areas of expertise to support the Anti-Doping Unit (ADU).

The Committee met twice during 2022 and the Committee members were:

Mr. Roger O'Connor, Chair

Prof. Brendan Buckley

Dr. Elaine Breslin

Mr. Ian Weir

Mr. Patrick O'Connor

Dr. Elizabeth Keane

Mr. Páraic Duffy

Mr. David Gillick, Athlete

Secretariat: Siobhán Leonard,
Director of Anti-Doping & Ethics, Sport Ireland

Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel is a panel of experts who are available to hear and determine a case or appeal arising out of the Irish Anti-Doping rules. The Panel has the power to determine whether an anti-doping rule violation has been committed and/or the consequences to be imposed pursuant to the Rules for an anti-doping rule violation found to have been committed.

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel members that served during 2022 are:

Michael Collins Chair

Helen Kilroy Vice-Chair

Adrian Colton Vice-Chair

Hugh O'Neill Vice-Chair

Justice Fidelma Macken Vice-Chair

Warren Deutrom Admin Rep

Liz Howard Admin Rep

Bill O'Hara Admin Rep

Philip Browne Admin Rep

Mary O'Flynn Flannery Medical Rep

Colm O'Morain Medical Rep

Pat O'Neill Medical Rep

Denis Cusack Medical Rep

Rachel Cullivan-Elliot Medical Rep



Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Committee

In line with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Sport Ireland's TUE Committee considers TUE applications for Irish athletes.

The Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee members are:

Prof. Sean Gaine (Chair), Respiratory Disease

Dr. James Gibney, Endocrinology

Prof. Stephen Lane, Respiratory Disease

Dr. Philip Murphy, Haematology

Dr. Sinead Harney, Rheumatology

Dr. Catherine McGorrian, Cardiologist

Dr. Seamus Morris, Orthopaedics

Personnel

Ms. Siobhán Leonard
Director of Anti-Doping & Ethics

Ms. Melissa Morgan
Testing and Quality Manager

Mr. Michael McNulty
Anti-Doping Executive

Mr. Paul O'Donovan
Education and Values Manager

Mr. Michael Heffernan (Part-time)
Intelligence and Investigations Officer

Mr. Gerard Nowlan
Science Officer

Ms Janine Merriman
Anti-Doping Executive

Ms. Orla Kavanagh
Ethics Officer

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Education

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) remain committed to the goal of embedding an education first principle into its anti-doping programme.

The ADU works in partnership with its stakeholders to help in the development and delivery of quality anti-doping education programmes for all. Sport Ireland has always understood the importance of continually developing its anti-doping education programme. Every year, to facilitate education, the ADU provides face to face education for athletes, a tutor training programme, the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping website, the Sport Ireland E-Learning programme and wallet cards, which were distributed digitally for the first time in 2022.

In 2022, the primary focus of Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Education Programme was to continue to develop and refine the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Plan. To this end, and based on the Education Plan Evaluation Report 2021, the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager set out to increase the reach of the anti-doping education programme to include leaving certificate PE and third level students. Including these target groups in Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping education plan is also in-line with the recommendations of the WADA International Standard for Education (ISE) 2021.

Of the 29 face to face sessions delivered by the ADU, 10 of the sessions (34%) included second or third level students or athletes involved at a development squad/pathway level in their respective sports.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



1,800+

USERS ACCESSED
THE E-LEARNING
PROGRAMME
IN 2022

29

ONLINE OR
FACE TO FACE
SEMINARS

10

NEW TUTORS
FROM 7
DIFFERENT NGBS
COMPLETED
TUTOR TRAINING
IN MARCH 2022

~1,000

STUDENTS AND
ATHLETE SUPPORT
PERSONNEL
EDUCATED VIA
ONLINE OR FACE
TO FACE EDUCATION
SEMINARS

Tutor Training

In March 2022, the Anti-Doping Unit rolled out the first two-day in-person tutor training course post pandemic. This course was attended by 10 tutors across 7 different NGBs. It is intended that there will be another two-day course rolled out in early 2023.

Council of Europe

The Anti-Doping Unit continued to work as a member of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Education drafting group. In 2022, most of the work that was carried out by the group was to prioritise the work of the group based on feedback from partner National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs).

Based on the feedback received, the drafting group agreed to focus their work on three main areas for 2023. The focus areas were the process of educational recognition across partner organisations, educator development and monitoring and evaluation. At the final group meeting of the year in December 2022, a member of the Sport Ireland ADU was nominated as chair of the sub-group that will work on monitoring and evaluation for 2023.

RESPECT-P

The Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager also continued their active participation in the RESPECT-P project, during 2022. This research project aimed to develop high quality doping research and evidence-informed doping prevention.

Over the course of the research project (completed in 2022), the research team carried out 6 interviews with athlete support personnel (ASP) who work with para-athletes in Ireland. These interviews aimed to ascertain ASP knowledge of doping prevention mechanisms and to assess ASP views on how much of a problem they felt doping was in para sport.

The second part of the research project involved athlete focus groups which were led by an athlete researcher. In 2022, the athlete researcher conducted the second and final athlete focus group.

The main outcomes of the research suggest that athletes felt anti-doping is a concern for para-athletes, but that classification manipulation and intentional misrepresentation were bigger concerns. There did not appear to be a consensus on who was responsible for dealing with these concerns. Although they were broadly seen as integrity issues, the athletes felt that there was a need for greater transparency on these issues between NADOs and the International Paralympic Committee.

Global Education Conference

In September 2022, the Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager attended the WADA Global Education Conference (GEC), in Sydney. The GEC brought together anti-doping practitioners and researchers from around the world to share and discuss emerging trends, contribute to education program development, and examine how Anti-Doping Organisations (ADOs) can enhance their education programmes. This was the third edition of the conference following from Ottawa in 2015 and Beijing in 2018.

The three core themes for the conference were innovation, collaboration, and implementation. There was collective agreement, from the conference, that ADOs would continue to strive to reach as many athletes as possible throughout each stage of their athlete pathway ('playground to podium'). There was also agreement on the importance of evaluating knowledge and expertise of education practitioners. The conference also highlighted the importance of innovation in the implementation of the International Standard for Education. The importance of the athlete voice was a recurring theme throughout the three days of the conference. It is vital that ADOs engage with their athletes and athlete support personnel on their learning needs and ways in which ADOs can better ensure that these learning needs are met.



National Testing Programme

Sport Ireland completed 1,415 blood and urine tests in 2022. The tests collected were from 32 different sports. Out of competition tests accounted for 76% of the tests collected.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Anti-Doping Unit collected the highest number of urine and blood tests in 2022 at **1,415** since the programme began.

In competition tests accounted for **24%** and out of competition tests for **76%** in the national testing programme.

The number of tests completed increased by **5%** in 2022.

The tests were completed across **32** different sports.

Unsuccessful Attempts on the Registered Testing Pool **decreased by 7%** from 2021.

Table 1: National Programme Testing Statistics, with IC and OOC Breakdown

	URINE	BLOOD	TOTAL
TOTAL NUMBERS OF TESTS	993	422	1415
OUT OF COMPETITION	647	422	1069
IN COMPETITION	346	0	346

Table 2: National Programme Testing Statistics - sport by sport analysis

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	COMP	OOC	BLOOD	TOTAL
ATHLETICS IRELAND	38	93	87	218
BADMINTON IRELAND	9	0	0	9
BASKETBALL IRELAND	4	0	0	4
CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION	4	0	0	4
CANOEING IRELAND	0	16	8	24
CRICKET IRELAND	12	0	0	12
CYCLING IRELAND	37	75	73	185
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND	30	30	0	60
Gaelic Athletic Association	44	69	27	140
GOLF IRELAND	6	0	0	6
GYMNASTICS IRELAND	6	13	2	21
HOCKEY IRELAND	4	16	0	20
HORSE SPORT IRELAND	10	0	0	10
IRISH AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION	5	0	0	5
IRISH ATHLETIC BOXING ASSOCIATION	0	26	7	33
IRISH JUDO ASSOCIATION	0	14	1	15
IRISH MARTIAL ARTS COMMISSION	6	0	0	6
IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION	12	102	81	195
IRISH SQUASH	2	0	0	2
IRISH TAEKWONDO UNION	4	3	1	8
IRISH TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION	6	0	0	6
IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION SPORT	3	3	1	7
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION	8	0	0	8
MOTOR CYCLING IRELAND	11	0	0	11
MOTORSPORT IRELAND	28	0	0	28
PARALYMPICS IRELAND	0	31	8	39
PENTATHLON IRELAND	0	5	5	10
ROWING IRELAND	8	71	61	140
SNOW SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND	0	5	0	5
SWIM IRELAND	19	52	45	116
TRIATHLON IRELAND	15	23	15	53
WEIGHTLIFTING IRELAND	15	0	0	15
TOTAL	346	647	422	1415

User Pays Testing

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the User Pays Programme. This is where sporting organisations pay for testing. During 2022, 196 tests were conducted under this programme – 172 urine tests and 24 blood tests.

Table 3: User Pays by Organisation

National Governing Body	Comp	OOC	Blood	Total
Athletics Ireland	6	0	0	6
Badminton World Federation	8	0	0	8
Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport	0	4	2	6
European Athletics Association	7	0	0	7
Federation Internationale d'Escrime	1	0	0	1
International Powerlifting Federation	9	4	0	13
Irish Rugby Football Union	18	0	0	18
UK Anti-Doping	6	5	2	13
United States Anti-Doping Agency	0	5	1	6
World Athletics	16	0	0	16
World Lacrosse	10	0	0	10
World Rowing	0	1	1	2
World Rugby	40	32	18	90
Total	121	51	24	196

COVID 19

Throughout 2022, Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Unit continued to communicate our additional protective measures to Registered Testing Pool athletes and National Governing Bodies (NGBs). This communication was key to ensuring they understood and were aware of the measures we took as we continually adhered to the protocols in place by Health Service Executive (HSE) and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines when completing anti-doping testing.

Sample Collection Personnel

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Sample Collection Personnel for continuing their high standard of work in a particular busy and challenging year.

The Anti-Doping Unit would like to thank all Registered Testing Pool athletes and NGBs for their assistance and cooperation with testing and the rescheduling of events in 2022.

Table 4: NGB Unsuccessful Attempts

NGB	Unsuccessful Attempts
GAA	10
FAI	1
IRFU	2

Table 5: RTP Whereabouts Failures by Quarters

	Filing Failures	Missed Tests	Unsuccessful Attempts
Quarter 1	0	1	31
		Gymnastics Ireland: 1	Athletics Ireland: 6 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 3 Canoeing Ireland: 2 Cycling Ireland: 4 Gymnastics Ireland: 2 Paralympics Ireland: 4 Rowing Ireland: 6 Swim Ireland: 1 Triathlon Ireland: 3
Quarter 2	2	1	31
	Irish Amateur Boxing Association: 1 Rowing Ireland: 1	Rowing Ireland: 1	Athletics Ireland: 6 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 2 Cycling Ireland: 5 Gymnastics Ireland: 1 Irish Judo Association: 2 Paralympics Ireland: 2 Rowing Ireland: 5 Swim Ireland: 2 Taekwondo Ireland: 1 Triathlon Ireland: 5
Quarter 3	1	0	30
	Gymnastics Ireland: 1		Athletics Ireland: 5 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 2 Canoeing Ireland: 1 Cycling Ireland: 10 Irish Judo Association: 3 Paralympics Ireland: 4 Rowing Ireland: 3 Triathlon Ireland: 2
Quarter 4	3	0	14
	Irish Amateur Boxing Association: 1 Cycling Ireland: 1 Rowing Ireland: 1		Athletics Ireland: 4 Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 2 Canoeing Ireland: 1 Cycling Ireland: 2 Rowing Ireland: 3 Swim Ireland: 1 Triathlon Ireland: 1

Filing Failure: A failure by an athlete to make an accurate and complete Whereabouts Filing that enables an Athlete to be located for Testing.

Missed Test: A failure by an Athlete to available for Testing at the location and time specified in the 60-minute slot identified in their Whereabouts Filing.

Whereabouts Failure: A Filing Failure or Missed Test.

Unsuccessful Attempt: An attempt made outside at the location and time specified in the 60-minute slot identified in their Whereabouts Filing. Where an attempt is made outside the 60-minute timeslot it is recorded as an unsuccessful attempt rather than a missed test and is not recorded as a Whereabouts Failure.





Science

Science is a vital element of the testing programme. To be effective, it is essential that the ADU collect samples at the right time in an athlete's training and competition schedule. Several tools are used by the ADU to ensure that an effective testing programme is implemented:

Test Distribution Plan (TDP)

A TDP is an allocation of a number of tests per sport and this is completed on an annual basis. There are two elements to the TDP:

- a) Risk Analysis:** A risk analysis of each sport and the discipline within the sports is completed. Criteria used for the risk analysis include physical demands of that sport/discipline, possible performance-enhancing effects that doping may elicit, rewards/incentives available, history of doping in that sport, research on doping trends, intelligence/information received, outcomes of previous TDPs.
- b) Allocation:** Depending on the risk analysis of the sport and the number of registered testing pool athletes in each sport a number of tests will be allocated to each sport.

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

All samples collected by the ADU form part of the ABP. There are two elements to the ABP – a haematological (blood) module and a steroidal (urine) module. This is a longitudinal profile of a number of samples collected from individual athletes that can indirectly reveal the effects of doping rather than direct detection of doping.

Table 6: ABP Blood Samples collected by Sport in 2022

Sport	No of ABP (Blood) Samples collected
Athletics	87
Boxing	4
Canoeing	6
Cycling	44
Modern Pentathlon	5
Paralympic Athletics	3
Paralympic Cycling	29
Rowing	61
Swimming	45
Triathlon	15
Triathlon	14
TOTAL	299



Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)

An APMU is a dedicated unit responsible for the timely review and management of all athlete biological samples and passports. An APMU must be hosted independently by a WADA accredited laboratory. Sport Ireland currently use the Nordic APMU, hosted by the Oslo Laboratory for the management of blood passports, and the Cologne Laboratory for the management of steroidal passports. The APMU advise and support the ADU in the management of the ABP. The APMU assesses and issues recommendations on sample validity, follow-up and target testing, additional analysis, coordinating expert reviews and offers advice on priorities and strategies to optimise the efficiency of the ABP programme.

Long Term Storage and Reanalysis

The ADU implements a Sample Retention and Reanalysis Strategy. The WADA Code allows samples to be stored for a period of up to 10 years and allows retroactive analysis with the benefit of technical progress in detection methods and development of further information surrounding such samples. Advancements in analytical methods in recent years, as well as the introduction of new Technical Documents by WADA, has provided Sport Ireland with the opportunity to retroactively analyse selected stored samples for substances not originally detectable at the time of collection.

Table 7: Samples Placed into Long Term Storage

Sample Type	Number added in 2022
Urine	63
Blood	1
Total	64



Medications and TUE's

Eirpharm.com is the Irish Pharmacy Website which was developed in 2000 as an online database where those subject to drug testing can check the status of their prescription and non-prescription medicines according to the current WADA Prohibited List.

The database is regularly updated as new medicines are marketed, medicines are discontinued and in accordance with changes in the WADA Prohibited List.

Each year, the Eirpharm website provides an updated Guide for Prescribers, in addition to a summary of the changes which may affect prescribers due to changes in the WADA list for that year.

Sport Ireland has endorsed the database as an accurate online source of anti-doping information in 2001 and since then it has grown to include over 3,600 medicines, both prescription and non-prescription which are marketed in Ireland. Site users can query the database either by medication name or by ailment, allowing them to check specific products or showing them appropriate options for their condition based on the ailment selected. The Eirpharm database will be replaced with a new Sport Ireland Medicine Checker website in 2023.



Table 8: Most Commonly Searched Individual Products

Rank 2022 (Rank 2021)	Product Name	No of times searched 2021 in bold, (2020 in brackets)	What is the product?	Legal status
1 (1)	Nurofen Cold and Flu Tablets	566 (416)	Ibuprofen based cold and influenza product	Pharmacy only
2 (3)	Lemsip Max Cold and Flu	458 (229)	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale
3 (8)	Nurofen Rapid Relief Maximum Strength Liquid Tablets	401 (194)	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory	Pharmacy only
4 (6)	Ibuprofen 200 mg tablets	365 (197)	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory	Pharmacy only
5 (2)	Nurofen Plus Tablets	321 (307)	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory	Pharmacy only

Table 9: Most commonly searched ranges of medicinal products: Non-prescription and prescription

Non-Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Type of products in range	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
	Total	16319	11821	9026	25780	25049
Nurofen	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory and cold and influenza products	12.68	13.1	7.8	14.9	7.8
Lemsip	Paracetamol-based range of products for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds, influenza, coughs	10.41	8.7	8.2	6.6	9.8
Panadol	Paracetamol based range of products for pain relief and symptomatic relief of cold and influenza	4.22	4.3	2.8	^	^
Sudafed (incl. Sudapro, Sudaplus)	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride containing medicines for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	4.15	^	^	^	^
Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Therapeutic class	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Ventolin	Beta-2 agonist, primarily inhaled products	1.86	2.8	3.2	2.5	3.6

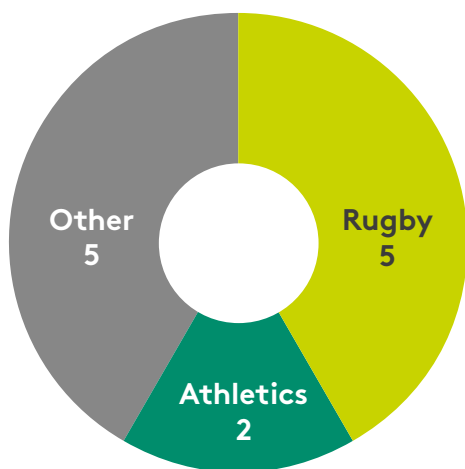
Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allows an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method that is included on the WADA Prohibited List, subject to certain defined conditions.

Athletes can apply to either Sport Ireland or, in the case of an international level athlete, the International Federation for a TUE. For TUE approval to be granted, the athlete must have a well-documented medical condition supported by relevant and reliable medical data.

Of the valid pre-test TUE applications made to Sport Ireland in 2022 (n=12) 12 were approved by the TUE Committee (TUEC) on receipt of an appropriate and up-to-date medical file. In addition, the TUE Committee also approved two Post-Test TUE applications on receipt of a valid medical file.

Overall, there was a similar number of approved pre-test TUE applications in 2022 (12) when compared to 2021 (11). Seven sports had TUE applications approved in 2022 - five sports had a single TUE approved in 2022. One sport had two approved applications while one sport had five approved applications.



Pre-test TUE applications approved in 2022





Anti-Doping Unit Operations

The ADU works on a number of projects related to the management, development and implementation of the National Anti-Doping Programme. These projects ensure Sport Ireland has an effective and efficient Anti-Doping Programme and that there is a quality assurance procedure in place for our stakeholders.

Dried Blood Spot Testing

Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing is an innovative testing method that collects just a few drops of blood from an athlete's fingertip or upper arm.

DBS has been studied in anti-doping for a number of years with several labs and Anti-Doping Organisations conducting research projects on its use and successfully contributing to having DBS now recognised as a standalone WADA accredited collection method.

The WADA Technical Document was established to harmonize DBS testing by providing specific requirements and procedures for DBS Sample collection, transport, analytical testing and storage.

Work has been ongoing in Sport Ireland on the implementation of Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing for doping control. Initially, we examined the feasibility of implementing this new method by meeting with DBS kit manufacturers to explore the DBS collection devices available on the market, meeting with laboratories to establish the analytical methods available for DBS samples, meeting with other Anti-Doping Organisations to learn from their experiences of DBS use in research projects, and attending conferences, webinars and Expert Group meetings on DBS use in Anti-Doping.

The Anti-Doping Unit are preparing to collect their first DBS sample in 2023.



Paperless Sample Collection

The Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) worked alongside four other National Anti-Doping Organisations (Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, and New Zealand) with our software developers VisionBox to develop a paperless app designed to replace how we currently complete doping control paperwork. This would enable Doping Control Officers (DCOs) to use tablets to collect athlete and sample information during doping control sessions instead of recording this information on paper forms. In 2022, this project involved regular meetings with these organisations to develop the core functionality of the app and to customise elements of the app that were unique to each Country.

The ADU met with the laboratory's IT department to discuss the best method to securely transfer our paperless files from Sport Irelands server to the laboratory.

The ADU purchased tablets for the Doping Control Officers (DCOs) and began the training phase of this project. This involved a one-day in person workshop with the DCOs, where we gave an in-dept presentation on the app, talked them through the process step-by-step before finally allowing them to practice some 'dummy' sessions on the app itself.

The Anti-Doping Unit drafted new procedures on paperless and these were included in the Sample Collection Manual for Sample Collection Personnel. Late 2022, all Registered Testing Pool Athletes were notified of the ADUs plan to collect doping control paperwork electronically and offered the opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by the ADU. The National Governing Bodies of Sport were also notified of the correspondence sent to athletes to ensure they too were informed.

The Anti-Doping Unit will begin using tablets to complete doping control paperwork in 2023.

Council of Europe Evaluation Visit

Eight evaluation experts from the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention visited Sport Ireland's office from October 5th-7th 2022. The evaluation team experts were on site for two and a half days where they reviewed the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme in relation to the Anti-Doping Convention. This involved meeting with various stakeholders of the Anti-Doping Unit such as Government officials, athletes, National Governing Bodies etc. to ensure we were compliant with the Anti-Doping Convention.

Sport Ireland will receive a draft report from the Evaluation Team in January 2023 for our review and response. The Evaluation Team provided oral preliminary findings on the day which included the following statement:

“We found that there is strong commitment to anti-doping work in Ireland and we can really subscribe the comments on having a common anti-doping culture. Stakeholders involved in the anti-doping policy and work seem to be highly motivated and we had the impression that the coordination and cooperation works well. The Team was impressed.”



Sample Collection Personnel Training

The Anti-Doping Unit recruited 18 new sample collection personnel and training took place on January 14th -15th and 28th-29th 2022. 15 candidates successfully completed their two-day theoretical training, exam and practical in-field training and are now accredited chaperones.

The annual sample collection personnel training and reaccreditation day took place in person, for the first time since 2019, on October 22nd and November 29th. 51 Sample Collection Personnel attended these training days and were reaccredited for 2023.

EQA Audit

The annual surveillance audit for the Anti-Doping Unit's ISO 9001:2015 certification took place on October 25th. This audit was conducted by EQA Ltd, the Anti-Doping Unit's external auditors. No findings or recommendations were raised.

ISO Audit

The annual internal ISO audit commenced on November 21st with KOSI Corporation. One finding was recorded and the ADU has since resolved the issue. This report was presented to and approved by Sport Ireland's Audit Committee.

Web Based SIMON Replacement Project

SIMON is the Anti-Doping Unit's IT database that is used to manage our testing programme. Four National Anti-Doping Organisations from Ireland, Canada, Switzerland and Sweden are working together with VisionBox (the IT developer of SIMON) to develop a web-based SIMON replacement system to streamline processes and improve efficiency. This project, which was discussed in September 2021, will take approximately 2-3 years to complete.

After several meetings with this group, it was decided to divide this project into 3 phases of module development to ensure we give enough emphasis and time to each module within SIMON. The Anti-Doping Unit met as a team to discuss the updates that were needed for Phase 1.

After collating our requirements for Phase 1, we met with our software developers VisionBox and the other three NADOs in Switzerland on the 21st of March 2022 to discuss these specifications with VisionBox. Phase 1 of the collation requirements has been completed and a four-day meeting (21st to 24th March 2022) took place in Switzerland with the group and the software developers VisionBox. This meeting was a comprehensive discussion between all the parties on the development of the first prototype of this data management system.

The web-based application will contain sensitive information of athletes therefore, security information and security development is essential. Based on this, the group had a security workshop with Redguard, a Swiss consultancy firm, who specialise in IT security and are ISO: 9001 certified. Redguard will be accompanying the development of the new web-based SIMON.

After the prototype has been developed by Visionbox in 2023, the project development will be rolled out on a phased basis to each National Anti-Doping Agency.

Intelligence and Investigations

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Unit continues to actively participate in an intelligence sharing forum with representatives from other sporting organisations where an anti-doping function is required.

Our website operates a report doping function to gather intelligence on doping in sport and all reports are assessed and if necessary investigated. Sport Ireland continues to engage with key strategic partners, in particular those which are nominated in the Sport Ireland Act, 2015. Arrangements to finalise and update data sharing agreements with several bodies are progressing.

The Intelligence and Investigations unit is represented on the WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (ADIIN) and representatives from Sport Ireland attended the annual ADIIN conference in Paris in December. ADIIN is an important global forum which shares intelligence and information on best practice in intelligence and investigations and is open only to accredited Intelligence and Investigations sections with advanced investigative and intelligence capability.

During 2022 Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Officer who is a qualified and accredited WADA trainer, continued to deliver training in Intelligence and Investigations to a Europe wide cohort. This training will qualify the participants to take part in an advanced EU funded joint training initiative involving law enforcement and anti-doping intelligence and investigations officers. This training will be delivered in person by WADA at a venue in Warsaw, Poland.

Appendices



Appendix 1: Costs of the Programme

Expenditure Heading	2022	2021
Testing	1,182,269	1,015,691
Education and Research	51,612	69,919
Salaries	350,940	365,067
Other Costs	466,885	405,474
Total	2,051,706	1,856,151
Erasmus Income	17,912	5,313
Income from Testing	106,020	80,861

Appendix 2: Online International Meetings and Webinars

2021	Meetings and Webinars	
17 Feb	WADA's 2022-2023 Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ)	WADA Webinar
23 Feb	CAHAMA Meeting	Online Meeting
28 March	NADOs Leader Summit	Online Meeting
30 March	International Testing Agency – International Doping Control Officer Training	ITA Meeting
6-April	An introduction to DBS testing and its early implementation by the China Anti-Doping Agency	WADA Webinar
7-April	Discussion on DBS with NADOs	WADA Webinar
9-10 April	CAHAMA	Online Meeting
10 April	T-DO Council of Europe Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention	Online meeting
9-10 June	iNADO AGM and Workshop	Lausanne, Switzerland
11-12 June	WADA Symposium	Lausanne, Switzerland
23-June	Doping Risk Assessment	ITA Webinar
23-June	NADO Science Group Meeting	Online Meeting
10 August	iNADO: WADA NADO EAG Elections: What you need to know	Webinar
12-13 September	CAHAMA	Online Meeting
16 September	UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport - Virtual Regional Consultation with Group I	Online Meeting
26 September	iNADO Member-Only Webinar: Transforming into a Sport Integrity Agency: The FINCIS Experience	Online Meeting
18 October	Testing Experts Group Meeting	Online Meeting
3-November	59th meeting of the Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA)	Online Meeting

Appendix 3: Eirpharm Searches – Supplementary Information

Outcome of Successful Searches: Status of medicines in sport

Status of Products Searched	2022 Total	2022 (%)	2021 (%)	2020 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)
Permitted	12785	78.34	79.76	81.4	87.35	80.28
Prohibited	141	0.86	1.62	3.27	2.24	3.19
Prohibited In-competition Only	2555	15.66	12.27	8.95	7.6	10.58
Prohibited in-Competition or Permitted (Route Dependant)	15	0.09	0.24	0.16	0.14	0.22
Prohibited in specific sports	39	0.24	0.15	0.34	0.11	0.18
Prohibited in men only	3	0.02	0.09	0.07	0.02	0.10
Restricted - Inhaled Salbutamol	389	2.38	3.12	4.43	1.89	3.90
Restricted - Inhaled Formoterol	220	1.35	1.62	0.37	0.25	0.55
Restricted - Inhaled Salmeterol	144	0.88	0.91	1.04	0.39	0.98
Restricted - Inhaled Vilanterol	28	0.17	0.22			

Searches based on time of Year

% of yearly total	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jan	7.8	3.4	18.0	7.5	17.2
Feb	10.9	3.6	15.8	8.0	9.0
Mar	13.4	8.0	8.9	10.0	13.1
Apr	11.4	10.2	6.2	9.6	9.4
May	7.8	10.0	5.2	9.8	9.0
Jun	8.1	17.1	6.0	10.8	8.4
Jul	10.6	11.5	5.8	9.7	8.3
Aug	4.4	9.6	6.2	8.8	8.0
Sep	4.4	8.5	6.2	8.7	5.5
Oct	5.0	6.2	7.5	7.6	3.7
Nov	7.2	6.6	7.2	4.2	3.8
Dec	8.9	5.4	6.9	5.2	4.6



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