



SPÓRT
ÉIREANN
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SPORT
IRELAND
ANTI-DOPING

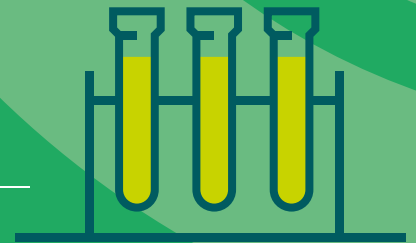
Annual Report 2023

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

Education & Athlete Support



21 Education sessions delivered reaching 800 stakeholders



Science and Medicine

16,333

Searches on the Sport Ireland Medcheck website

9

Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved

339

ABP samples reviewed

116

Dried Blood Spot samples collected



Testing

12

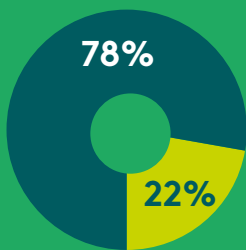
Countries tested in

1,595

Tests conducted

1,826

Samples collected



● Out of competition samples

● In-competition samples

48

Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) Re-Accredited

7

Doping Control Officers accredited as International Testing Agency iDCOs

Testing across **32** different sports

Results Management

1 Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) decision published

1 ADRV decision pending



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Foreword

I am delighted to present the 2023 Anti-Doping Annual Report which highlights the excellent work carried out in the previous calendar year. Reflecting on the year, I am pleased with the progress made as we continue to lead the Sport Ireland response to doping in sport.

Sport Ireland holds itself to the highest standards of transparency and this report reflects that, providing comprehensive details of the activities of the Irish Anti-Doping Programme, including the financial cost of it and the various highlights and key developments over the year.

As the Chair of the Anti-Doping Committee, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of Sport Ireland employees, Doping Control Personnel and National Governing Body Anti-Doping Officers which has been paramount as we pursue our mission to protect sport. I would like to extend a special thank you to Siobhán Leonard, Director of Anti-Doping and Ethics, who has recently taken a career break, for the hard work and dedication to the programme over the last 24 years.

I would like to thank the many dedicated experts who give their valuable time to the clean sport agenda - Chair Michael Collins SC, his fellow members of the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and Chair Prof. Sean Gaine, and his fellow members of the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) for their continued contribution. Furthermore, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their unwavering contribution.

On behalf of the Anti-Doping Committee, I would also like to thank all the athletes, support personnel and sports that have engaged in excellent cooperation and faith with the protocols and measures in 2023, and in doing so share our values and vision for sport in Ireland.



Roger O'Connor

Chairperson, Anti-Doping Committee

Introduction

We are delighted to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit (ADU). There were several key highlights achieved by the ADU in 2023 which are covered in detail throughout the report.

In 2023, 1,595 tests were conducted with 1,826 samples collected, in Ireland and overseas, the highest number of samples collected since the programme began in 1999. This is a result of the tireless work of the Anti-Doping Unit and should be commended.

It is worth noting that, to reflect the breadth of the programme, for 2023 Sport Ireland are reporting the number of samples collected, as well as the number of tests conducted. The figure of 1,826 is comprised of the number of urine, blood serum, blood Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) and Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples collected.

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. In January 2023, Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing was introduced and in the calendar year a total of 116 DBS samples were collected. DBS testing is an innovative testing method that collects just a few drops of blood from an athlete's fingertip or upper arm. This is an additional testing method and does not replace the traditional venous blood samples which we continue to collect.

In the area of intelligence and investigation, we have also continued to progress towards strengthening our investigative capabilities through avenues such as finalising a data sharing agreement with An Garda Síochána.

Sport Ireland continues to place a significant focus on an 'education first' principal for all stakeholders, through webinars, face-to-face education, and through our e-learning portal. There were 21 online or face-to-face education sessions delivered in 2023, which included sessions in secondary schools as part of the PE curriculum and at university level. Delivering on the recommended actions from the 2022 Council of Europe audit, the priority for education was to continue to work with second and third level institutions.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our athletes and support personnel for their consistent cooperation in upholding the principles of clean sport. For those athletes who have taken on the role of advocates and ambassadors for clean sport, a special thank you. Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the outstanding work ethic and high standard of work provided by the ADU team in 2023. The work of the team in the relentless pursuit of clean sport is invaluable.



John Foley
Sport Ireland Chair



Dr. Úna May
Chief Executive

Definitions

Athlete: Any person who competes in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Federation) or the national level (as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organisation).

Athlete Biological Passport: The programme and methods of gathering and collating data as described in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations and International Standard for Laboratories.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other person working with, treating or assisting an athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.

Filing Failure: A failure by the athlete (or by a third party to whom the athlete has delegated the task) to make an accurate and complete whereabouts filing that enables the athlete to be located for testing at the times and locations set out in the whereabouts filing or to update that whereabouts filing where necessary to ensure that it remains accurate and complete.

In-competition: In-competition testing is completed in connection with a sporting event. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) define in-competition as "The period commencing at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a competition in which the athlete is scheduled to participate through the end of such competition and the sample collection process related to such competition", unless stated otherwise by the rules of an International Federation.

International-Level Athlete: Athletes who compete in sport at the international level, as defined by each International Federation, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Missed Test: A failure by the athlete to be available for testing at the location and time specified in the 60-minute time slot identified in their whereabouts filing for the day in question.

National Anti-Doping Organisation: The entity designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of samples, manage test results and conduct results management at the national level.

National-Level Athlete: Athletes who compete in sport at the national level, as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organisation, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Out-of-competition: Athletes under the National Testing Programme can be subject to testing at any time (i.e. any period which is not in-competition) and at any place. Athletes may also be selected for inclusion on the RTP.

Registered Testing Pool (RTP): The pool of highest-priority athletes established separately at the international level by International Federations and at the national level by National Anti-Doping Organisations, who are subject to focused in-competition and out-of-competition testing as part of that International Federation's or National Anti-Doping Organisation's test distribution plan and therefore are required to provide whereabouts information.

Therapeutic Use Exemption: A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allows an athlete with a medical condition to use a prohibited substance or prohibited method, but only if the conditions set out in Article 4.4 and the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions are met.

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.

Whereabouts Failure: A filing failure or missed test.



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, 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 Sport Ireland 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 Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Committee members that served during 2023 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.

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 ADRV has been committed and/or the consequences to be imposed pursuant to the rules for an ADRV found to have been committed.

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel members that served during 2023 were:

Michael Collins Chair

Helen Kilroy Vice-Chair

Adrian Colton Vice-Chair

Hugh O'Neill Vice-Chair

Justice Fidelma Macken Vice-Chair

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 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, (Chairperson)
Respiratory Disease

Prof. James Gibney, Endocrinology

Prof. Stephen Lane, Respiratory Disease

Dr. Philip Murphy, Haematology

Prof. Sinead Harney, Rheumatology

Dr. Catherine McCorrigan, Cardiology

Prof. Seamus Morris, Orthopaedics

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Personnel

Siobhán Leonard
Director of Anti-Doping & Ethics

Melissa Morgan
Testing and Quality Manager

Michael McNulty
Anti-Doping Executive

Janine Merriman
Anti-Doping Executive (Jan – Oct)

Shauna Gurhy
Anti-Doping Executive (October – December)

Shaun O'Donnell
Anti-Doping Executive (October – December)

Michael Heffernan
Intelligence and Investigations Officer
(Part-time)

Gerard Nowlan
Science Officer

Paul O'Donovan
Anti-Doping Education and Values Manager

Dermot Howlin
Anti-Doping Education Assistant (November)



Education and Athlete Support

Sport Ireland remain committed to the provision of Anti-Doping education to all stakeholders.

Education first is the priority, meaning athletes should always have access to education before they are ever called to provide a sample at doping control. The ADU continue to strive to develop their Anti-Doping education programme so that education is available to as many of its target groups as possible.

In 2023 the education team delivered 21 clean sport workshops reaching over 800 stakeholders. Through the e-learning function, 2,500 (1,600 new, 900 re-certified users) users were certified as completing online education.

Another key focus of the programme was to increase the number of education sessions delivered to pathway/development athletes. Targeting athletes in this group can help to increase the reach of the programme into the future. Of the 21 sessions delivered in 2023, 8 included athletes that were under 18 or on a development pathway within their respective sports.



21

EDUCATION SESSIONS DELIVERED
REACHING 800 STAKEHOLDERS





Science and Medicine



16,333

SEARCHES ON THE SPORT IRELAND
MEDCHECK WEBSITE

9

THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS
APPROVED

339

ABP SAMPLES REVIEWED

116

DRIED BLOOD SPOT (DBS)
SAMPLES COLLECTED

Medcheck

In 2023 Sport Ireland launched a new Medcheck website, replacing Eirpharm. The medcheck website allows athletes, support personnel, and the general public to check the status of medications purchased in the Republic of Ireland according to the WADA prohibited list.

Users are provided with a reference number corresponding to their query.

Newly marketed and discontinued medicines are updated regularly.

See appendix A for:

- > Most commonly searched individual products
- > Most commonly searched ranges of medicinal products (Non-prescription and prescription)



Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

Sport Ireland follows the World Anti-Doping Code International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemption (ISTUE). A Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allows an athlete to use a prohibited method or substance 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.

5 valid pre-test TUE applications were made to Sport Ireland in 2023 and 4 of these were approved by the TUE Committee on receipt of an appropriate and up-to-date medical file. There was no need to approve the 5th application as the medication was no longer required by the athlete. All 4 finalised TUE applications were from different NGBs. In addition, 5 post-test TUE applications were also approved on receipt of a valid medical file.

Science

Science is a vital element of the testing programme driving innovation and evidence-based, decision-making. 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) 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 RTP athletes in each sport a number of tests will be allocated to each sport.

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. In 2023, Sport Ireland continued to 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.

See appendix B for ABP samples collected by Sport Ireland in 2023

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.

Samples Placed into Long Term Storage

SAMPLE TYPE	NUMBER ADDED IN 2023
Urine	65
Blood	8
Dried Blood Spot	3
TOTAL	76

Dried Blood Spot Testing

In 2023, Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Unit began collecting dried blood spot (DBS) samples. DBS testing is an innovative method that collects just a few drops of blood from an athletes fingertip or upper arm. This method is approved by WADA, and is considered as a complementary tool. Urine and venous blood testing remain the fundamental components of our testing programme.

A traditional blood sample collection is taken from the vein and it requires more blood from the athlete. A venous blood test takes 3-5 mL of blood from a vein in the arm which is then sent to the laboratory using temperature-controlled shipping. In comparison, DBS takes a much smaller amount of blood (a few drops) from a capillary and does not require temperature-controlled shipping to a WADA accredited anti-doping laboratory.

The main limitation to DBS is the relatively small volume of blood, making it necessary to analyze each sample for a finite list of substances

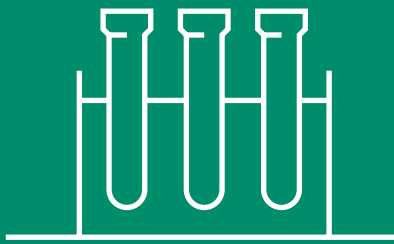
There are several benefits to the athlete from DBS testing:

- Quick sample collection process
- Less invasive than urine or venous blood sample collection offering a more comfortable athlete experience
- Test requires only a very small volume of blood

There are also benefits to anti-doping organisations through reduced costs of sample collection and transport.



Testing and Operations



12

COUNTRIES TESTED IN

1,595

TESTS CONDUCTED (COLLECTED TESTS NOT SAMPLES COLLECTED)

1,826

SAMPLES COLLECTED*

48

SAMPLE COLLECTION PERSONNEL RE-ACCREDITED

7

DCOS ITA IDCO ACCREDITED

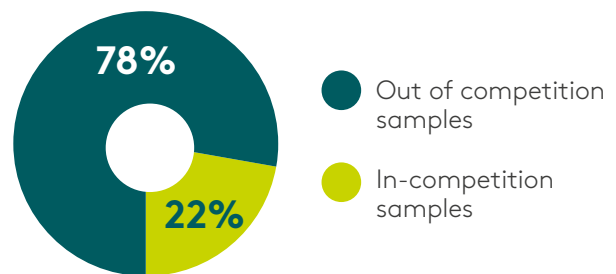
*1,826 samples (urine, blood serum, blood ABP, dried blood spot)

Testing is an integral part of Sport Ireland’s ability to detect doping and hold accountable those who violate anti-doping rules. Both in-competition and no-notice, out-of-competition testing are part of an effective anti-doping programme.

In 2023, the testing team delivered a successful risk-based and intelligence-led testing programme, where the number of tests (1,598) and samples (1,826) collected represents the highest number collected since the programme began in 1999. This was a milestone achievement as the team continued to manage and ensure the programme was delivered safely and in line with government COVID-19 guidance.

National Programme Testing Statistics, with in-competition and out-of-competition breakdowns

SAMPLE TYPE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
In-competition: Urine	398
Out-of-competition: Urine	797
Out-of-competition: Blood ABP	339
Out-of-competition: Blood Serum	176
Dried Blood Spot	116
Total Number of Samples:	1826



2022 vs 2023 Testing Figures

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	2022 COMP	2023 COMP	2022 OOC	2023 OOC	2022 BLOOD	2023 BLOOD	2022 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
American Football Ireland	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Athletics Ireland	38	28	93	96	87	92	218	216
Badminton Ireland	9	10	0	0	0	0	9	10
Basketball Ireland	4	6	0	0	0	0	4	6
Camogie Association	4	8	0	0	0	0	4	8
Canoeing Ireland	0	4	16	14	8	6	24	24
Cricket Ireland	12	16	0	0	0	0	12	16
Cycling Ireland	37	36	75	69	73	66	185	171
Football Association of Ireland	30	36	30	44	0	0	60	80
Gaelic Athletic Association	44	44	69	88	27	35	140	167
Golf Ireland	6	6	0	0	0	0	6	6
Gymnastics Ireland	6	9	13	14	2	2	21	25
Hockey Ireland	4	0	16	16	0	0	20	16
Horse Sport Ireland	10	13	0	0	0	0	10	13
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	5	4	0	0	0	0	5	4
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	0	20	26	45	7	5	33	70
Irish Judo Association	0	5	14	8	1	0	15	13
Irish Martial Arts Commission	6	7	0	0	0	0	6	7
Irish Rugby Football Union	12	0	102	170	81	47	195	217
Irish Squash	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	4
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	3	3	3	3	1	0	7	6
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	8	8	0	0	0	0	8	8
Motor Cycling Ireland	11	12	0	0	0	0	11	12
Motorsport Ireland	28	27	0	0	0	0	28	27
Paralympics Ireland	0	0	31	37	8	7	39	44
Pentathlon Ireland	0	0	5	3	5	3	10	6
Rowing Ireland	8	3	71	105	61	104	140	212
Snow Sports	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
Swim Ireland	19	24	52	48	45	37	116	109
Taekwondo Ireland	4	0	3	8	1	0	8	8
Triathlon Ireland	15	16	23	26	15	26	53	68
Tug of War Ireland	6	5	0	0	0	0	6	5
Weightlifting Ireland	15	13	0	0	0	0	15	13
TOTAL	346	371	647	794	422	430	1415	1595

Sample Statistics - sport by sport analysis

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	IN-COMP. URINE	OUT OF COMP. URINE	BLOOD ABP	BLOOD SERUM	DRIED BLOOD SPOT	TOTAL
American Football Ireland	4	0	0	0	2	6
Athletics Ireland	32	99	91	20	10	252
Badminton Ireland	11	0	0	0	0	11
Basketball Ireland	6	0	0	0	0	6
Camogie Association	9	0	0	0	4	13
Canoeing Ireland	4	14	6	2	2	28
Cricket Ireland	16	0	0	0	0	16
Cycling Ireland	38	69	66	12	7	192
Football Association of Ireland	42	40	0	0	0	82
Gaelic Athletic Association	46	89	0	36	9	180
Golf Ireland	7	0	0	0	0	7
Gymnastics Ireland	9	13	0	2	1	25
Hockey Ireland	0	16	0	0	0	16
Horse Sport Ireland	13	0	0	0	0	13
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	4	0	0	0	4	8
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	20	45	4	7	6	82
Irish Judo Association	5	7	0	1	2	15
Irish Martial Arts Commission	7	0	0	0	3	10
Irish Rugby Football Union	0	179	0	64	41	284
Irish Squash	4	0	0	0	0	4
Taekwondo Ireland	0	8	0	1	3	12
Tug of War Ireland	5	0	0	0	3	8
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	3	2	0	1	0	6
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	8	0	0	0	0	8
Motor Cycling Ireland	13	0	0	0	0	13
Motorsport Ireland	28	0	0	0	0	28
Paralympics Ireland	0	33	4	7	7	51
Pentathlon Ireland	0	3	3	1	0	7
Rowing Ireland	3	105	104	13	5	230
Swim Ireland	32	47	35	6	5	125
Triathlon Ireland	16	28	26	3	0	73
Weightlifting Ireland	13	0	0	0	2	15
TOTAL	398	797	339	176	116	1826

User Pays Testing

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the user pays programme. This is where sporting organisations pay for testing. During 2023, 332 samples were collected under this programme – 295 urine samples, 33 blood samples and 4 DBS samples.

Please note these samples are not included in the figure of 1,826.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY/ INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IN-COMP.	OUT OF COMP.	BLOOD ABP	BLOOD SERUM	DRIED BLOOD SPOT	TOTAL
Anti-Doping Sweden	0	1	1	1	0	3
Athletics Ireland	4	0	0	0	0	4
Boxing Union of Ireland	12	0	0	0	0	12
Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport	0	4	0	1	0	5
Federation Equestre Internationale	12	0	0	0	0	12
Federation Internationale de Hockey	4	5	0	0	0	9
International Federation of American Football	25	0	0	0	0	25
International Powerlifting Federation	21	0	0	0	0	21
International Weightlifting Federation	0	1	0	0	0	1
Irish Rugby Football Union	28	0	0	0	0	28
Swim Ireland	8	0	0	0	0	8
UK Anti-Doping	0	2	2	0	0	4
United States Anti-Doping Agency	0	5	0	2	0	7
World Aquatics	0	3	1	0	0	4
World Archery	15	0	0	0	0	15
World Athletics	16	0	0	0	0	16
World Baseball Softball Confederation	10	0	0	0	0	10
World Karate Federation	12	0	0	2	0	14
World Rugby	44	59	7	16	4	130
World Triathlon	4	0	0	0	0	4
Total	215	80	11	22	4	332

Whereabouts

Whereabouts information is critical to Sport Ireland to conduct strategic no-notice, out-of-competition testing. Athletes in Sport Ireland's RTP submit quarterly whereabouts filings and are responsible for providing updates when their schedule changes, whether it be documenting previously unplanned travel or adding a new training location. Athletes in the RTP have numerous ways to communicate their whereabouts to Sport Ireland.

See appendix C for:

- > RTP whereabouts failures by quarter
- > National Governing Body unsuccessful attempts



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 quality assurance procedures are in place for our stakeholders.

Sample Collection Personnel Training

The annual SCP training and reaccreditation days took place on October 21st and December 6th. 48 SCP attended these training days and were reaccredited for 2024. Sport Ireland would like to thank these dedicated professionals who work hard to protect the integrity of sport. In 2023, Sport Ireland upskilled and trained three Chaperones to DCOs. In addition, 7 DCOs were accredited by the International Testing Agency as international DCOs (iDCO), and 4 Sport Ireland DCOs have been selected to be part of the sample collection team at the Paris 2024 games.

Audits:

● EQA Audit

The annual surveillance audit for the ADUs ISO 9001:2015 certification took place on November 29th. 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 16th with KOSI Corporation. 2 minor findings were found. KOSI concluded that excellent assurance can be placed on the manner in which the ADU is managed internally in Sport Ireland.

● On Field Sample Collection Personnel Audits

The ADU carried out 5 SCP audits in 2023. The SCP are audited on communications skills with athletes and other relevant stakeholders, event management of the testing mission and the sample collection process (e.g. notification, chaperoning and processing of doping control paperwork). No major issues have been raised through these on-field audits.

Technology:

● Paperless Sample Collection

In 2023, Sport Ireland launched paperless sample collection in a bid to streamline sample collection procedures. Paperless testing will reduce the potential for human error and improve the flow of testing, as well as improving the overall security of sample collection.

The ADU collaborated with four other National Anti-Doping Organisations (Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, and New Zealand) and software developers VisionBox to develop a paperless app designed to replace paper sample collection forms.

● SIMON Upgrade Project

SIMON is the ADUs IT database that is used to manage the testing programme. Sport Ireland are collaborating with the Canadian, Swiss and Swedish National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and VisionBox to develop a web-based SIMON replacement system to streamline processes and improve efficiency. This project, which began in 2021, will take approximately 3-4 years to complete.

In 2023, the first prototype was developed by Visionbox and went through four rounds of testing to ensure it incorporated all required functionality and was tested each time by the four NADOs.

In 2024, the new database will be rolled out on a phased basis to each NADO.



Financial Performance

In 2023, the cost of the anti-doping programme was €2,447,583. Below details expenditure and income.

EXPENDITURE	€
Testing	1,346,636
Education and Research	113,779
Salaries	390,681
Other Costs*	596,477
Total Expenditure	2,447,573

INCOME	€
Erasmus Income	17,912
Income from Testing	106,020
Total income	123,932

* Includes legal advice associated with the programme, consultancy fees, travel and subsistence, advertising, printing, insurance and other related costs in administering the programme.

International & Stakeholder Relations

The ADU team continued to develop international and stakeholder relations, as well as upskilling and representing on expert/advisory panels through a number of international meetings in 2023.

See appendix D for details on international meetings and webinars.



Results Management and Intelligence



1 ADRV DECISION PUBLISHED

1 ADRV DECISION PENDING

Sport Ireland carry out the review and notification with respect to any potential ADRV in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management.

2023 Anti-Doping Rule Violations

SPORT	IN-COMPETITION OR OUT-OF-COMPETITION	SUBSTANCE	SUBSTANCE CATEGORY	SANCTIONS
Tug of War	In-competition	Cocaine	S6 Stimulants	4 years

Pending Cases

IN-COMPETITION OR OUT-OF-COMPETITION	ALLEGED RULE VIOLATED
In-competition	2.3, Article 10.10.3

- 2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's sample.
- 2.2 Use of a Prohibited Substance.
- 2.3 Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection.

Intelligence & Investigations

Sport Ireland's ADU 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 analysed, 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. During 2023 a data sharing agreement was finalised with An Garda Síochána, who also appointed a senior officer as the liaison contact with Sport Ireland's ADU. Arrangements to finalise a data sharing agreement with another important strategic partner is at an advanced stage. The Intelligence and Investigations unit is represented on the WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (ADIIN) and a representative from Sport Ireland attended the annual ADIIN conference in Monaco in October. ADIIN is an important global forum which shares intelligence and information on best practice in anti-doping intelligence and investigations and is open only to accredited Intelligence and Investigations sections with advanced investigative and intelligence capability. During 2023 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 European wide cohort. This training qualified the participants to take part in an advanced EU funded joint training initiative involving law enforcement and anti-doping intelligence and investigations officers. The training was delivered in-person by WADA, in Warsaw, Poland and was attended by Sport Ireland's Intelligence and Investigations Officer, and a member of An Garda Síochána with experience and expertise in the investigation of drugs related crime.

Appendices

Appendix A

Table 1 - Most Commonly Searched Individual Products

Rank 2023 (Rank 2022)	Medicine Name	No of times searched 2023 in bold, (2022 in brackets)	What is the medicine?	Legal status
Non-prescription medicines (number of total successful searches)				
1 (1)	Nurofen Cold and Flu Tablets	358 (566)	Ibuprofen & Pseudoephedrine containing cold and influenza medicinal product	Pharmacy only
2 (6)	Sudafed	287 (296)	Pseudoephedrine containing medicine for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	Pharmacy only
3 (2)	Lemsip Max Cold and Flu	262 (458)	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale
4 (29)	Zirtek	252 (120)	Cetirizine antihistamine product	Pharmacy only
5 (18)	Nurofen	245 (174)	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory	Pharmacy only
Prescription medicine (number of total successful searches)				
1	Seretide Evohaler	298 (120)	Inhaler containing beta-2-agonist (salmeterol) & glucocorticoid (fluticasone) for treatment of asthma	Prescription
2	Ventolin Evohaler	285 (220)	Inhaler containing beta-2-agonist (salbutamol) for treatment & prevention of bronchospasm due to asthma & chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Prescription

Table 2 - Most commonly searched ranges of medicinal products: Non-prescription and prescription

Brand	Type of products in range	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	Total	16333	16319	11821	9026	25780
Non-prescription medicines (% of total successful searches)						
Nurofen	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory and cold and influenza products	9.6	12.7	13.1	7.8	14.9
Lemsip	Paracetamol-based range of products for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds, influenza, coughs	8.0	10.4	8.7	8.2	6.6
Panadol	Paracetamol based range of products for pain relief and symptomatic relief of cold and influenza	4.2	4.2	4.3	2.8	^
Sudafed	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride containing medicines for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	3.0	4.2*	^	^	^
Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)						
Brand	Therapeutic class	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Ventolin	Beta-2 agonist, primarily inhaled products	2.31	1.86	2.8	3.2	2.5

*Included SudaPro & SudaPlus in range in 2022

Appendix B

ABP Blood Samples collected by Sport Ireland in 2023

Sport	No of ABP (Blood) Samples collected
Athletics	91
Boxing	4
Canoeing	6
Cycling	32
Modern Pentathlon	3
Paralympic Athletics	4
Paralympic Cycling	34
Rowing	104
Swimming	35
Triathlon	26
TOTAL	339

Appendix C

RTP Whereabouts Failures by Quarters

	Filing Failures	Missed Tests	Unsuccessful Attempts
Quarter 1	0	0	31
			Athletics Ireland: 6
			Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 1
			Cycling Ireland: 3
			Gymnastics Ireland: 3
			Irish Judo Association: 3
			Paralympics Ireland: 5
			Rowing Ireland: 7
			Swim Ireland: 2
			Triathlon Ireland: 1
Quarter 2	0	3	32
		Athletics Ireland: 1	Athletics Ireland: 6
		Gymnastics Ireland: 1	Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 3
		Swim Ireland: 1	Cycling Ireland: 3
			Gymnastics Ireland: 4
			Irish Judo Association: 2
			Paralympics Ireland: 4
			Rowing Ireland: 2
			Swim Ireland: 6
			Triathlon Ireland: 2
Quarter 3	2	3	35
	Cycling Ireland: 1	Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 1	Athletics Ireland: 3
	Rowing Ireland: 1	Canoeing Ireland: 1	Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 4
		Gymnastics Ireland: 1	Canoeing Ireland: 4
			Cycling Ireland: 5
			Gymnastics Ireland: 2
			Paralympics Ireland: 3
			Rowing Ireland: 9
			Taekwondo Ireland: 1
			Triathlon Ireland: 4
Quarter 4	0	0	23
			Athletics Ireland: 5
			Irish Athletic Boxing Association: 2
			Cycling Ireland: 5
			Rowing Ireland: 8
			Swim Ireland: 2
			Triathlon Ireland: 1

National Governing Body (NGB) Unsuccessful Attempts

NGB	Unsuccessful Attempts
GAA	1
FAI	2
IRFU	3
Hockey Ireland	1

Appendix D

International Meetings

Date	Details	Meeting
9-10 Feb	NADO Leaders' Summit	In-person, Amsterdam
15 Feb	Council of Europe Education Group Pre-Nyon Meeting	Online meeting
15 Feb	CAHAMA/T-DO Drafting Committee on Gender Equality in Antidoping (GECA)	Online Meeting
21-22 Feb	Council of Europe Education Group Meeting, UEFA HQ	In-person, Nyon
10-11 Mar	NADO Testing Experts Meeting	In-person, Paris
12-13 Mar	iNADO AGM and Workshop	In-person, Lausanne
14-15 Mar	WADA Symposium	In-person, Lausanne
27 Mar	WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Advanced Workshop Warsaw	In-person
5 Apr	CAHAMA/T-DO Drafting Committee on Gender Equality in Antidoping (GECA)	Online meeting
26-27 Apr	Council of Europe CAHAMA meeting	In-person, Strasbourg
27-28 Apr	Monitoring Group of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention	In-person, Strasbourg
6-8 Jun	Conference "Preparing for the future of Anti-doping"	In-person, Oslo
30 Aug	Council of Europe Education Group 'Team Captains' Meeting	Online meeting
29 Sep	Council of Europe Advisory Group on Science	In-person
29 Sept - 01 Oct	USADA Science Symposium	In-person
17 Oct	Council of Europe Education Group Pre-Vienna Meeting	Online meeting
24 Oct	Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Workshop Monaco	In-person
10 Nov	Nordic APMU Seminar	In-person



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