



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping
Annual Report
2025

HIGHLIGHTS 2025



Clean Sport Education

60 In-person or online Education Sessions delivered by Sport Ireland, supporting **1,697** athletes and athlete support personnel.

27 Education Sessions delivered by NGBs, educating **2,276** athletes and athlete support personnel.

4,325 Athletes and athlete support personnel completed WADA ADEL e-learning courses.

4 Clean Sport Outreach Sessions

Science and Medicine

19,065

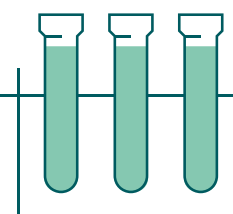
Searches on the Sport Ireland Medcheck website

9

Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved

331

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) samples



Testing

1,827

Samples collected

26%

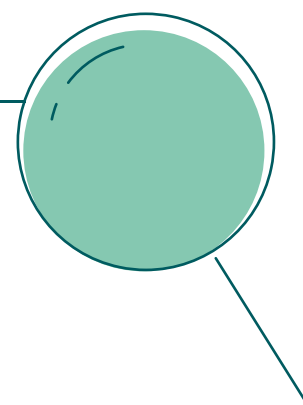
In-Competition samples

74%

Out of Competition samples

Collected across

31 different sports



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Foreword

I am delighted to present, as interim Chair of the Anti-Doping Committee, the 2025 Anti-Doping Annual Report. This report highlights the excellent work carried out by the Anti-Doping Unit during 2025. Sport Ireland continues to spearhead the fight against doping in sport.

This report provides a comprehensive update of the key activities and developments to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme over the last calendar year.

Our thanks to the anti-doping team, led by Cólleen Devine, whose hard work, commitment and dedication continued to drive forward the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme. I would also like to thank our Sample Collection Personnel and our Lead Clean Sport Educators who work alongside the Anti-Doping Unit. Also, thank you to the National Governing Body Anti-Doping Officers who continue to guide their sports in the pursuit of clean sport.

A number of Committees also give their valuable time to support the Anti-Doping Unit in implementing the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme. Thank you to Prof. Seán Gaine, Chair of Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee and Michael Collins, SC, Chair of Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel. We are grateful, too, to the members of their committees for their work and their continued contribution to the Programme. Also, thanks to the Independent Nominations Committee for their continued support.

To my fellow Anti-Doping Committee members, thank you for your time, support and input over the last year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger O'Connor for his leadership, who after 5 years of Chair, stepped down from the Role of Chair this year.

Lastly, our appreciation to athletes and athlete support personnel for their steadfast support of the anti-doping programme and their continued commitment to clean sport. The Anti-Doping Unit carries out our work for the protection of clean athletes and we thank all of our athletes that continue to represent their sport with honesty and integrity.



Páraic Duffy

Interim Chairperson, Anti-Doping Committee

Introduction

It is said that education is the kindling of a fire, rather than the filling of a pail. That is a fire that Sport Ireland remains committed to stoking in our defence of clean sport.

The Anti-Doping Unit worked diligently in this area in 2025, delivering more education sessions than at any time in our history. We carried out 60 Education Sessions, that supported 1,697 athletes and athlete support personnel.

The Sport Ireland recognised National Governing Bodies (NGBs), our key partners in the fight against doping in sport, delivered 27 Education Sessions to 2,276 athletes.

In addition, 4,325 athletes and athlete support personnel completed WADA ADEL e-learning courses and 4,945 athletes and athlete support personnel completed NGB or International Federation e-learning courses, including the GAA e-learning programme and European Athletics 'I Run Clean' module.

We will continue to develop and deliver bespoke education programmes and resources for all our major stakeholders.

Our education-first approach ensures athletes will be educated on the principles and processes of doping control, before ever having to provide a sample. Our athlete-first approach ensures sportspeople can excel while prioritising their physical and mental health. This is critical in safeguarding both performance integrity and athlete wellbeing.

Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the outstanding work ethic and exacting standards of the Anti-Doping Unit in 2025.

The Anti-Doping Unit remains committed to providing education and resources that are accessible, practical, and tailored to the needs of athletes and athlete support personnel. In 2025 we also introduced a new Clean Sport Handbook, created in direct consultation with NGBs, to provide clear, accessible information across a range of key Clean Sport topics.

We continue to provide an effective, quality-driven testing programme to combat doping in sport. In 2025 the Anti-Doping Unit collected 1,827 samples across 31 different sports. Four Anti-Doping Rule Violations were published in 2025 and there are three pending cases.

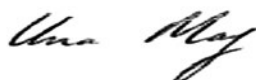
Our efforts were further strengthened by the implementation of a new database and the purchase of a new mobile testing unit.

Crucial to our work has been the hard work and dedication of our trusted partners in the NGBs, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC), the Anti-Doping Committee, and international partners such as World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). We will deepen and enhance those relationships in the year ahead.

While the past year brought strong progress, challenges lie ahead. We remain steadfast in our commitment to defend clean sport and safeguard the values of competition from threats such as the Enhanced Games. We will continue to stand alongside the sporting community to confront these dangers, protect the integrity of sport, and uphold athlete wellbeing.



John Foley
Sport Ireland Chair



Dr. Una May
Chief Executive

Definitions

ABP	Athlete Biological Passport
ADC	Anti-Doping Committee
ADEL	Anti-Doping Education and Learning
ADIIN	Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network
ADO	Anti-Doping Officer
ADRV	Anti-Doping Rule Violation
ADU	Anti-Doping Unit
APMU	Athlete Passport Management Unit
ASP	Athlete Support Personnel
DBS	Dried Blood Spot
DCO	Doping Control Officer
FAI	Football Association of Ireland
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
IC	In-Competition
IF	International Federation
IRFU	Irish Rugby Football Union
ISADDP	Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel
ISE	International Standard for Education
ISTUE	International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions
ITA	International Testing Agency
NADO	National Anti-Doping Organisation
NGB	National Governing Body
OOC	Out-of-Competition
RTP	Registered Testing Pool
SCP	Sample Collection Personnel
TDP	Test Distribution Plan
TUE	Therapeutic Use Exemption
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency



Background Information

Visions of the Programme



Testing

To provide an effective, quality-driven testing programme.



Clean Sport Education

To facilitate the development and delivery of bespoke education programmes and resources 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.



Operations

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, monitor and evaluate 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.

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.



Governance Framework

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee

Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Committee (ADC) is an advisory committee to the Board of Sport Ireland. The ADC 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 3 times in 2025, and the members were:

Roger O'Connor	Chair (January to September)
Páraic Duffy	Board member (Interim Chair from September)
Dr. Elizabeth Keane	Public Health
David Gillick	Athlete Rep
Ian Weir	Sport NI
Professor Pat Murray	Pharmacology
Deirdre Duke	Team Sport Rep

Secretariat: Michael McNulty, Anti-Doping Quality and Compliance Manager.

Independent Nominations Committee

In January 2023, the Sport Ireland Board approved amendments to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel Procedures including that any new appointments to the Disciplinary Panel will be made by an independent nominations committee which will review applications, and that the renewal of appointments will be made by the independent nominations committee.

Members of the Independent Nominations Committee are:

Clíodhna Guy	Chair (Head of Governance and Legal, Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB))
Hamish Coffey	Independent Rep (Chief Operations Officer UK Anti-Doping)
Mike Earl	Independent Rep (Director of Anti-Doping, World Rugby)

Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

The Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ISADDP) 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 (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 for 2025 were:

Michael Collins	Chair
Helen Kilroy	Vice-Chair
Rory McCabe	Vice-Chair
Hugh O'Neill	Vice-Chair
Justice Fidelma Macken	Vice-Chair
Liz Howard	Administrative Rep
Dr. Mary O'Flynn Flannery	Medical Rep
Dr. Colm O'Morain	Medical Rep
Dr. Pat O'Neill	Medical Rep
Dr. Denis Cusack	Medical Rep
Dr. Rachel Cullivan	Medical Rep

Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC)

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

The Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee members for 2025 were:

Prof. Seán Gaine	Chair (Respiratory)
Dr. James Gibney	Medical Rep (Endocrinology)
Prof. Stephen Lane	Medical Rep (Respiratory)
Dr. Philip Murphy	Medical Rep (Haematology)
Prof. Sinéad Harney	Medical Rep (Rheumatology)
Dr. Catherine McGorrian	Medical Rep (Cardiology)
Prof. Seamus Morris	Medical Rep (Orthopaedics)

Executive Team

Cólleen Devine	Director of Anti-Doping (January - November 2025)
Siobhán Leonard	Director of Anti-Doping (November 2025)
Melissa Morgan	Anti-Doping Testing and Quality Manager
Michael McNulty	Anti-Doping Quality and Compliance Manager
Paul O'Donovan	Anti-Doping Education & Values Manager (January - March 2025)
Elaine Cahill	Anti-Doping Education Higher Executive
Michael Heffernan	Intelligence and Investigations Officer
Áine Hollywood	Science Officer
Holly Murray	Anti-Doping Executive
Lee Fanning	Anti-Doping Executive
Carrie O'Keeffe	Anti-Doping Education Executive

Contact Details

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Clean Sport Education



60

In-person or online Education Sessions delivered by Sport Ireland, supporting 1,697 athletes and athlete support personnel.

27

Education Sessions delivered by NGBs, educating 2,276 athletes and athlete support personnel.

4

Clean Sport Outreach Sessions

4,325

Athletes and athlete support personnel completed WADA Anti-Doping Education and Learning (ADEL) e-learning courses.

4,945

Athletes and athlete support personnel completed NGB or International Federation e-learning course, including the GAA e-learning programme and European Athletics 'I Run Clean' module.



International Standard for Education (ISE)

The International Standard for Education (ISE) is a mandatory International Standard developed as part of the World Anti-Doping Program. Its purpose is to preserve the spirit of sport and foster a clean sport environment. Sport Ireland’s education programme is guided and supported by the ISE framework.

The ADU continues to invest in clean sport through an education first approach, ensuring athletes are educated on the principles and processes of doping control, before ever having to provide a sample. This is delivered through clean sport workshops, online education, outreach events, and the introduction of the new Clean Sport Handbook. The ADU remains committed to providing education and resources that are accessible, practical, and tailored to the needs of athletes and athlete support personnel.

Education Touchpoints & E-Learning

In 2025, 60 education sessions were delivered, combining both in-person and online formats, supporting 1,697 athletes and athlete support personnel. These sessions engaged high performance athletes, development pathway athletes, third level students, medical professionals and athlete support personnel.

Additionally, 27 education sessions were delivered by NGBs, educating a further 2,276 athletes and athlete support personnel.

Through the WADA ADEL e-learning function 4,325 users were certified as having completed online education in 2025. This is a 140% increase from 2024 following the strategic direction of all users to the WADA ADEL platform. Overall, total e-learning users increased by 23% from 2024-2025.

A number of modules can be completed and the eight most completed courses were:

Athlete’s Guide to the 2021 Code	1,636
ADEL for National Level Athletes	872
ADEL for International Level Athletes	850
Athlete Support Personnel Guide to the Code 2021	283
ADEL for Coaches for High Performance	218
ADEL Refresher Course for National-Level Athletes	101
ADEL for Youth Athletes	78
ADEL Refresher Course for International Level Athletes	55

To avoid unnecessary duplication, prior education and other clean sport learning requirements are taken into consideration where appropriate. In this context, the ADU are pleased to report that 4,945 athletes and athlete support personnel completed alternative NGB or International Federations e-learning courses, such as the GAA e-learning programme or European Athletics ‘I Run Clean’ module.

Outreach events

Clean Sport outreach events provide face-to-face engagement opportunities at competitions, training camps, and major sporting events. These interactive activations allow athletes, athlete support personnel and the general public to ask questions, test their knowledge, and access practical information about anti-doping rules and responsibilities in an informal and supportive environment.

Outreach events complement formal education sessions by reinforcing key messages, increasing visibility of Clean Sport, and ensuring athletes feel confident navigating the anti-doping system. Sport Ireland attended 4 outreach sessions in 2025 which included the National Senior Cadets Boxing Championships, Para Powerlifting Championships, U19 Boxing Championships and U23 Boxing Championships.

Sport Ireland Institute Days

Throughout 2025, the Clean Sport Education team held monthly check-ins at the Sport Ireland Institute, operating from the designated Anti-Doping area. These check-ins were introduced as a proactive, hands-on support service for athletes and athlete support personnel, providing a consistent point of contact for general clean sport queries and whereabouts guidance as well as athlete support. The regular presence of the team helped build rapport and familiarity with athletes on site, ensuring they knew where to go for trusted advice. This approach strengthened our visibility within the Institute environment and reinforced our commitment to accessible, athlete-centred education.

Clean Sport Educators

A key focus of the ISE is the development of a qualified educator pool i.e. trained individuals responsible for delivering clean sport education. The educator pool plays a crucial role in ensuring that clean sport education is engaging, credible and aligned with WADA's broader goal of promoting clean sport.

Sport Ireland Lead Educators

During 2024 Sport Ireland trained and accredited 5 Lead Educators to assist with the delivery of Clean Sport education sessions. The 5 Lead Educators played a key role in delivering education sessions in 2025 and were instrumental in enabling an increased number of sessions.

NGB Educators

In 2025 we expanded our educator pool, with 40 NGB Clean Sport Educators trained to deliver clean sport education within their organisations. This ensures that NGBs have dedicated, knowledgeable educators capable of delivering tailored sessions for the respective audience that reflect the specific realities and risks within their sport.

In addition, 13 previously trained educators attended an upskilling session to remain current with Clean Sport topics and to further refine their facilitation skills. This continued professional development supports a consistent, high-quality standard of education across the educator network.

To further strengthen the network of educators, the Clean Sport Educator Hub was established as a central platform for communication, collaboration and ongoing learning. The Hub enables educators to access updated resources, receive guidance on emerging issues and share experiences from education sessions. It plays an important role in maintaining consistency, quality and responsiveness across the Clean Sport Education landscape.



Science and Medicine



HIGHLIGHTS

19,065

Searches on the Sport Ireland Medcheck website

9

Therapeutic Use Exemptions approved

331

Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) samples

Medcheck

Medcheck is an online service provided by Sport Ireland which allows athletes, athlete support personnel, and any other interested parties to check the status in sport of medicinal products purchased in the Republic of Ireland, against the WADA prohibited list. Newly marketed and discontinued medicines are updated regularly.

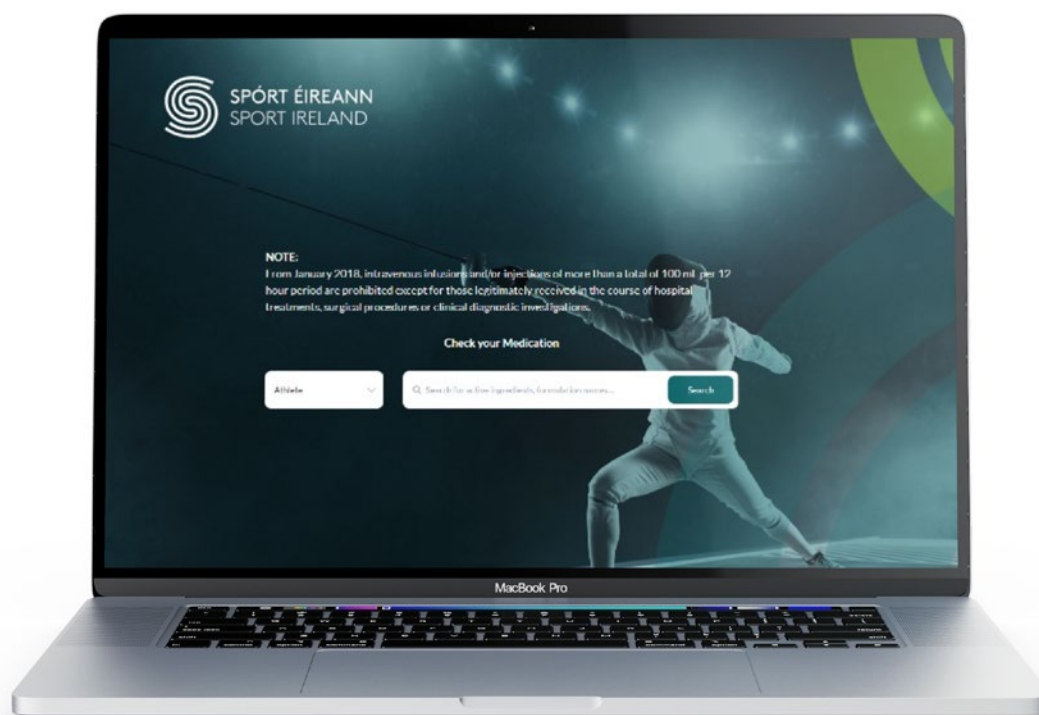
By providing athletes and support personnel with convenient and accurate information, Sport Ireland are providing them with information required to uphold clean sport.

Table 1 - Most commonly searched individual products

Rank 2025 (2024)	Medicine Name	No. of times searched 2025 (2024)	What is the medicine?	Legal status
Non-prescription medicines (number of total successful searches)				
1 (5)	Lemsip Max Sinus & Flu (Hot Lemon) Powder for Oral Solution	358 (301)	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and Paracetamol containing medicine for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	Pharmacy only
2 (2)	Nurofen Cold and Flu Tablets	357 (369)	Ibuprofen based cold and influenza product	Pharmacy only
3 (3)	Lemsip Max Cold and Flu, Powder for Oral Solution	337 (337)	Paracetamol for oral solution for relief of symptoms associated with the common cold or influenza	General Sale and Pharmacy only, depending on pack size
4 (1)	Sudafed	322 (394)	Pseudoephedrine containing medicine for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	Pharmacy only
5 (10)	Lemsip Max Cough & Cold, Powder for Oral Solution	311 (211)	Paracetamol and guaifenesin containing medicine, for oral solution, for symptomatic relief of common cold & influenza	General Sale and Pharmacy only, depending on pack size
Prescription medicine (number of total successful searches)				
1 (1)	Ventolin Evohaler	361 (370)	Inhaler containing beta-2 agonist (salbutamol) for treatment and prevention of bronchospasm due to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Prescription Only
2 (2)	Deltacortril Enteric	175 (226)	Glucocorticoid used to treat a wide range of conditions including allergies, inflammatory conditions including musculo-skeletal, autoimmune disorders and other conditions	Prescription Only
3 (4)	Symbicort 200/6 Turbohaler	166 (121)	Inhaler containing a beta-2 agonist (formoterol) and a glucocorticoid (budesonide) used in the treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Prescription Only
4 (3)	Vimovo 500mg/20mg modified-release tablets	138 (125)	Modified release tablets containing an anti-inflammatory (naproxen) and a stomach protectant (esomeprazole), used in the treatment of conditions such as osteoarthritis	Prescription Only
=5 (17)	Nebido 1000mg/4ml, solution for injection	85 (50)	Solution for injection containing testosterone, used in testosterone replacement therapy	Prescription Only
=5 (5)	Ritalin tablets	85 (108)	Tablets containing methylphenidate, used in the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder	Prescription Only

Table 2 - Most commonly searched ranges of medicinal products

Brand	Type of products in range	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	Total	19065	19537	16333	16319	11821	9026
Non-prescription medicines (% of total successful searches)							
Lemsip	Paracetamol-based range of products for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds, influenza, coughs	6.2%	10.2%	8%	10.41%	8.7%	8.2%
Nurofen	Ibuprofen based anti-inflammatory and cold and influenza products	6.9%	8.4%	9.6%	12.68%	13.1%	7.8%
Panadol	Paracetamol based range of products for pain relief and symptomatic relief of cold and influenza	4.6%	4.7%	4.2%	4.22%	4.3%	2.8%
Sudafed	Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride containing medicines for symptomatic relief of congestion, colds and influenza	1.2%	3.2%	3%	4.15%	^	^
Prescription Products (% of total successful searches)							
Brand	Therapeutic class	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Ventolin	Beta-2 agonist, primarily inhaled products	0.7%	2.54%	2.31%	1.86%	2.8%	3.2%



Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

In line with WADA's International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE), the Sport Ireland TUE Committee considers TUE applications for Irish athletes. A TUE allows an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method, that is included on the WADA Prohibited List, for therapeutic/medical reasons, 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.

Four (4) valid pre-test TUE applications were made to Sport Ireland in 2025; these were approved by the TUE Committee on receipt of appropriate and up-to-date medical files.

In addition, five (5) retroactive TUE applications were also approved on receipt of valid medical files. This is where the athlete has been tested by Sport Ireland and a TUE application is then submitted for review by the TUE Committee.

25 non-TUE applications were received by Sport Ireland. These were athletes who did not require a prospective TUE or where the medicines were not prohibited in sport. Advice was provided to these athletes on the preparation of a medical file if required.





Science

Science is a vital element in the promotion of clean competition, driving innovation and supporting evidence-based decision-making. At Sport Ireland, science guides education strategies, testing, and results management operations. Several tools are used by the ADU to ensure that an effective testing programme is implemented:

Test Distribution Plan (TDP)

The annual TDP outlines the allocation of samples for collection across the relevant sports. Two considerations are made in developing the TDP as follows:

1. **Risk Analysis:** completed for each sport and discipline. Criteria used for the risk analysis include: the physical demands of the sport/discipline, possible performance-enhancing effects doping may elicit in the sport/discipline, rewards/incentives available, history of doping in the sport/discipline, research on doping trends, intelligence/information received, the point during their career an athlete would benefit most from doping, the time of year/cycle when an athlete would benefit most from doping and outcomes of previous TDPs.
2. **Allocation:** the outcome of the risk analysis and the number of RTP athletes for each sport dictates the samples allocated to each sport.

Athlete Biological Passport

The ABP tracks specific biological markers in urine and blood samples over time, which can indirectly indicate the effects of doping on the body. The ABP programme enables Sport Ireland to develop individual, long-term data profiles for each athlete, allowing for the detection of any irregularities that may suggest the use of performance-enhancing substances or methods. This data also supports targeted, conventional anti-doping testing for athletes exhibiting abnormal patterns, while providing valuable evidence in cases of anti-doping violations. Sport Ireland currently collects samples for the Haematological Module, the Urine Steroid Module, and the Blood Steroid Module of the ABP.

Table 3 - ABP Blood Samples collected by Sport in 2025

Sport	No. of ABP (Blood) Samples collected
Athletics	96
Boxing	3
Canoeing	3
Cycling	51
Para-athletics	8
Para-swimming	8
Rowing	92
Swimming	46
Triathlon	24
Total	331

Blood Steroid Module of ABP

In 2025, Sport Ireland began collecting samples for the Blood Steroid Module of the ABP. This module aims to generate data to complement that of the longitudinal data from urine samples. The Steroidal Module in blood consists of one primary marker, the Testosterone/Androstenedione (T/A4) ratio. Studies have demonstrated that T/A4 is sensitive to transdermal testosterone administration, especially in athletes with low levels of steroids present in urine. Samples for the Blood Steroid module are collected through blood serum samples.

Dried Blood Spot Testing

In 2025, Sport Ireland's ADU continued collecting Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples. 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. This is an additional testing method approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The collection device that Sport Ireland use for DBS is the TASSO M20 and the secure transport kits are provided by InnoVero.

Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)

An APMU is a dedicated unit responsible for the timely review and management of all athletes' biological samples and passports. An APMU must be hosted independently by a WADA accredited laboratory. In 2025, 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.

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 4 - Samples Placed in Long Term Storage 2025

Sample Type	Number Added in 2025
Urine	70
Blood	23
Dried Blood Spot	3
Total	96

Research

In 2024, Sport Ireland partly funded a research project with Institute of Biochemistry, Center for Preventive Doping Research, German Sport University Cologne. The title of the project is "Detection of the GH analogue somatrogen in doping control urine samples by means of LC-HRMS/MS". The findings of the project were published in 2025.



Testing & Operations

1,827

Samples collected

26%

In-Competition samples

74%

Out of Competition samples

Samples were collected across

31

different sports

Sport Ireland report our testing figures by the number of urine, blood serum, blood Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), and Dried Blood Spot (DBS) samples collected, instead of the number of urine and blood tests completed.



Table 5 - National Programme Testing Statistics, with IC and OOC Breakdown

Sample Type	Number of samples
In-Competition: Urine	407
In-Competition: Blood ABP	4
Out of Competition: Urine	813
Out of Competition: Blood ABP	327
Blood Serum	169
Dried Blood Spot	107
Total Number of Samples:	1827

Table 6 - National Programme Testing Statistics - sport by sport analysis

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	IC URINE	OOC URINE	BLOOD	OOC ABP	IC ABP	DBS	TOTAL
American Football Ireland	4	0	0	0	0	2	6
Athletics Ireland	39	115	28	95	1	6	284
Badminton Ireland	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Basketball Ireland	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Boxing Ireland	10	56	7	3	0	4	80
Canoeing Ireland	4	20	2	3	0	0	29
Cricket Ireland	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Cycling Ireland	42	54	20	51	0	8	175
Football Association of Ireland	44	45	0	0	0	0	89
Gaelic Athletic Association	48	108	20	0	0	40	216
Golf Ireland	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Gymnastics Ireland	5	18	5	0	0	0	28
Hockey Ireland	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Horse Sport Ireland	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	4	0	0	0	0	4	8
Irish Judo Association	4	9	3	0	0	4	20
Irish Rugby Football Union	8	144	64	0	0	16	232
Irish Wheelchair Association	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	12	0	0	0	0	4	16
Motor Cycling Ireland	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Motor Sport Ireland	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Paralympics Ireland	0	39	2	16	0	0	57
Rowing Ireland	8	95	7	92	0	0	202
Squash Ireland	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Swim Ireland	18	48	6	43	3	4	122
Taekwondo Ireland	5	8	1	0	0	4	18
Tennis Ireland	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
The Camogie Association	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Triathlon Ireland	14	26	3	24	0	0	67
Tug of War Ireland	8	0	0	0	0	4	12
Weightlifting Ireland	12	7	0	0	0	7	26
TOTAL	407	813	169	327	4	107	1827

User Pays Testing

Sport Ireland also conducts testing under the User Pays Programme, where other sports organisations – National Governing Bodies of Sport, International Federations or other Anti-Doping Organisations – pay for testing. In 2025, 225 samples were collected under this programme – 187 urine samples, 28 blood samples, 6 blood ABP samples and 4 DBS samples.

Table 7 – User Pays Testing

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY/ INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IC URINE	OOC URINE	BLOOD ABP	BLOOD SERUM	DBS	TOTAL
Anti-Doping Sweden	0	2	1	0	0	3
Fédération Equestre Internationale	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime	2	0	0	0	0	2
International Powerlifting Federation	2	0	0	0	0	2
Irish Rugby Football Union	24	0	0	0	0	24
Sport Integrity Commission New Zealand	0	1	0	0	0	1
Union Cycliste Internationale	0	1	0	0	0	1
UK Anti-Doping	0	4	0	0	0	4
World Aquatics	0	8	5	0	0	13
World Athletics	40	0	0	0	0	40
World Rugby	32	70	0	28	4	134
TOTAL	100	87	6	28	4	225

Table 8 - RTP Whereabouts Failures by Quarters

	Filing Failures	Missed Tests
Quarter 1	0	0
Quarter 2	0	2
		Athletics Ireland: 1
		Rowing Ireland: 1
Quarter 3	0	4
		Athletics Ireland: 1
		Cycling Ireland: 1
		Rowing Ireland: 1
		Taekwondo Ireland: 1
Quarter 4	0	3
		Canoeing Ireland: 1
		Cycling Ireland: 2

Table 9 - NGB Unsuccessful Attempts

NGB	Unsuccessful Attempts
GAA	5
FAI	4
IRFU	1
Hockey Ireland	0

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 be 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.

Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) Training

The annual Sample Collection Personnel training and reaccreditation day took place on November 15th and December 15th, 2025. 47 Sample Collection Personnel attended these training days and were reaccredited for 2026.

Sport Ireland would like to thank these dedicated professionals who worked hard to protect the integrity of sport during 2025.

On Field Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) Audits

The ADU carried out 7 SCP audits in 2025. 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 were raised through these on-field audits.

ISO Audit

The annual surveillance audit for the ADU's ISO 9001:2015 certification took place on 4th December 2025. This audit was conducted by Amtivo, the Anti-Doping Unit's external auditors. No findings or recommendations were raised.

Internal Audit

The annual internal audit commenced on 18th and 20th November 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.

ADU Data Management System - SIMON Upgrade Project

SIMON is the IT database used by the ADU to manage the testing programme. To enhance processes and improve efficiency, Sport Ireland partnered with the Canadian, Swiss, and Swedish National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and VisionBox (software developer) to develop a web-based system to replace SIMON. This project, which began in 2021, involved four years of prototyping, testing, reviewing, and providing feedback to ensure the new system met the specific needs of the ADU.

On January 29th 2025, the new database was successfully implemented into the ADU. The upgraded SIMON has optimised processes and introduced digital upgrades. A key enhancement is the ability for Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) invoices to be submitted electronically. This shift to digital submission improves efficiency and reduces manual work. Overall, SIMON simplifies administrative tasks and enhances productivity. Furthermore, since its launch, SIMON has received positive feedback from both ADU staff and SCP, highlighting its effectiveness and ease of use.

New Mobile Testing Unit

The ADU strengthened its field capabilities with the purchase of a new mobile testing unit in August 2025, following a comprehensive procurement process. The vehicle—similar in design to a compact, modern campervan—has been custom-equipped to support efficient and secure sample collection at sporting events and training sites where no suitable facilities are available.

Blood Collection Officers

In May 2025, Sport Ireland made a strategic decision regarding the anti-doping blood collection service, this service was contracted for almost 15 years. After careful consideration and a thorough review of our operational needs, Sport Ireland decided to bring the blood collection service function in-house in line with the operations of other Sample Collection Personnel. Sport Ireland now have four blood collection officers providing phlebotomy services under the testing programme.





Financial Performance

In 2025, the cost of the anti-doping programme was **€2,813,354**.

Expenditure	2025 €
Testing	€1,521,202
Education and Research	€102,259
Salaries	€493,265
Other Costs*	€696,628
Total Expenditure	€2,813,354
Income from Testing	€105,147

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



Results Management and Intelligence and Investigations



4 ADRVs
PUBLISHED

3 ADRVs DECISION
PENDING

Anti-Doping Rule Violations published in 2025

Sport	Rule Violation	Sanction
Canoeing	2.1 & 2.2	3 years
Weightlifting	2.1 & 2.2	3 years
Motorcycling	2.1 & 2.2	3 months
Motorcycling	10.10.1	3 months

Pending Cases

In-Competition or Out-of-Competition	Alleged Rule Violation
Out of competition	2.1 & 2.2
In-Competition	2.1 & 2.2
In-Competition	2.1 & 2.2

Article 2.1 - The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample.

Article 2.2 - Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method.

Article 10.10.1 - Prohibition Against Participation During Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension.





Intelligence & Investigations

Intelligence and Investigations continues to play an integral role in Sport Ireland's effort to protect clean sport. Under the WADA International Standards for Testing and Investigations, Sport Ireland is required to implement processes that enable the collection of intelligence from both analytical and non-analytical information. Many of Sport Ireland's intelligence led actions are initiated through leads received via the Report Doping function on the Sport Ireland website.

To ensure its ongoing effectiveness, Sport Ireland's intelligence capability is subject to continuous review. As part of this review process the web-based Report Doping function currently in use was found to be lacking the advanced functionality of the newest platforms. This raised the possibility that intelligence gathering opportunities were not being exploited to maximum effect. A replacement system was identified and after a period of research and consultation with agencies who have adopted the system, it was decided to adopt Real Response as our new platform. This investment will ensure that Sport Ireland is equipped with the most up-to-date industry specific reporting platform. The new platform is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2026.

To facilitate the secure exchange of intelligence, the ADU maintains relationships with trusted partners nationally and internationally. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and data sharing agreements are essential components of Sport Ireland's intelligence programme. These mutually agreed arrangements facilitate effective and secure exchange of information whilst ensuring that relevant regulatory and legal requirements are met. The legislation underpinning Sport Ireland's data sharing agreements is contained in the Sport Ireland Act, 2015. Sport Ireland currently has MOUs in place with An Garda Síochána, The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and The Health Products Regulatory Authority. Regardless of its source, all information received is handled in a confidential and secure manner in accordance with best practice.

Sport Ireland is represented on the WADA Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (ADIIN). ADIIN is an extremely important global forum which shares intelligence and information on best practice in anti-doping intelligence and investigations. Membership is open only to accredited Intelligence and Investigations sections with advanced investigative and intelligence capability. The ADIIN meets in person annually. The 2025 meeting, at which Sport Ireland was represented, was held in Lausanne, Switzerland.





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