The 2027 Code Companion for Athlete Support Personnel

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The Code

This Companion is designed to help Athlete Support Personnel (ASP), like you, understand the key changes to the Code and what they mean for you and your athletes. As you read, make note of the information you'll want to share with your athletes to help ensure everyone is ready to compete clean and support clean sport in 2027.

The Code exists to protect athletes' health, support fair competition, and protect the right of athletes to compete on a level playing field.

Every 6 years the Code is updated. The newest version comes into effect on January 1, 2027. This Companion is here to help you get ready!

The Code applies to you, and to other people too

The Code applies across all sports and countries around the world. ASP are an important part of the anti-doping system and share responsibility for protecting the integrity of sport.

- **Athlete Support Personnel (ASP)**: The Code applies to ASP, such as coaches, trainers, medical staff, team officials, and parents.
- **Athletes**: Athletes at all levels, including international, national, talented, and recreational athletes must follow the rules of the Code.
- **Anti-doping Organizations (ADOs)**: International Federations (IFs), National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), and Major Event Organizations (MEOs) are also required to follow the Code as they establish anti-doping rules and programs.

The International Standards

The Code is supported by International Standards, which provide detailed requirements for education, testing, results management, TUEs, data protection, investigations and

more. These standards help ADOs build and manage their anti-doping programs. The International Standards have all been updated for 2027 too.

An athlete-centered system

The 2027 Code continues to strengthen an athlete-centred approach to anti-doping. While protecting the integrity of competition remains essential, the updated Code also places greater emphasis on human rights, proportionality, due process, privacy, safeguarding, and athlete wellbeing.

ASP have an important role in bringing these principles to life. Every interaction with an athlete provides an opportunity to reinforce ethical decision-making, encourage questions, and help athletes make informed choices.

Changes to the Code have been made based on past experiences, developments in science, technology, and human rights, and based on feedback of more than 600 athletes and athlete commissions across over 60 countries and 70 sports.

Here is what Ryan Pini, WADA's Athlete Council Chair, has to say: “Code now further reinforces and emphasizes human rights, proportionality, due process, privacy, and athlete welfare. It’s an evolution that recognizes athletes as whole people, not just competitors. Feeling that dignity and fairness are woven into the rules provides reassurance during stressful moments.

Human rights and well being

WADA worked with human rights experts to identify risks to athletes’ rights and improve fairness, privacy, and due process in the 2027 Code.

Protected Persons

Under the 2027 Code, there are stronger protections for Protected Persons. These athletes are more vulnerable and need additional safeguards. Where potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) involve a Protected Person, investigations increasingly focus on the athlete's surrounding environment, recognizing the influence that adults may have on athlete decisions.

- **Note:** A Protected Person includes athletes under 16 and people who are not legally able to make decisions for themselves under national law. Athletes between the age of 16 and 18, are a protected person unless they are in a Registered Testing Pool (RTP).

The 2027 updates affect many parts of the anti-doping system. The next sections will explore these updates in more detail and explain what they mean for you as an ASP.

Education – What's new?

Education remains one of the most important tools for protecting clean sport.

The 2027 International Standard for Education (ISE) places greater emphasis on ensuring ASP receive education throughout their involvement in sport. Education should help you understand your own responsibilities while equipping you to support athletes in making informed decisions.

The education journey

Education is important for everyone and should be delivered to ASP, particularly those supporting athletes in whereabouts pools or minors competing internationally. Education should also be provided to athletes and ASP who have been notified of a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) or are returning to sport after a period of ineligibility.

Education may be delivered through online learning, workshops, webinars, team meetings, conferences, or other activities provided by your ADO or sport organization. When education is delivered in person, it should be facilitated by trained educators who can provide accurate, practical, and up-to-date information.

Unintentional doping

Along with other anti-doping topics, you and your athletes need to be educated about the risks of unintentional doping. You should understand common sources of risk, including contaminated supplements, mislabeled products, and medications that may contain prohibited substances.

Whenever possible, encourage athletes to seek reliable advice before using supplements or medications and remind them that supplements always carry some degree of risk.

- **Note:** Athletes are always responsible for what goes into their body, even if the use of a product was recommended by an ASP. Athletes and ASP need to be able to identify banned substances and methods that are included on the Prohibited List in order to reduce the risk of unintentional doping.

Event-specific education

A key change from 2027 is that athletes and ASP attending a major event should receive education related to that event (event-specific education). This ideally includes education about the anti-doping rules and program of the event provided in advance (pre-event education) as well as educational activities at the event itself (event-based education) to ensure all participants have access to relevant and helpful anti-doping information related to the event.

Data protection – What's new?

Anti-doping programs collect a lot of personal information. It's important and needed to run an anti-doping program effectively. Data protection in anti-doping protects personal information with clear rules, strong safeguards and accountability.

Defending your data

ADOs have to apply data protection measures across everything that they do (like processing TUEs or Doping Control Forms (DCFs), or planning tests, or collecting whereabouts information).

Extra security

ADOs have to assess all their anti-doping processes and plan how they will protect the data and personal information they collect. Your information needs to be kept safe the whole time your ADO has it. When information is extra sensitive, your ADO needs to apply even more security measures to make sure it's kept safe.

TUEs – What's new?

A TUE allows athletes to use a prohibited substance or method for a legitimate medical reason. The 2027 updates make the TUE process clearer, simpler and more consistent across organizations.

TUE information and processes

ADOs must now provide clear and easy-to-find TUE information on their website including TUE procedures and ways to apply. Once a complete TUE application or a request to recognize an existing TUE is submitted, a decision must be made within 21 days. What does this mean for you and your athletes?

- **Timely decisions**: Clear timelines help ensure that applications are reviewed and resolved within a predictable timeframe. Athletes are not left wondering whether your TUE is approved or how long the process will take.
- **More transparency**: TUE information can be found easily including what to expect from the TUE process and how long decisions will take.

When do TUEs apply?

If an athlete is granted a **retroactive TUE**, this will only apply to the past use of a substance or method and cannot be used for future treatment.

If they are granted a **prospective TUE**, it can be set to begin at a future date. For example, before their current TUE expires.

Remember, before taking any medication, athletes need to check it against the Prohibited List and apply for a TUE if necessary.

Automatic recognition

Starting in 2027, TUEs granted by a NADO will be automatically recognized by the relevant IF or MEO if athletes become international-level or compete at a major event. If an athlete has a valid national-level TUE, they do not need to apply for a new TUE to the IF or MEO. Instead, they will need to send a request for their TUE to be automatically recognized.

Some IFs or MEOs may choose not to automatically recognize certain TUEs. This information will be available online, so it's important to always check their website. If a TUE is not automatically recognized, athletes will need to apply to their IF or MEO as soon as possible for recognition.

If you or your athlete have any questions about TUE recognition, you can contact your NADO or IF. You can also visit the TUE page on WADA's website for more information and resources.

Key changes

- **Education**: Education now plays a larger role in anti-doping, with earlier guidance, event-specific education, trained educators, and a greater focus on unintentional doping risks.
- **Data protection**: Stronger privacy rules improve how your information is collected, stored, shared, and protected.

- **TUEs**: The TUE process is now clearer, with predictable decision times and improved recognition across organizations.

Now that you've explored how the 2027 Code and International Standards help to keep you informed and protected, let's look at how the updates apply to the testing experience.

Testing – What's new?

While athletes are responsible for complying with sample collection procedures (testing), ASP often play an important supporting role before, during, and after testing. Understanding the testing process helps you support athletes appropriately while maintaining the integrity of doping control.

Testing may occur in-competition or out-of-competition, and athletes may be tested at competitions, training venues, hotels, or other locations where they can be located for testing.

Updates to notification

The 2027 Code introduces clearer and more transparent notification procedures to ensure fairness and consistency. So, what does this mean for you and your athletes?

No shower rule

Athletes may be granted short delays for valid reasons, such as attending a medal ceremony, fulfilling media commitments, receiving necessary medical treatment, or cooling down after competition, but they **must remain under observation by the chaperone or Doping Control Officer at all times**.

Once they have been notified, they must remain under observation and go straight to the Doping Control Station (DCS). If they have to provide a urine sample, they cannot request a delay for a shower beforehand because it can affect the integrity of the testing process.

Gender neutrality

In mixed-gender or "open" events, athletes will be asked to state their sport gender. This is the gender that they compete in under the sport's rules. If the sport does not specify, or they are unsure, they can choose the gender (i.e., female or male) of the DCO observing their sample provision. Once chosen, their preference is recorded and will apply to future tests.

Minors and representation

A parent or representative (often an ASP) should be present when a minor is tested. However, if one is not available, the test will still proceed and will not be canceled. This is because participation in sport includes acceptance of anti-doping rules and sample collection procedures.

Where possible, a representative may participate remotely (e.g., by video call) to support the athlete and observe the process. This helps protect athlete rights and allows the process to move forward smoothly.

- **Note:** You can support your athletes by acting as a representative whenever needed.

Whereabouts requirements – What's new?

For some athletes, providing whereabouts information is an important part of supporting effective out-of-competition testing.

Although athletes remain personally responsible for submitting accurate whereabouts information, ASP often assist with competition schedules, travel arrangements, training locations, and communication. Understanding the whereabouts system helps you support athletes while reinforcing that accountability always remains with them.

- **Types of whereabouts pools**: for 2027, the 3 kinds of whereabouts pools have been clarified:
    - **A Registered Testing Pool (RTP)** – made up of the top tier of athletes who are subject to the most thorough testing standards out-of-competition
    - **An individual Testing Pool (TP)** – includes individual athletes from sports that pose a lower risk than those Athletes on a RTP
    - **A team Testing Pool (TP)** – requires teams to submit joint location and training schedules, rather than forcing individual players to report

The consequences of not submitting whereabouts are different from one pool to another. Athletes will be notified in writing if they are in any of these whereabouts pools.

- **Whereabouts filing deadline**: From 2027, if an athlete is an RTP or an individual TP, the deadline for submitting your quarterly whereabouts information will be the 15th of the month before each quarter begins. This means:
    - Q1 (January–March) submit by December 15
    - Q2 (April–June) submit by March 15

    - Q3 (July–September) submit by June 15
    - Q4 (October–December) submit by September 15

If you are in a team TP, then these quarterly filing deadlines might apply but there might also be some differences. Your ADO should explain these to you as needed.

- **Proportionate testing and notification of RTP athletes**: for 2027, the number of tests an RTP athlete will need to undergo has been clarified, and will be proportionate to how long they are in the RTP. For example:
    - Full year: at least 3 out-of-competition tests
    - About 6 months: at least 2 out-of-competition tests
    - 3 months or less: at least 1 out-of-competition test

In exceptional circumstances, if a DCO cannot locate the athlete during the 60-minute timeslot, they can make a call during the last 5 minutes of their 60-minute time slot.

Additionally, all efforts to locate athletes must now be documented. This creates a clear and transparent record of what happened, reducing disputes and improving consistency across cases.

Adams and athlete identification

ADAMS (the Anti-Doping Administration & Management System) remains the secure online platform used to manage whereabouts information and other anti-doping activities.

ASP who assist athletes with administrative tasks should encourage athletes to keep their information up to date.

Passport-style photo

Under the 2027 International Standard for Testing (IST), athletes in an RTP or individual TP are required to upload a passport-style photo in ADAMS.

This will help DCOs correctly identify athletes during testing, especially in out-of-competition situations.

Key changes

- **Testing**: Testing procedures now provide more clarification around athlete notification, sample collection, and athlete rights during the testing process.
- **Whereabouts**: Whereabouts requirements are now better defined, with respect to deadlines, proportionate testing expectations, and updated ADAMS requirements.

Now that you've explored the changes to your testing experience, the next section will look at what happens when you, or your athletes face a potential rules violation.

Results management – What's new?

Results management begins when there is a potential anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) by an athlete or ASP. This may include administration or attempted administration of a banned substance, tampering or attempted tampering any part of the testing process, or acts to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities.

The 2027 Code continues to strengthen fairness, transparency, and independence throughout the results management process.

Notification

If an athlete tests positive (i.e., receive an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF)), they will be notified within 21 days of the lab reporting the AAF. They will also receive clearer explanations about their rights, and whether they are entitled to apply for a retroactive TUE. When a notification letter is sent about an ADRV, whether this is to an athlete or ASP, the individual will be offered the opportunity to provide substantial assistance. If they do, up to 15% of the period of ineligibility could be suspended.

Provisional suspensions and appeals

From 2027, there will be more reasons and ways that an ADO can lift a provisional suspension and there will be information in your ADO's rules on how to appeal provisional suspension decisions.

Athletes will be provisionally suspended upon notification, if their AAF involves a substance that is classified as non-specified on the List (e.g., EPO or testosterone).

Changes to case resolution

To help move the process along and make things more efficient, some sanctioning processes have been simplified.

- **Early admission**: If the ADRV and all its consequences are accepted within 20 days of the notice of charge, you can receive a 25% reduction in the period of ineligibility.
- **TUE-related cases**: If an athlete has a legitimate medical condition that meets the TUE criteria, but they did not apply for a prospective TUE, are not eligible for a

retroactive TUE, and test positive for a prohibited substance, they may receive a two-month period of ineligibility.

Independent hearings

The 2027 Code strengthens the independence of the hearing process. People from national sports governing bodies or other national sports organizations are not allowed to be involved in results management activities. They cannot sit as hearing panel members in a case involving an athlete or ASP from their same sport and country as this is a conflict of interest.

Hearing panels must remain independent and objective. Decisions should be issued within two months of the hearing, helping reduce delays and uncertainty for ASP and athletes.

Hearing process for athletes with impairments

ADOs need to consider and implement any reasonable adjustments or modifications that can help the hearing process accommodate athletes with impairments.

If you work with athletes who have an impairment, your ADO should communicate with them to determine what they need.

Intelligence and Investigations – What's new?

Intelligence and investigations are essential components of modern anti-doping programs, helping ADOs identify patterns, investigate potential misconduct, and protect the integrity of sport.

The 2027 Code further strengthens the role of intelligence and investigations by promoting evidence-based decision-making and increasing accountability for ASP.

Evidence-based investigations

Investigations must now be based on reasonable cause. ADOs cannot begin investigations without good reason to suggest a possible ADRV or breach of the Code or International Standards have occurred. Investigations must also remain objective and impartial. Investigators are expected to keep an open mind and look for evidence both supporting and disproving a possible violation.

Focus on ASP

The updated rules place greater attention on ASP.

ADOs must now investigate any ASP who have provided support to more than one athlete found to have committed an ADRV and the results of these investigations need to be reported to WADA right away.

This places responsibility beyond individual athletes and creates greater accountability within the athlete's environment.

Protection for minors and athlete rights

Explore the key protections, rights, and responsibilities for minors, and others involved in intelligence and investigations.

- **Protections for minors and protected persons**: Investigations involving minors and protected persons must include additional safeguards. These investigations focus more on the adults around the athlete while also protecting athlete privacy and wellbeing. If an ADRV case involves a minor or protected person, the ASP supporting that athlete must be investigated.
- **Athlete and ASP rights**: You are expected to cooperate during investigations, but you also have important rights. You cannot be forced to admit wrongdoing and may receive legal representation at your own expense. This applies to athletes as well.

Confidentiality

All information and evidence obtained in an investigation is treated confidentially and only shared on a need-to-know basis.

Key changes

- **Results management**: Results Management now places greater focus on fair outcomes, timely communication, independent hearings, and stronger athlete appeal rights
- **Intelligence and Investigations**: Intelligence and Investigations are now more evidence-based and athlete-focused, with greater accountability for ASP and stronger protections for minors and protected persons

You've now explored key updates in the 2027 Code and International Standards, what these mean for you and how they ensure fairness in sport. Return to this Companion any

time to refresh your understanding of the changes and stay informed about your role in protecting clean sport.