

2027 CODE & IS UPDATE PROCESS

Stakeholder Consultation Phase: Summary of Major Changes

International Standard for Testing

Executive Summary

The International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) is a comprehensive, technical, and specialized International Standard that has undergone multiple rounds of revision since its first publication in 2003.

The scope of the ISTI is to plan for and implement intelligent and effective testing, both in-competition and out-of-competition, and to maintain the integrity, identity, and security of the samples collected from the point the athlete is notified of their selection for testing, to the point that their samples are delivered to the laboratory for analysis. To that end, the ISTI (including its Annexes) establishes mandatory requirements for test distribution planning (including the collection and use of athlete whereabouts information), notification of athletes, preparing for and conducting sample collection, security/post-test administration of samples and documentation, and transport of samples to laboratories for analysis.

As a result of the development of the proposed new International Standard for Intelligence and Investigations (ISII), the Investigations (I) element of the IST(I) has been removed, and this International Standard shall be renamed as the International Standard for Testing (IST). As such, in the 2027 IST, current ISTI Article 11 (“Gathering, Assessment and Use of Intelligence”) and Article 12 (“Investigations”) have been merged into a new IST Article 12 (“Use of Intelligence to Support Testing Programs”). The non-testing elements of these articles can now also be found in Article 4 and 5 in the ISII.

The IST Drafting Team wishes to emphasize that the key changes to the IST, as summarized in greater detail below, are consistent with the IST Concept Paper that was published as part of the [Stakeholder Engagement Phase](#), and the majority of concepts indicated therein received strong support from stakeholders, including:

- The timely analysis of samples collected prior to the Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- The submission of whereabouts information for Testing Pool (TP) athletes in ADAMS;
- The entry of start and end dates for Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and TP athletes in ADAMS;
- A filing date deadline for RTP athletes to submit their whereabouts information on the 15th day of the month preceding the start of the quarter;
- The requirement for at least one of the three planned out-of-competition (OOC) tests on RTP athletes to be conducted outside the 60-minute time slot;
- The enhanced identification requirements for athletes selected for doping control and the Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) conducting it;
- The enhancements to the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) program including a number of key principles for implementing an ABP program;
- The criteria that Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) can use for putting samples into long term storage (sample retention) and for conducting further analysis on those samples; and
- The modifications to the sample collection procedures for transgender and gender diverse athletes.

Furthermore, the IST Drafting Team wishes to underline that it has added new articles, including:

- Article 11, which aims to capture the key principles of the blood ABP program; and
- Annex L, which reflects modifications to the sample collection procedures for transgender and gender diverse athletes.

The concepts that did not receive stakeholder support, and subsequently are not included in the proposed changes, are:

- The proposed increase by one test of the current level of planned OOC tests for both RTP athletes and TP athletes; and
- The mandatory publication of athlete names by ADOs when reporting testing statistics.

Having carefully reviewed and analyzed stakeholder comments to the IST Concept Paper and following consultations and discussions with the anti-doping community, the 2027 IST Drafting Team also proposes the following additions to the IST:

- The requirement for an ADO to use its risk assessment when determining the athlete whereabouts pool;
- The requirement for RTP and TP athletes to submit their training locations and relevant timeframes instead of their regular activities;
- The requirement for TP athletes to be subjected to the same pre calendar quarter submission deadlines as RTP athletes whilst maintaining flexibility to have additional filing timeframes during the quarter as currently exists;
- The requirement that phone calls to athletes (outside their permitted use 5 minutes before the end of the 60-minute time slot for RTP athletes) only be permitted, when all other whereabouts locations are exhausted and only in exceptional circumstances based on a specific set of scenarios;
- The requirement that blood ABP Doping Control Forms be entered in ADAMS within 5 days (instead of the 21-day deadline for urine, venous blood, and dried blood spot samples);
- The requirement for laboratory-related documentation to arrive at the laboratory either before or with sample delivery;
- The requirement for ADOs not to stockpile urine samples prior to shipping to the laboratory;
- The requirement that trainee Doping Control Officers (DCOs) be permitted to observe an athlete while also being observed by a trainer DCO;
- The requirement for Blood Collection Officers (BCOs) and chaperones to receive enhanced training; and
- Enhanced criteria for dried blood sport (DBS) sample collection equipment.

Finally, when reviewing the proposed changes to the 2027 IST, stakeholders are invited to consider the following:

- Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to offer additional feedback through WADACONnect on those articles where fewer or no substantive changes have been made by the IST Drafting Team.
- The language of the proposed changes in this International Standard should be considered as a starting point for further consultations.
- The numbering of certain articles in this International Standard has changed due to the introduction of new articles.

The following section offers a concise summary of the key changes proposed by the IST Drafting Team.

Article 3: Defined Terms

Articles 3.2 and 3.5 respectively include revised defined terms from the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) and new terms defined in the ISII that are referenced in the 2027 IST. As it concerns IST defined terms, Article 3.6 mentions certain new defined terms including 'Testing Pool' and 'Whereabouts Pool'. It should be noted that the IST Drafting Team has removed the defined term 'In-Competition Date' since the relevant text relating to this defined term (current 2023 ISTI Article 4.8.8.4) has also been removed.

Article 4.6: Prioritizing between Different Types of Testing and Analysis of Samples

Text is added to this Article to support the importance of in-competition (IC) testing and clarifies the optimum periods for when OOC testing should occur. It also includes a revised breakdown of analysis by sample types for urine, venous blood, and DBS samples.

Article 4.7: Test Distribution Plan

This new article summarizes the outcomes of the steps followed to develop a Test Distribution Plan (TDP) starting with a risk assessment in Article 4.2 through to prioritizing between different types of testing and analysis of samples in Article 4.6. It also highlights the importance for an ADO to ensure that sufficient resources are obtained to implement its TDP. In addition, it outlines the importance prior to international events, for ADOs to monitor and test athletes who may qualify or have qualified for such events as well as consider implementing testing recommendations received from external expert groups.

Articles 4.8: Sample Analysis

Whilst the proposed concept initially supported prioritized and expedited sample analysis for all major events, stakeholders' feedback on this concept indicated that such prioritized and expedited analysis should only apply prior to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Accordingly, this article stipulates that where a sample is collected from an athlete within 20 days of their first competition at the Olympic or Paralympic Games (for which they have qualified or are likely to participate), such sample(s) shall be prioritized for expedited analysis and, where possible, the results shall be reported (at the latest) 72 hours before the athlete's first competition. Furthermore, the relevant ADO collaborating with the laboratory shall also use the ADAMS Sample Management application to request and manage such prioritized analyses.

For this system to work effectively, ADOs shall be required to proactively collaborate with laboratories as part of their request for prioritized and expedited sample analysis. Certainly, laboratories will be required to prioritize the analysis of samples from Olympic and Paralympic athletes during such pre-game periods. Concerns were raised by stakeholders around this concept and that ADOs may avoid testing during the 20-day pre-event period due to potential costs associated with prioritized analysis or the fear of not being able to receive analytical results within the timeframe. As such, wording has been added to reflect this and acknowledges that there will be scenarios where athletes will be tested close to the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the analytical results will not be able to be obtained prior to the athlete competing. The objective of this concept is to reduce the number of samples for which analytical results are outstanding at the time the athlete competes in the Olympics or Paralympic Games.

Articles 4.9: Retention of Samples and Further Analysis

This new article (current 2023 ISTI Article 4.7.3) includes specific requirements for the long-term storage, further analysis, and disposal of samples. In this respect, ADOs shall be required to use the ADAMS Sample

Management application and actively collaborate with the laboratory to manage and request the long-term storage of samples within the minimum sample storage period based on the type of sample, as outlined in ISL Article 5.3.7.

Where an Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) has requested that a sample be placed in long-term storage, an ADO shall be required to store such sample.

Finally, this article emphasizes that ADOs shall allocate sufficient resources to ensure the implementation of their policy for long-term storage and further analysis by including a contingency of sample numbers is included within their annual TDP to reflect this.

Article 4.10: Whereabouts Requirements for Athletes

As further detailed in the following paragraphs, this new article (currently 2023 ISTI Article 4.8) has been significantly amended to reflect the proposed changes to athlete whereabouts requirements and to clarify the required procedural steps for athletes in a whereabouts pool.

The starting point of this article stipulates that the outcomes of an ADO's risk assessment shall determine the athletes that shall be included in its whereabouts pools rather than the amount of whereabouts information it requires to be able to test the athlete, thus creating greater harmonization amongst ADOs and athletes.

As it concerns the whereabouts requirements for RTP athletes, they are stipulated at 2027 IST Articles 4.10.4 - 4.10.12 and include:

- The requirement for an ADO to list in ADAMS the criteria it applied for selecting and including athletes in its RTP (2027 IST Comment to Article 4.10.4.2);
- The requirement for RTP athletes to make quarterly submissions of their whereabouts information on the 15th day of the month preceding the start of the following quarter as well as the resultant consequences if they fail to do as such (e.g., an apparent Filing Failure) (2027 IST Article 4.10.6.1 b));
- In addition to the existing requirements to provide a 60-minute time slot and location, overnight address and competition and event schedule, the requirement for RTP athletes to additionally file, for each day during the following quarter, the name and address of their training location(s) as well as the general time frames for such training activities (i.e., morning, afternoon, and evening) (2027 IST Article 4.10.6.2 c))¹;
- The requirement for RTP athletes to upload an accurate passport style photograph to their ADAMS athlete profile page as part of their whereabouts filing in accordance with the requirements set out in ADAMS (see 2027 IST Article 5.3.4 below) (2027 IST Article 4.10.6.2 e));
- The requirement for RTP athletes to provide a personal phone number on which they can be reached should the DCO decide to call them during the last 5 minutes of the 60-minute time slot (2027 IST Article 4.10.6.2 f)); and
- The requirement for ADOs to attempt conducting at least one of the three planned OOC tests on an RTP athlete outside of 60-minute time slot (2027 IST Article 4.10.12.1).

Moreover, the IST also clarifies the following 'optional' aspects:

- An ADO may request an athlete to provide additional whereabouts information as part of their whereabouts filings, other than the mandatory requirements outlined in 2027 IST Article 4.10.6.2,

¹ This proposed change replaces the current provision for athletes to file 'regular activities' and now focuses on whereabouts linked to the athlete's sport activities only.

however if they fail to file or update such additional information, they shall not be subject to an apparent Filing Failure (2027 IST Comment to Article 4.10.6.2); and

- Despite the DCO’s reasonable efforts and as a last resort, when an RTP athlete has not been located during their 60-minute time slot, the DCO should phone the athlete, unless the Testing Authority has instructed them otherwise, five minutes before the end of the 60-minute time slot². If the sample is collected, the test shall be recorded in ADAMS as an advance notice test. If the athlete cannot make themselves available for testing, the DCO shall file an ‘Unsuccessful Attempt Report’ (2027 IST Article 410.7.1 h)).

Pursuant to 2027 IST Articles 4.10.8 - 4.10.10, the IST Drafting Team has included additional sub-articles and further clarifications on the requirements for RTP athletes to provide an overnight address, training location(s), and competition and event schedules. Henceforth, in addition to the athlete’s overnight accommodation and 60-minute time slot, RTP athletes shall be required to update their training location(s) and the competition schedule during the quarter.

As it concerns the whereabouts requirements for TP athletes, they are stipulated at 2027 IST Articles 4.10.13 and notably include the requirement for TP athletes to make their quarterly submissions of whereabouts information on the 15th day of the month preceding the start of the following quarter and such submissions shall also be made in ADAMS. In this respect, further technical enhancements shall be implemented in ADAMS to enable the streamlined upload of TP athlete information. Such whereabouts submission shall include training location(s) and an accurate passport style photograph to their ADAMS athlete profile page in accordance with the requirements set out in ADAMS (see 2027 IST Article 5.3.4).

Finally, the IST Drafting Team wishes to emphasize the importance of the following:

- 2027 IST Article 4.10.15 clarifies that an athlete shall only submit whereabouts to their whereabouts custodian and the whereabouts custody of athletes should be regularly reviewed by ADOs.
- 2027 IST Article 4.10.18.1 c) has revised the requirement for blood ABP Doping Control Forms to be entered in ADAMS from 21 days to 5 days in order to accommodate the relevant follow up and timeliness action that may be requested by the APMU following the review of the athlete’s passport.

Article 5.3.1: Requirements prior to Notification (Phone calls to athletes outside its current permitted use)

Whilst it is highlighted in this article that no advance notice testing of athletes is one of the fundamental principles of testing, the IST Drafting Team proposes to allow the use of phone calls to athletes (outside its currently permitted use 5 minutes before the end of the 60-minute time slot). However, it must be noted that this shall only be allowed on a very strict and limited basis, pursuant to a defined list of specific exceptional circumstances, and based on the conditions outlined below:

- A DCO shall not call an athlete outside of the 60-minute time slot unless they have been instructed to do so by the Testing Authority and where the exceptional circumstances listed exist;

² The comment to 2023 ISTI Article 4.8.8.5 (d) mentions : “Where an Athlete has not been located despite the DCO’s reasonable efforts, and there are only five (5) minutes left within the 60-minute time slot, then as a last resort the DCO may (but does not have to) telephone the Athlete (assuming they have provided their telephone number in their Whereabouts Filing) to see if they are at the specified location.”

- Before attempting to call an athlete, who is in a whereabouts pool, the DCO must first have visited all of the locations that the athlete has filed as part of their Whereabouts Filing (except the 60-minute time slot for RTP athletes) and attempted to locate the athlete with no advance notice; and
- Following the phone call, if the attempt is successful and a sample is collected, the test shall be recorded in ADAMS as advance notice.

Article 5.3.3: Identification Requirements for Sample Collection Personnel

As proposed in the relevant concept, to harmonize the identification requirements for all athletes regardless of where they may be tested, the IST Drafting Team has enhanced 2027 IST Article 5.3.3 by clarifying the identification requirements for SCP.

While conducting testing, the IST Drafting Team proposes that all SCP be required to not only carry an identification card from the Sample Collection Authority which they represent, but also a complementary government issued identity document which includes their name and photograph (e.g., passport, driver's license, etc.) to confirm their identity to an athlete during the sample collection session.

Article 5.3.4: Identification Requirements for Athletes selected to provide a Sample for Analysis

As proposed in the relevant concept, 2027 IST Article 5.3.4 lists the types of government issued photo identity documents which an athlete can provide to confirm their identity including the use of official electronic versions. If the athlete is unable to provide a government issued photo identity document, this article includes alternative options for the athlete, for both OOC and IC testing scenarios, including using the passport style photograph from the ADAMS athlete profile, the accreditation pass (with photograph) of an international event and the use of third parties.

Article 6.3.4: Sample Collection Equipment

The IST Drafting Team has revised the criteria for sample collection equipment in this article to ensure that it does not lose its functionality or expire from the point of sealing to the end of the statute of limitations period. This article also includes revised criteria for DBS sample collection equipment in accordance with the feedback which has been received from the [DBS Technical Working Group](#). The revised criteria on DBS samples collection equipment are also included in Annex J - Collection, Storage and Transport of Dried Blood Spot Samples (see below).

Article 7.4.5: Information recorded during a Sample Collection Session

Article 7.4.5 now includes the requirement to document the country where the test is taking place as additional information to be recorded during a sample collection session. It also clarifies that the documented sport gender of an athlete is the gender of the event in which the athlete competes.

Article 9: Transport of Samples and Documentation

The additions to Article 9 highlight the requirement for laboratory-related documentation (either in paper or electronic form) to arrive at the laboratory either before or with the sample delivery to ensure the laboratory can initiate the sample analysis and meet the relevant reporting requirements. Article 9 also emphasizes that ADOs shall not store or stockpile urine samples prior to sending them to the laboratory due to the delays this causes with the analysis, reporting of results and any results management process that may arise.

Article 11: Enhancements to the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP)

This is a new article, which summarizes the key principles related to the implementation and administration of an ABP program, and which centralizes the mandatory requirements that are currently included in other sections of the 2023 ISTI or the ABP Operating Guidelines.

For example, this article establishes that an ADO's ABP shall be in accordance with the principles of the IST, the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA), the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM) and the applicable ABP specific Technical Documents; that the ADO shall appoint a WADA-approved APMU; the ADO shall ensure that requests received from the APMU (e.g., for further analysis or target testing) are implemented within the APMU issued timeframes; and if the ADO does not follow through with the APMU's mandatory requests, it shall document its reasoning in ADAMS.

Article 11 also clarifies the ADO which is responsible for the costs associated with an APMU target test or request for further analysis, and this responsibility is based on the ADO which is the responsible passport custodian and/or the Testing Authority.

Finally, it should be noted that Article 11 complements IST Annex I ("Collection, Storage and Transport of Blood ABP Samples").

Article 12: Use of Intelligence to Support Testing Programs

Article 12 includes a number of sections from current 2023 ISTI Articles 11 and 12 which reflect the continued importance of establishing standards for the efficient and effective gathering, assessment, and processing of anti-doping intelligence in order to support and to incorporate these aspects into testing programs. This article also includes a number of references to the new ISII.

Annex B: Modifications for Athletes who are Minors

Annex B no longer includes the requirement for the Testing Authority to ensure, when possible, that the Sample Collection Authority or the DCO has information to confirm parental consent for testing when collecting samples from minors. The reasoning for the removal of this requirements stems from the fact that the participation of such athletes in sport is governed by the rules of the sport and these rules include the obligation for such athletes to accept the anti-doping rules.

Annex D: Collection of Venous Blood Samples

Annex D now includes the relevant guidance from the ABP Operating Guidelines with regards to wait times prior to sample collection. In particular, if a serum blood sample collected from an athlete is analyzed by a quantification procedure (e.g., human growth hormone), the athlete shall be required to wait for 60 minutes before the sample collection to assist with the stabilization of the markers measured. If the serum sample is analyzed for qualitative procedures (e.g., erythropoietin receptor agonists (ERAs)), such a wait time is not required prior to the sample collection.

Annex G: Sample Collection Personnel Requirements

Annex G now requires ADOs to monitor the conflicts of interest of its SCP and ensure that a SCP with a conflict of interest is not assigned or involved with conflicted testing missions.

This annex also includes enhanced training requirements for BCOs to ensure they possess the required qualifications, experience, and proficiency in conducting venipuncture in advance of their appointment by an ADO.

As it concerns the training of DCOs, trainee DCOs will now be permitted to observe the athlete providing a urine sample in the field. The DCO trainer will be required to observe the trainee DCO when they are witnessing the provision of the sample, however, the DCO trainer will not directly witness the sample provision.

With regards to chaperone training, Annex G includes enhanced training requirements for chaperones and a section for volunteer chaperones. It is proposed that ADOs should avoid using volunteer chaperones or limit their use to events only. Furthermore, volunteer chaperones shall not be responsible for the observation of sample provisions.

Annex I: Collection, Storage and Transport of Blood ABP Samples

The primary change to Annex I concerns the removal of the mandatory questions which athletes are asked before the collection of a blood ABP sample. Whilst the collection and documentation of the answers to these questions prior to the collection of a blood ABP sample shall remain mandatory, the list of questions shall only remain in the ABP Operating Guidelines to provide greater flexibility for future changes.

Annex J: Collection, Storage and Transport of DBS Samples

In addition to revised criteria on DBS sample collection equipment, Annex J also includes clarifications on the criteria ADOs shall consider when planning to collect DBS samples. It must be emphasized that although DBS samples are complementary to existing sample collections, the collection of DBS samples shall not replace the need for urine sample collections as the latter remains an important element of an effective testing program.

Annex L: Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes and Procedures for Sample Collection

This new annex includes slight modifications in the sample collection procedures to ensure the needs of transgender and gender diverse athletes are considered. Where possible, the Testing Authority has the responsibility to ensure that the Sample Collection Authority and/or the DCO has the necessary information to conduct a sample collection session with a transgender or gender diverse athlete.

Where sample collection involves transgender athletes, the Testing Authority and/or the Sample Collection Authority shall assign SCP of the same gender as the transgender athlete to witness sample provision, based on the gender of the event the transgender athlete competes in.

Gender diverse athletes who are part of a whereabouts pool will have the option to identify their gender diversity and the preferred gender of SCP in ADAMS. Where sample collection involves gender diverse athletes and the gender diverse athlete has not indicated in ADAMS their preferred gender of SCP, upon arrival in the Doping Control Station, the gender diverse athlete will be given the option to declare their gender diversity and the preferred gender of SCP who will witness the passing of their sample.