How are the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes being revised?

A full mark-up showing all proposed changes to the WADA Model Rules has been provided, together with a clean version. National Federations and stakeholders have until 31 August 2020 to submit comments to the FEI. The extent of the consultation will however be limited. This is because the changes are mandated by the revision of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) and its related International Standards, which will come into effect on 1 January 2021.

The attention of each National Federation and Stakeholder is therefore drawn to the clauses in these Rules which must, in all circumstances, be reproduced without substantive change in the FEI’s Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes. Such clauses, which are specified in Article 23.2.2 of the WADA Code, are highlighted in yellow in the text of the FEI’s Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes.

What are the key changes?

The changes cover all areas of anti-doping, from the definition of anti-doping rule violations to the publication of decisions. New categories of persons will be bound by the rules. New questions are addressed related to the protection of whistle blowers, retesting of samples, compliance, education, the increase in cases arising due to the use of social drugs and issues identified as a result of the Russian doping crisis, etc. A comprehensive summary of the substantial changes to the Code and International Standards is available in the “Resource Library – ADRHA Rule Changes”.

In “Understand the Key Changes for 2021” we highlight rule changes to which National Federations must pay particular attention as they will require operational measures and must be known and understood by all persons subject to the Code and the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes. They fall under the following categories:

- Education requirements
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)
- Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)
- Persons bound by the Code and ADRHA
- Prohibited Substances
- Common Contaminants in Supplements and Other Products
- Dealing with Cases
- Sanctions

For National Federations, the now mandatory education requirements are an important task. Working together with the NADO/RADO will be essential. It is important to start now. National Federations are invited to refer to sections 4 “Adjusting Your Education Plan to the 2021 ADRHA” and 5 “Developing a partnership with your NADO/RADO”.

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1 National / Regional Anti-Doping Organisations
Please note that National Federations will also **be required** to update their **own human and equine anti-doping rules** so that they are in line with the new WADA Code and FEI Rules.

We would appreciate any comments you may have on these proposed rule changes by Monday, 31 August 2020. Thank you for sending your comments to rules@fei.org, copying me at mikael.rentsch@fei.org and Áine Power, FEI Deputy Legal Director, at aine.power@fei.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact the FEI Legal Department if you have any questions and we look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

Mikael Rentsch,
Legal Director