

## Information Sheet - Therapeutic Use Exemptions

### What is a Therapeutic Use Exemption?

A Therapeutic Use Exemption (“TUE”) authorizes an athlete to use a prohibited substance or method to treat a legitimate medical condition or illness while continuing to play Wheelchair Rugby. Athletes are required to obtain a TUE **before beginning treatment**.

Without a TUE, athletes risk committing an anti-doping rule violation, an offence that may result in a sanction regardless of the medical circumstances.

### When should an athlete apply for a TUE?

When an athlete is advised by their medical doctor or specialist that they require the use of a prohibited substance or method to treat a medical condition or illness, they should apply for a TUE prior to beginning treatment.

If an athlete is administered a prohibited substance or method in a medical emergency, they should submit a retroactive application for a TUE. A retroactive TUE will only be granted in emergency situations or in exceptional circumstances where there was insufficient time or opportunity for an athlete to submit, or the TUE Committee to consider an application, prior to doping control.

### What are the criteria for granting a TUE?

A TUE will be granted in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The athlete would experience significant health problems without use of the prohibited substance or method;
2. The therapeutic use of the prohibited substance or method is unlikely to produce significant enhancement of performance;
3. There is no reasonable therapeutic alternative to the use of the prohibited substance or method; and
4. The requirement to use the prohibited substance or method is not due to the prior use of a prohibited substance or method without a TUE.

## Where should TUE applications be sent?

Athletes who do not compete internationally should apply for and obtain TUEs in accordance with the procedures of their national IWRF member organization or National Antidoping Organization.

Athletes who participate in IWRF-sanctioned international competitions are considered International Level Athletes. These athletes must apply for TUEs to IWRF.

The **IWRF TUE Application Form** can be downloaded from the anti-doping section of the IWRF web site at [www.iwrf.com](http://www.iwrf.com). Applications can be submitted by email to [tue@iwrf.com](mailto:tue@iwrf.com).

## How long does it take to approve a TUE?

In normal circumstances, a decision will be made to approve or deny a TUE application within 21 days of its receipt by IWRF. To ensure that there is sufficient time for the process, athletes who require a TUE should apply at least 30 days prior to the start of any IWRF sanctioned competition where they will participate.

If an acute medical condition arises within 30 days of the start of an IWRF sanctioned competition, the application should still be submitted. IWRF will make every effort to expedite the application in these cases.

## How is an application approved?

The IWRF TUEC will issue a Certificate of Approval to the athlete. The Certificate will specify the Prohibited Substance or Method, the route of administration, the dose and will the expiry date. Athletes must comply with all the treatment conditions outlined in their TUE Certificate of Approval and should reapply well in advance of their current TUE expiring.

## What is Mutual Recognition of TUEs?

IWRF will recognise TUEs granted by other Anti-Doping Organisations under the mutual recognition provision of the WADA Code. Recognition will be automatically granted under the following conditions:

- a. The TUE was issued by a National Antidoping Organization that is recognized by WADA
- b. The athlete represents a member nation of IWRF in good standing
- c. The TUE has been reported to WADA through the ADAMS system.

### **What happens if a TUE is denied?**

If a TUE application is denied, the decision will include an explanation of the reasons for the denial.

International Level Athletes whose applications have been denied by the IWRF TUEC may request a review of this decision by WADA.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Details on TUEs and the application process are contained in the IWRF TUE Manual, which can be found in the anti-doping section of the IWRF web site at [www.iwrf.com](http://www.iwrf.com).

Additional information including medical guidelines and international standards which apply to the IWRF can be found on the web site of the World Anti-Doping Agency at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org).