

direct line +44 (0) 207 211 5128  
mobile +44 (0) 777 064 0123  
email nicole.sapstead@uksport.gov.uk



TO NGB ANTI-DOPING LIAISONS

FOR INFORMATION

## **Removal from the National Registered Testing Pool**

### **Introduction**

1. This memo sets out the considerations made by the Drug-Free Sport Directorate of UK Sport (DFS) when determining whether an athlete may be removed from the National Registered Testing Pool (NRTP), and more specifically the responsibility of providing athlete whereabouts information.
2. In addition, this memo makes the clear distinction between retirement from sport and removal from the NRTP.
3. This memo is intended to act as a guide for Anti-Doping Liaison Officers and Performance Directors of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to enable them to communicate such considerations to their athletes.

### **Process for Removing an Athlete from the NRTP**

4. The World Anti-Doping Code gives DFS as the designated NADO for the UK the discretion to determine the criteria for inclusion in its NRTP and therefore, DFS commits to exercising this discretion fairly and consistently across sports.
5. Where an NGB believes they can demonstrate that an athlete no longer meets the criteria for inclusion in the NRTP and therefore wishes for this athlete to be removed from the NRTP, the NGB should make this request with justification, in writing to the DFS Testing Officer who will consider the athletes eligibility against the inclusion criteria and determine, in consultation with the NGB, whether they can be removed from the NRTP.
6. The request should include an explanation of the following:
  - a. Why it is believed the athlete no longer fulfils the criteria for inclusion on the NRTP.
  - b. If the athlete intends to continue competing at a lower level in the sport, the level of competition at which the athlete intends to compete.
  - c. Confirmation when/if the athlete plans to return to a level of competition that would warrant re-inclusion in the NRTP.
7. On receipt of the request, the DFS Testing Team will consider the information provided by the NGB as well as the following relating to an individual athlete:
  - Injury that may increase risk of doping
  - Behaviour/associations increasing risk of doping
  - Test history, including Missed Tests and Filing Failures and any other patterns observed in the provision of whereabouts information
  - Sudden improvements in performance
  - Abnormal biological parameters
  - Reliable information from third parties
  - Any other justification at the discretion of DFS Directorate

8. If following a request for removal from the NRTP it is determined that an athlete is to remain on the NRTP then this will be communicated by DFS to the NGB. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. behaviour/associations increasing risk of doping), DFS reserves the right to provide only limited rationale for such a decision.
9. If it is determined that an athlete is to be removed from the NRTP, the athlete must continue to provide athlete whereabouts information until such time as DFS has formally communicated this decision to the NGB. If an athlete fails to fulfil his/her responsibilities at all times while on the NRTP, the athlete will risk receiving a Filing Failure.
10. Athletes must be aware that whether or not they are in a NRTP, they are subject to the rules of anti-doping rules of their sport and are therefore eligible for testing at any time and any where.

### **Retirement from Sport**

12. The definition of retirement in the World Anti-Doping Code is to retire from 'active participation in sport'. An athlete may retire from their sport at any time however if they choose to do so they should not take part in the sport competitively.
13. Should the athlete wish to return to competitive sport from retirement then the UK Anti-Doping Rules are very clear about the obligations upon an athlete. The athlete must notify their NGB and UK Sport of their intention to return from retirement to competitive sport and must make themselves available for Out-of-Competition testing for a period of 6 months (or as set out in their NGB Anti-Doping Rules) before being permitted to compete. How such Out-of-Competition testing is conducted will be for DFS to determine.

Nicole Sapstead

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