

REGULATIONS ON ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES

Adopted by CMD № 5 of 15.01.2021, Promulgated, SG No. 6/22.01.2021, effective 01.01.2021, amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. (1) These Regulations on Anti-Doping Activities, referred to further as Regulations, shall regulate:

1. terms and procedures for conducting Doping Control;
2. measures for prevention and fight against use of doping in sport;
3. disciplinary proceedings.

(2) This Regulations shall apply in accordance with the Anti-Doping Rules set out in the International Convention against Doping in Sport adopted in Paris on 19 October 2005 (ratified by law, SG 105/2006) (published SG 24/2007) (referred to further as the UNESCO Convention), the World Anti-Doping Code (referred to further as the Code) and its International Standards, the Convention against Doping Use of the Council of Europe signed in Strasbourg on 16 November 1989 (ratified by law, SG 36/1992) (published SG 50/1997) (referred to further as the Council of Europe Convention), and the Additional Protocol to the Convention against Doping Use of the Council of Europe signed in Warsaw on 12 September 2002 (ratified by law, SG 17/2005) (published SG 82/2005)) (referred to further as the Additional Protocol).

(3) This Regulations shall apply to:

1. Bulgarian sports organizations, Athletes and Athletes' Support Personnel;
2. foreign Athletes and Athlete Supporting Personnel present on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
3. other Persons who are involved in any aspect of Doping Control

(4) The Regulations shall be applied in abidance to the principles of proportionality of the penalty to the offence and respect for human rights.

Article 2. Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the Anti-Doping Rule Violations set forth in Article 6.

Article 3. (1) The Antidoping Centre is specialized and independent body exercising Doping Control, prevention and fight against the Use, the distribution and the toleration of Use of doping in sport.

(2) The Antidoping Centre is the National Anti-Doping Organization and has an exclusive competence with respect to the anti-doping activities within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and is independent in its operative decisions and activities.

(3) The activities of the Antidoping Centre are in public interest and are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code and its International Standards, the UNESCO Convention, the Council of Europe Convention against Doping Use and the Additional Protocol thereto.

(4) The Antidoping Centre shall implement measures for prevention and fight against the Use of doping in sport via:

1. conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the issues related to the principles and values of the clean-sport, as well as on the problems, risks and consequences related to the use of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods in sport, aiming to prevent doping Use;
2. educating and increasing the awareness of Athlete Support Personnel, medical professionals, Athletes and other Persons, on anti-doping activities, as well as about their relevant rights and responsibilities;

3. prevention, control and fight against the Use, distribution, and toleration of doping use in sport;
4. pursuing all potential anti-doping rule violations within its authority including investigation into whether Athlete Support Personnel or other Persons may have been involved in each case of doping and to ensure proper enforcement of Consequences;
5. publishing an up-to-date Prohibited List;
6. publishing of the imposed Consequences;
7. cooperating with other relevant national organizations and agencies and other Anti-Doping Organizations.

(5) The Antidoping Centre shall develop and conduct anti-doping Education programs for Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons according to the International Standard for Education (ISE) of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and on the basis of annual plan for these activities.

(6) The annual plan for Education activities of the Antidoping Centre shall be prepared on the basis of assessment of the current situation, the test distribution plan, and in line with the requirements of the ISE. The plan involves target groups, thematic distribution and aims.

(7) On demand, the Antidoping Centre shall present to WADA a copy of the current education plan.

(8) Persons involved in the anti-doping activities are obliged to keep confidential and to not disclose the information that has become known to them in connection with and on the occasion of their work, except in the cases provided for in these Regulations and in the Results Management Procedure.

Article 4. (1) Licensed sports organizations shall adopt, by decision of their governing body, anti-doping rules that comply with the requirements of the Code and these Regulations; on demand, these anti-doping rules shall be presented to the Antidoping Centre.

(2) The licensed sports organizations and the sports clubs – their members, legal entities, providing sports services, and the organizations under Chapter Four of the Law for Physical Education and Sports (LPES) are obliged to not allow persons under Article 90, para. 1 of the LPES, to commit violations of the anti-doping rules.

(3) Sports organizations are obliged to promptly notify the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Antidoping Centre and the Bulgarian Olympic Committee when violations of anti-doping rules have been discovered by another control body.

(4) Licensed sports organizations and their members are obliged to guarantee the implementation of anti-doping Education to their Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons.

(5) Each licensed sports organization is obliged to nominate a representative who, together with the Antidoping Centre, shall coordinate the implementation of the anti-doping rules and the anti-doping Education in the respective federation.

Article 5. (1) For the purposes of these Regulations, the Antidoping Centre shall designate NationalLevel Athletes, who are:

1. Athletes with quota for participation in summer and winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, World and European Championships and other international high-rank events;
2. Athletes with quota for participation in youth summer and winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, World and European Championships and other international major Events;
3. Athletes in individual or Team Sports, being part of a national team;
4. Athletes in Team Sports, who compete in the highest league in the respective sport;

(2) If any of the Athletes referred to in para. 1 has been designated as an International Level Athlete by the relevant International Federation, he/she shall be deemed an International Level Athlete for the purposes of these Regulations.

Chapter Two

DOPING CONTROL

SECTION I

ANTI-DOPING RULES VIOLATIONS

Article 6. (1) Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more anti-doping rule violations set forth in items 1 to 11 below:

1. Presence of a Prohibited Substance, its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample, in conformity with the following conditions and exemptions:

a) It is the Athletes' personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters their bodies. Athletes are responsible for any Prohibited Substance, its Metabolites or Markers found to be present in their Samples. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Athlete's part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation under item 1;

b) Sufficient proof of an anti-doping rule violation under item 1 is established by any of the following: presence of a Prohibited Substance, its Metabolites or Markers in the Athlete's A Sample where the Athlete waives analysis of the B Sample and the B Sample is not analyzed; or, where the Athlete's B Sample is analyzed and the analysis of the Athlete's B Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance, or its Metabolites or Markers found in the Athlete's A Sample; or, where the Athlete's A or B Sample is split into 2 (two) parts and the analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance, or its Metabolites or Markers found in the first part of the split Sample or the Athlete waives analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample.

c) Excepting those substances for which a Decision Limit is specifically identified in the Prohibited List or a Technical Document, the presence of any reported quantity of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's Sample shall constitute an anti-doping rule violation;

d) As an exception to the general rule of item 1, the Prohibited List, International Standards, or Technical Documents may establish special criteria for reporting or the evaluation of certain Prohibited Substances;

2. Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, in conformity with the following conditions and exemptions:

a) It is the Athletes' personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters their bodies and that no Prohibited Method is used. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Athlete's part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation for Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method;

b) The success or failure of the Use or Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not material. It is sufficient that the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method was Used or Attempted to be Used for an anti-doping rule violation to be committed;

3. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Evading; Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection by an Athlete without compelling justification after notification by a duly authorized Person; also it would be an anti-doping rule violation of "evading Sample Collection" if it were established that an athlete was deliberately avoiding a Doping Control official to evade notification or Testing; violation of "failing to submit to Sample Collection" may be based on either intentional or negligent conduct of the athlete, while "evading" or "refusing" Sample Collection contemplates intentional conduct by the athlete.

4. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Violation of the requirement for Whereabouts providing by an Athlete in a Registered Testing Pool, where violation is any combination of 3 (three) missed tests and/or filing failures, as defined in the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM) of WADA, within a 12 (twelve) month period.
5. Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by an Athlete or Other Person.
6. Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by an Athlete or Athlete Support Person, in conformity with the following conditions and exemptions:
 - a) Possession by an Athlete In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by an Athlete Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition, unless the Athlete establishes that the Possession is consistent with a Therapeutic Use Exemption (“TUE”) granted in accordance with the Code Article 4.4 or other acceptable justification;
 - b) Possession by an Athlete Support Person In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by an Athlete Support Person Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition, in connection with an Athlete, Competition or training, unless the Athlete Support Person establishes that the Possession is consistent with a TUE granted to an Athlete in accordance with the Code Article 4.4 or other acceptable justification.
7. Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by an Athlete or Other Person.
8. Administration or Attempted Administration by an Athlete or Other Person to any Athlete In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Athlete Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is Prohibited Out-of-Competition.
9. Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional Complicity or *Attempted* Complicity by an Athlete or other Person, involving an anti-doping rule violation, *Attempted* anti-doping rule violation or violation of Article 51 by another *Person*.
10. Professional or sport-related association by an Athlete or other Person subject to the authority of the Anti-Doping Organization with any Athlete Support Person who:
 - a) If subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organization, is serving a period of Ineligibility; or
 - b) If not subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organization, and where Ineligibility has not been addressed in a Results Management process pursuant to the Code, has been convicted or found in a criminal, disciplinary or professional proceeding to have engaged in conduct, which would have constituted a violation of anti-doping rules, if Code-compliant rules had been applicable to such Person. The disqualifying status of such Person shall be in force for the longer of six (6) years from the criminal, professional or disciplinary decision or the duration of the criminal, disciplinary or professional sanction imposed; or
 - c) Is serving as a front or intermediary for an individual described in points “a” and “b”.
 - d) To establish a violation of item 10, an Anti-Doping Organization must establish that the Athlete or the other relevant Person knew of the Athlete Support Person’s disqualifying status. The burden shall be on the Athlete or the other relevant Person to prove that any association with an Athlete Support Person described in points “a” and “b” are not in a professional or sport-related capacity and/or that such association could not have been reasonably avoided.
 - e) Anti-Doping Organizations that are aware of Athlete Support Personnel who meet the criteria described in points “a”, “b” or “c” shall submit that information to WADA.
11. Acts by an Athlete or Other *Person* to Discourage or Retaliate Against Reporting to Authorities, where such conduct does not otherwise constitute a violation of item 5:
 - a) Any act which threatens or seeks to intimidate another Person with the intent of discouraging the Person from the good-faith reporting of information, which relates to an alleged anti-doping rule violation or alleged non-compliance with the Code, to WADA, an Anti-Doping

Organization, law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, hearing body or Person conducting an investigation for WADA or an Anti-Doping Organization.

- b) Retaliation against a Person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information, which relates to an alleged anti-doping rule violation or alleged non-compliance with the Code, to WADA, an Anti-Doping Organization, law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, hearing body or Person conducting an investigation for WADA or an Anti-Doping Organization.
- c) For purposes of Item 11, retaliation, threatening and intimidation include an act taken against such Person, either because the act lacks a good faith basis or is a disproportionate response.

(2) The principle of strict liability shall apply for violations under para. 1, items 1 and 2.

(3) No anti-doping rule violation proceeding against Athletes or other Persons might be commenced unless they have been notified of the anti-doping rule violation, according the provided rules for results management, or notification has been reasonably attempted, within ten years from the date the violation is asserted to have occurred.

SECTION II

THE PROHIBITED LIST AND THE THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

Article 7. (1) The WADA prepares and publishes as an International Standard a Prohibited List. Changes and amendments to the Prohibited List shall enter into force for the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with the UNESCO Convention, the Council of Europe Convention and the Additional Protocol.

(2) The Prohibited List shall be published on the websites of the Antidoping Centre, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Bulgarian Olympic Committee.

(3) The Prohibited List is a mandatory annex to the anti-doping rules adopted by each licensed sports organization.

(4) For purposes of applying Articles 43-55, all Prohibited Substances shall be Specified Substances, except as identified on the Prohibited List. No Prohibited Method shall be a Specified Method unless it is specifically identified as a Specified Method on the Prohibited List.

(5) For purposes of applying Articles 43-55, Substances of Abuse shall include those Prohibited Substances which are specifically identified as Substances of Abuse on the Prohibited List because they are frequently abused in society outside of the context of sport.

(6) WADA's determination of the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods that will be included on the Prohibited List, the classification of substances into categories on the Prohibited List, the classification of a substance as prohibited at all times or In-Competition only, the classification of a substance or method as a Specified Substance, Specified Method or Substance of Abuse is final and shall not be subject to any challenge by an Athlete or other Person including, but not limited to, any challenge based on an argument that the substance or method was not a masking agent or did not have the potential to enhance performance, represent a health risk or violate the spirit of sport.

Article 8. (1) Violations under Articles 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.6, and 6.1.8, shall not be considered anti-doping rule violations in cases where they are compliant with provisions of an applicable Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) granted in accordance with the WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE).

(2) Therapeutic Use Exemptions shall be granted:

1. to Athletes, who are not International Level Athletes - by the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre, following an opinion by the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC);

2. to International Level Athletes - by their respective International Federation, unless it has conceded this right to the Antidoping Centre.

(3) A Major Event Organization may require Athletes to apply to it for a TUE if they wish to Use a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method in connection with the Event.

Article 9. (1) Any Athlete who is not an International-Level Athlete and needs to Use a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method for therapeutic reasons shall apply to the Antidoping Centre for a TUE prior to Using or Possessing the substance or method in question using WADA-approved template published on the Antidoping Centre website.

(2) After receiving the submission, the Antidoping Centre shall administratively determine whether the application is filled in according to the requirements for it and, in case the Athlete has applied for a retroactive TUE, whether he/she matches its requirements.

(3) In case that granting of TUE is not necessary, the ADC shall immediately notify the Athlete about this.

(4) In case that the submitted application is filled in according to the requirements, the ADC shall deliver the whole documentation on the case to the TUEC Chairperson.

Article 10. (1) With the Antidoping Centre a TUEC is established to consider applications for the grant of TUEs. The TUEC members shall be determined by an order of the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre.

(2) The order and the method of reviewing the applications for TUE-granting shall be determined by the internal rules of TUEC, published on the Antidoping Centre website.

Article 11. (1) Except in case of emergency or the necessity for urgent treatment of a medical condition or other circumstances provided for in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, the Athletes under Article 9.1 shall apply to the Antidoping Centre for a TUE immediately after a necessity for this arises.

(2) For Prohibited Substances prohibited In-Competition only, the Athlete shall apply for TUE at least 30 (thirty) days prior to his/her next Competition, except in case of emergency or the necessity for urgent treatment of a medical condition or other circumstances provided for in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

(3) In the cases under para. 1, within 21 days after the receipt of the complete application, the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre, following an opinion of the TUEC, shall issue a decision for granting or refusing to grant a TUE. The decision shall be notified in writing to the Athlete, and to WADA and other Anti-Doping Organizations in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions. It shall also promptly be reported into ADAMS.

(4) A TUE granted by the Antidoping Centre is valid at any national level in any country and does not need to be formally recognized by any other National Anti-Doping Organization.

However, it is not automatically valid if the Athlete becomes an International-Level Athlete or competes in an International Event, unless it is recognized by the relevant International Federation or Major Event Organization in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

(5) The decision of the Executive Director for denial of TUE might be appealed within 3 (three) days to the Bulgarian Sports Arbitration at the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. The decision of the Bulgarian Sports Arbitration might be appealed by WADA to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

(6) Within a 21-day period after issuing the decision under para. 5, the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre provides via ADAMS WADA and the International Federation with information about the decision.

(7) If the Antidoping Centre chooses to test an Athlete who is not an International-Level or a National-Level Athlete, the Antidoping Centre must permit that Athlete to apply for a retroactive TUE for any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method that he or she is Using for therapeutic reasons.

(8) WADA is entitled to review the decision for granting or denying a TUE, as well as to reverse it, in case that it is found that the TUE decision does not meet the criteria set out in WADA ISTUE.

(9) The decision by WADA to reverse the granting or the denial of a TUE might be appealed exclusively to CAS by the Athlete or the Anti-Doping Organization whose TUE decision was reversed.

(10) The procedure for appealing Therapeutic Use Exemptions is according to the WADA's ISTUE.

Article 12. (1) Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons shall be responsible for knowing what constitutes an anti-doping rule violation, and which Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods are included on the Prohibited List.

(2) Athletes shall be responsible for any Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found in their Samples, as well as for the Possession of resources for the Use of a Prohibited Method.

(3) Athletes shall not be liable under para. 2 if they have been granted a TUE for the detected Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods.

(4) The Athletes have to inform the physicians treating them about their liability under para. 2.

SECTION III

TESTING AND INVESTIGATIONS

Article 13. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall conduct Testing and investigations for anti-doping purposes only.

(2) The Antidoping Centre shall conduct Testing in accordance with the requirements of the WADA International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) and based on annual Test distribution plan.

(3) The annual test distribution plan shall be drafted and implemented by the Antidoping Centre based on risk assessment, made by the ISTI requirements, investigations and in compliance with the requirements of WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis. The plan shall include sports and disciplines, Athlete categories, types of Testing, types of Samples, and types of Sample analysis.

(4) Upon request, the Antidoping Centre shall submit a copy of the current test distribution plan to WADA.

Article 14. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall collect, process and assess anti-doping intelligence from all available sources of information, in order to plan target Testing and develop the basis of an investigation into an alleged anti-doping rule violation.

(2) The Bulgarian sports organizations and the organizations under Chapter Four of the LPES shall assist the Antidoping Centre in the implementation of the Test Distribution plan and provide, upon request, their sports calendars, details about the composition and camps of national teams, and any other information necessary for the anti-doping activities. In case of changes, they shall immediately inform the Antidoping Centre, so that the provided information could always be accurate and complete.

Article 15. (1) Testing shall be undertaken to obtain analytical evidence as to whether an Athlete has violated Article 6, para. 1, item 1 or item 2.

(2) Any of the following shall be subject to testing:

1. Athletes filed with licensed sports organizations within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
2. Athletes filed with licensed sports organizations, who train or reside abroad;
3. foreign Athletes when they present in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
4. International Level Athletes, after cooperation with an International Federation;
5. Athletes participating in International Events within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, after coordination with the relevant ruling body of the Event (International Federation, Major Events Organization and/or WADA);
6. Athletes serving a period of Ineligibility as a result of anti-doping rule violation.

(3) Notwithstanding item (2), the Antidoping Centre may test, anywhere and at any time, any Athlete within its jurisdiction, who has not retired, including Athletes who are subject to a period of Ineligibility.

(4) If an Athlete retires from sport activity while subject to a period of Ineligibility, the Athlete must notify the Antidoping Centre or other Anti-Doping Organization that imposed the period of Ineligibility in writing of such retirement from sport. If the Athlete then wishes to return to active competition in sport, the Athlete shall not compete in International or National Events until the Athlete has made himself/herself available for Testing by giving 6 (six) months prior written notice or notice equivalent to the period of Ineligibility remaining as of the date the Athlete retired, if that period was longer than 6 (six) months, to the Antidoping Centre and to the relevant International Federation.

(5) In the case of Out-of-Competition Testing under para. 4, the costs of analysis and shipment of Athlete's Samples, for any trips and fees of anti-doping teams, shall be paid by the Athlete or by the licensed sports organization by which he/she is filed.

Article 16. (1) Testing based on the annual test distribution plan of the Antidoping Centre shall be covered by its budget.

(2) Apart from cases under para. 1, Doping Control may also be undertaken at the request, submitted at minimum 2 (two) days before the Event, by:

1. WADA, International Federations, National Anti-Doping Organizations, Regional and other Anti-Doping Organizations and foreign sports organizations;
2. Bulgarian sports organizations or their members in the sport they administer, on behalf of the Anti-Doping Organization.

(3) The costs of any Doping Control upon request of an organization under para. 2 shall be paid by the respective organization and, where more than one organization request Testing for the same Event, the expenses shall be divided equally between all requesting organizations.

(4) As a testing authority, the Antidoping Centre may request additional analyzes .

(5) If a planned or requested Doping Control could not be undertaken by fault of a licensed sports organization or its member, all costs shall be covered by the applicant that requested the Testing.

(6) In relation to ISL, a confirmative analysis may be undertaken.

(7) In cases under para. 4 and para. 6, any further analysis of a Sample, including confirmation analyzes by a WADA-accredited laboratory, shall be at the expense of the organization requesting such further analysis.

Article 17. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall apply a policy for a long-term storage of Samples, in line with the requirements of the ISL and the International Standard for Protection and Privacy of Personal Information (ISPPPI).

(2) The number of Samples referred to in para. 1, shall be determined in the test distribution plan based on predetermined criteria.

(3) Samples designated for long-term storage may be subject to further or additional analysis in line with the Code.

Article 18. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall carry out In-Competition and Out-of-Competition testing by order of its Executive Director.

(2) Testing under para. 1 shall be without notice, except in exceptional and justifiable circumstances.

(3) The Testing may be based on Target Testing, which is a priority, or on a random Testing principles. The Testing on Target Testing and random Testing principles is carried out as per predetermined criteria based on the ISTI.

(4) To the extent possible, Testing shall be coordinated through ADAMS in order to increase the effectiveness of the combined Testing efforts and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

(5) During an Event, one organization only shall have the authority to conduct Testing at Event Venues during an Event Period, as follows:

1. At National Events, the Antidoping Centre shall have authority to conduct Testing;
2. At International Events, taking place within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, the international organization which is the ruling body for the Event, shall have authority to conduct Testing;

(6) Upon request by the Antidoping Centre (or any other organization which is the ruling body for the Event), any Testing during the Event Period outside of the Event Venues shall be coordinated with the Antidoping Centre (or the relevant organization which is the ruling body for the Event).

(7) Each organizer of an Event is obliged to authorize and facilitate the Independent Observer Program at its Event.

Article 19. (1) The Antidoping Centre may demand from the Athletes to provide whereabouts information.

(2) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Antidoping Centre shall establish and manage a national Registered Testing Pool (RTP) in accordance with Article 4.8.6 of the ISTI.

(3) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre shall approve an instruction setting out the criteria for inclusion of Athletes in the RTP. Athletes shall be notified before they are included in the RTP and when they are removed from that pool. The notification shall contain the information set out in the ISTI.

(4) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Athletes, who have been included in the Registered Testing Pool, are obliged:

1. to provide accurate and complete whereabouts information to the Antidoping Centre via ADAMS, in the manner set forth in WADA ISTI;
2. to update their whereabouts information as necessary, so that it is accurate and complete at all times;
3. to be available for Testing at the whereabouts specified by them.

(5) The information under para. 4 shall be entered within deadlines set by the Antidoping Centre but, in any case, before the first day of each quarter from the beginning of the calendar year and immediately upon occurrence of any change.

(6) The information under para. 4 shall be used for planning, coordinating and Testing purposes, in compliance with the requirements of the Personal Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation, investigations of potential anti-doping rules violations and for other anti-doping aims. The whereabouts information shall be provided to WADA and other anti-doping organizations that have authority to test an Athlete in accordance with WADA ISTI, provided that such information is kept confidential at all times and is wiped out, when it is no longer relevant for the above-mentioned purposes.

(7) An Athlete may delegate the task of making their whereabouts filings under para. 4 to a third party, such as coach, a manager or a national sports organization, provided that the third party agrees to such delegation. In this case, a delegation form is filled, signed by the Athlete and the Person to whom the duties are delegated, and sent to the Antidoping Centre.

(8) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Regardless of whether personally filling the whereabouts information or have delegated this duty to a third party, each Athlete remains fully and personally responsible, in case that this obligation has not been fulfilled.

(9) The Athlete is not obliged to provide information under para. 4 if only:

1. he/she has notified the Antidoping Centre in writing for retiring from sport, or
2. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) the Antidoping Centre has notified him/her for been excluded from the RTP.

(10) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) If an International- or National-Level Athlete in a Registered Testing Pool retires and then wishes to return to active participation in sport, the Athlete shall not compete in International Events or National Events until he/she has made himself/herself available for Testing by notifying the Antidoping Centre thereof at least 6 months before the date of his/her expected return. For the specified period until actual return to active participation in sport, the Athlete has to be available for Out-of-Competition Testing and to comply, upon request, with the requirements for submission of whereabouts information in accordance with the WADA ISTI. During the 6-month period of Out-of-Competition Testing, the costs of analysis and shipment of Athlete's Samples, for any trips and fees of anti-doping teams, shall be paid by the Athlete or by the licensed sports organization by which he/she is filed.

(11) In consultation with the relevant International Federation and the Antidoping Centre, WADA may, by decision, grant an exemption from the rule for a 6-month advance-notification, in case where the strict application of this rule would be unfair to the Athlete.

(12) The decisions under para. 11 may be appealed under Article 40.

Article 20. (1) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Antidoping Centre shall inform via ADAMS the other Anti-doping Organizations and WADA of the list of Athletes included in the RTP.

(2) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) If an Athlete is included simultaneously in the Antidoping Centre's RTP and in other Anti-Doping Organisation's RTP, the Antidoping Centre and the relevant Anti-Doping Organisation shall agree on which of the two shall be in charge for receiving the Athlete's whereabouts information.

(3) If the Antidoping Centre and the relevant Anti-Doping Organization fail to agree, WADA shall determine which of them shall collect the Athlete's whereabouts information based on the best interests of the Athlete. WADA's decision will be final and may not be appealed.

Article 21. (1) Failure to submit accurate and complete whereabouts information that enables the Athlete to be located for Testing at the times and locations set out in the whereabouts information or to update that whereabouts information where necessary to ensure that it remains accurate and complete, through ADAMS, shall be deemed filing failure for the purposes of Article 6.1.4, provided that the requirements of WADA's ISTI and the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM) have been met.

(2) A failure by the Athlete to be available for Testing at the location and time specified in the 60-minute time slot identified in their whereabouts information for the day in question, shall be deemed missed test for the purposes of Article 6.1.4, provided that the conditions of WADA ISTI and ISRM have been met.

Article 22. (1) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Antidoping Centre may establish and manage the following pools, which include Athletes from which less whereabouts information is required than from the Athletes included in the RTP under Article 19.2:

1. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) a Testing Pool;
2. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) a Team Testing Pool.

(2) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Antidoping Centre shall notify Athletes before they are included in the Testing Pool or Team Testing Pool and when they are removed. Such notification shall include the whereabouts requirements and the consequences that apply in case of non-compliance.

(3) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Athletes and the teams, included in the Testing Pool or Team Testing Pool, shall provide whereabouts information according to the procedure and within the deadlines specified by the Antidoping Centre, via ADAMS, and shall keep it up-to-date and accurate at all times.

(4) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The sport organizations, the BOC and the Ministry of Youth and Sports are obliged to assist, upon request, the Antidoping Centre in all activities, attendant the inclusion of Athletes and teams in the Testing Pool and Team Testing Pool, as well as receiving whereabouts information.

(5) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Antidoping Centre develops and publishes on its website an Instruction for managing the Testing Pool and an Instruction for managing the Team Testing Pool, which are affirmed by the Executive Director. With them, the criteria and the procedure for inclusion/exclusion, requirements, deadlines, information-submission mode, and the consequences at their non-observance, are determined.

(6) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) An Athlete's included in the Testing Pool or team's included in the Team Testing Pool failure to comply with the requirements for submission of the whereabouts information specified by the Antidoping Centre shall be proceeded according to the Results Management Procedure, Instruction on the management of the Antidoping centre's testing pool and Instruction on the management of the team testing pool of the antidoping centre.

(7) In the cases of breach of the requirements for information-submission by the teams, the sanctions shall be determined by the relevant licensed sports organization, which notifies for this the Antidoping Centre, within 3 days of imposing the sanction.

(8) In the cases of violation of the requirements for information-submission by the licensed sports organisations, the Antidoping Centre shall inform the Minister of Youth and Sports which may impose an appropriate sanction.

Article 23. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall carry out investigations in accordance with the ISTI.

(2) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Investigation and Gathering of Anti-Doping Intelligence is carried out for:

1. Obtaining, collecting, assessing and processing anti-doping intelligence from all available sources to enable the development of an effective and proportionate Test Distribution Plan, to plan Target Testing, and/or to form the basis of an investigation of a possible anti-doping rules violation;
2. Investigating Atypical Findings, Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings, in accordance with the Results Management Procedure (RMP);
3. Gathering intelligence or evidence, including non-analytical evidence, in order to determine whether there is an anti-doping rule violation under any of the assumptions listed in Article 6.1.

(3) The Antidoping Centre shall develop and apply politics and procedure for enabling and stimulating the submission of signals for anti-doping rules violations.

(4) The sports organizations, the Athletes, the Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons are obliged to assist the Antidoping Centre in implementation of its activities on para. 1.

(5) Offending behavior towards a Doping Control official or another Person involved in Doping Control, by an Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel, representative of a sports organization, or other Person, which does not otherwise constitute Tampering is forbidden and is subject to sanction.

(6) The sanctions for failure to execute of the duty under para. 4 and for the violations on para. 5 by the Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons shall be determined in the anti-doping rules of the licensed sports organisations. In case of imposing such sanction, the licensed sports organizations notify the Antidoping Centre within 3 days of imposing it.

(7) In the cases of breach of the requirements of this Article by the licensed sports organizations, the Antidoping Centre shall inform the Minister of Youth and Sports which may impose the appropriate sanction.

(8) (New, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) The Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre may determine by an order Doping Control Officer/s to aid the activities (of the centre) of information collection and investigation.

SECTION IV

ANTIDOPING TEAMS

Article 24. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall train Doping Control Officers (DCOs).

(2) The Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre shall approve a procedure for formation of anti-doping teams.

(3) The Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre shall issue to DCOs official cards granting access to all Competitions, Events, sports centers and facilities.

(4) Each anti-doping team shall consist of at least two members, of which one shall be a chairman and is nominated by the Order referred to in Article 18.1.

(5) By an Order, the Executive Director may nominate an Antidoping Centre employee to supervise the activities of the anti-doping team.

Article 25. (1) DCOs shall carry out their activities accordingly the conditions and in compliance of the Anti-Doping Teams Manual prepared by the Antidoping Centre and published on its website and shall:

1. collect Samples from the Athletes who are subject to Testing;
2. collect data and establish facts in order to detect anti-doping rules violations by Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons;
3. complete documentation concerning the activities under items 1 and 2, and are responsible for the accuracy of all data;
4. be responsible for the proper collection, sealing, storage, transportation and timely delivery of Samples to the ADC for further transfer to a WADA-accredited laboratory.

(2) In order to detect anti-doping rule violations as set forth in Article 6.1, the anti-doping team members shall be entitled to search all private luggage and belongings of the Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons.

(3) Where at the inspection under para. 2, a substance was detected, which is suspected of being included in the Prohibited List, the anti-doping team members shall be entitled to seize it for analysis.

(4) For the substance seized under para. 3, a protocol shall be drafted and the substance shall be sent for analysis to a WADA-accredited laboratory.

Article 26. The organizers of Competitions and/or Events are obliged to provide working conditions for the anti-doping teams in accordance with WADA's ISTI.

SECTION V

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES AND DATA

Article 27. (1) The Samples and the related analytical data or Doping Control information shall be analyzed for detection of Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods identified on the WADA Prohibited List and other substances as may be directed by WADA pursuant to its monitoring program, or to assist the Antidoping Centre or another Anti-Doping Organization in profiling relevant parameters in an Athlete's urine, blood or other matrix (including for DNA or genomic profiling) or for any other legitimate anti-doping purposes.

(2) Samples, the related analytical data and Doping Control information may be used for the purposes of anti-doping research but no Sample may be used for research without the Athlete's written consent. The Samples, the related analytical data and Doping Control information used for research purposes shall first be processed in such a manner as to prevent Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information being traced back to a particular Athlete.

(3) There are no limitations on the authority of a laboratory to conduct repeat or additional analysis on a Sample before the Antidoping Centre has notified the Athlete that the Sample is the basis for a charge on anti-doping rules violation under Article 6.1.1. If after such notification the Antidoping Centre wishes to conduct additional analyses on that sample, it may do so with the Athlete's consent or the Disciplinary Committee approval.

Section VI

RESULTS MANAGEMENT

Article 28. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall prepare and apply a Results Management Procedure (RMP), consistent with the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM), which is published on its website. In the Results Management Procedure, the guidelines for administrating of all potential violations of the anti-doping rules, prior to the hearing by the Disciplinary Committee, are set forth.

(2) At potential anti-doping rules violations, their administration is carried out by a Results Management Expert Group (RMEG), the composition of which is determined by the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre.

(3) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) For each potential anti-doping rules violation, the RMEG shall conduct preliminary review, prepare notification to the Athlete or other Person and other Anti-Doping Organizations, and offer possibility to the athlete or the other person to present written or verbal explanations and other rights specified in the ISRM. The Antidoping Centre sends the notification to the Athlete or other Person and other Anti-doping organizations via email, courier or via the licensed sport organization.

(4) A provisional suspension of an Athlete or other Person is imposed according to the ISRM and RMP, including the opportunity for hearing or appeal. The mandatory ineligibility is automatically starting on the day of notification to the Athlete or other Person according to para. 3, and the optional one –

according to the decision of the Antidoping Centre. The licensed sport organization shall inform immediately the Antidoping Centre when the notification is delivered to the Athlete or other Person.

Article 29. (1) If an athlete or other Person retires while a Results Management process by the Antidoping Centre is ongoing, the latter shall retain authority to complete its Results Management process.

(2) If an Athlete or other Person retires before any Results Management process has begun, and the Antidoping Centre would have had Results Management authority over the Athlete or other Person at the time when the Athlete or the other Person committed an anti-doping rules violation, the Antidoping Centre has authority to conduct Results Management.

Article 30. (1) In all cases, except those under Article 46 and when the Athlete or other Person waives the hearing as further specified in the Results Management Procedure, where enough data has been collected and/or facts are established that give grounds to put forward a charge for anti-doping rules violation, the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre shall send the whole documentation on the case to the Disciplinary Committee.

(2) In cases under Article 46 and when the Athlete or other Person waives the hearing (either expressly and agreeing with the Consequences proposed by the Antidoping Centre, or by failing to dispute the asserted anti-doping rule violation within the deadline specified by the Antidoping Centre), the hearing before the the Disciplinary Committee shall not be required. Instead the Executive Director of Antidoping Centre shall promptly issue a written decision that conforms with Article 9 of the International Standard for Results Management.

(3) The Antidoping Centre shall notify that decision to the Athlete or other Person and to other Anti-Doping Organizations with a right to appeal under Article 40, par.6 - 10, and shall promptly report it into ADAMS. If the notification takes place via the licensed sport organization, it shall inform the Antidoping Centre when the notification is delivered to the Athlete or other Person. The Antidoping Centre shall Publicly Disclose that decision in accordance with Article 14.3.2.

SECTION VII

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Article 31. (1) A Disciplinary Committee is set up with the Bulgarian Olympic Committee (BOC).

(2) The Disciplinary Committee is operatively independent body, whose activity is in line with the Code and the ISRM, being regulated in Procedure regulations, published on the websites of the Antidoping Centre and BOC.

(3) The Disciplinary Committee is composed of nine members, divided in three quotas: juridical, medical, and sporting.

(4) The chairman and the two vice-presidents of the Disciplinary Committee shall be lawyers with at least five years of professional experience, and the members shall be three doctors with at least five years of professional experience, and three additional members - each of which with at least five years of professional experience in the field of physical education and/or sport.

(5) The composition of the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by the Executive Bureau of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee on the proposal of its chairman.

(6) Each of the Disciplinary Committee members shall be appointed for a term of office of four years and can be re-elected only once.

(7) The term of office of any Disciplinary Committee member may be terminated in advance due to:

1. death;
2. resignation;
3. factual failure to fulfil his/her duties for more than 6 months;
4. a motivated decision of the appointing body.

(8) Upon early termination of the term of office of any Disciplinary Committee member, a new member shall be appointed in his/her place for the remaining term.

Article 32. (1) The Disciplinary Committee shall:

1. hold meetings and hearings of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons on issues related to anti-doping rule violations;
2. make decisions on issues related to anti-doping rule violations;
3. determine the type and duration of sanctions for the anti-doping rule violations committed and impose them.

(2) In order to exercise its powers, the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to draw in external experts - specialists in a specific field, in cases where, for solving a specific issue, special knowledge and skills are needed, which the Committee members do not possess.

(3) The Disciplinary Committee shall execute its activity observing the principles established in the ISRM, including the following:

1. a fair, impartial and operatively independent hearing panel;
2. a timely conduct of the hearing and, except at complex cases, the term for enacting of decision by the Disciplinary Committee shall not exceed two months of the approach to it;
3. guaranteed right to each of the parties to submit evidence, incl. to call and question witnesses (the hearing panel decides, by its discretion, whether to accept witness evidence by phone or in writing);
4. guaranteed right to the Person to be informed promptly and in a fair manner about the allegation that he/she has violated the anti-doping rules;
5. the Person shall be allowed to defend himself/herself against the charge that he/she has violated the anti-doping rules and the consequences thereof;
6. the Person shall be entitled to be represented at his/her own expense;
7. the Person shall be entitled to use an interpreter at the hearing, where the identity of the interpreter and the obligation for payment of his/her services shall be determined by the hearing panel.

Article 33. The following persons shall be entitled to refer to the Disciplinary Committee for review and resolution of issues related to anti-doping rule violations:

1. the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre;
2. each Code signatory;
3. WADA;
4. any person who is charged to have committed an anti-doping rules violation.

Article 34. (1) The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or, in his/her absence, his/her deputy, shall appoint the composition of the hearing panel among its members to review and decide on each case. Each hearing panel shall be presided by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee or his/her deputy and, when possible, shall include one of the Disciplinary Committee doctors and one of the Disciplinary Committee sports professionals. When not possible to include representatives of the three quotas in the hearing panel, replenishments from the other quotas are admissible, the participation of a lawyer being mandatory.

(2) Any of the following Persons cannot be appointed as panel members:

1. a Person who is a party to the case or together with one of the Parties to the case is subject to the disputed or related legal relationship;
2. a Person who is a spouse or linear relative, without restriction, or collateral relative up to the fourth degree inclusive or relative by marriage up to third degree inclusive, of one of the parties or one of its representatives;
3. a Person who is living in a factual cohabitation with a party to the case or its representative;
4. a Person who was a representative or proxy of a party to the case;
5. a Person who was involved in pre-adjudication of the case or was a witness or expert in the case;
6. a Person associated with other circumstances that give rise to a reasonable doubt as to his/her impartiality.

(3) A panel member shall step down voluntarily in cases under para. 2, items 1 – 5, and where he/she fails to accept the dismissal under para. 2, item 6 – shall announce the circumstances.

(4) Panel members shall fill out a declaration on lack of circumstances under para. 2.

Article 35. The panel shall meet at closed sessions, unless one of the parties has requested open hearing of the dispute and the Athlete / other Person has provided his/her written consent to the same.

Article 36. (1) Parties under Article 33. shall be notified about the place, the date and the hour of the first session of the hearing in writing, within 7 days at least, before the date of the hearing.

(2) The hearing panel may postpone the hearing. The parties absent from the hearing shall inform themselves of any subsequent hearings.

(3) Upon request of one party to the proceedings, the hearing panel may request the other party to submit a document, which is in its possession, and the party requesting such document shall explain its importance for the proceedings.

Article 37. (1) The Antidoping Centre shall have the burden of establishing that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred. The standard of proof shall be whether the Antidoping Centre has established an anti-doping rule violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing panel, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made. This standard of proof in all cases is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Where the Anti-Doping Rules place the burden of proof upon the Athlete or the other Person alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to rebut a presumption, or establish specified facts or circumstances, except as provided in para. 2, item 3 and item 4, the standard of proof shall be by a balance of probability.

(2) Facts related to anti-doping rule violations may be established by any reliable means, including admissions; in doping cases, the following rules of proof shall be applicable:

1. Analytical methods or Decision Limits approved by WADA after consultation within the relevant scientific community or which have been the subject of peer review are presumed to be scientifically valid. Any Athlete or other Person seeking to challenge whether the conditions for such presumption have been met or to rebut this presumption of scientific validity shall, as a condition precedent to any such challenge, first notify WADA of the challenge and the basis of the challenge. The initial hearing body, appellate body or CAS, on its own initiative, may also inform WADA of any such challenge. Within 10 (ten) days of WADA's receipt of such notice and the case file related to such challenge, WADA shall also have the right to intervene as a party, appear as amicus curiae or otherwise provide evidence in such proceeding. In cases before CAS, at WADA's request, the CAS panel shall appoint an appropriate scientific expert to assist the panel in its evaluation of the challenge.

2. For certain Prohibited Substances, WADA may instruct WADA-accredited laboratories not to report Samples as an Adverse Analytical Finding if the estimated concentration of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers is below a Minimum Reporting Level.

3. WADA-accredited laboratories, and other laboratories approved by WADA, are presumed to have conducted Sample analysis and custodial procedures in accordance with the International Standard for Laboratories; the Athlete or other Person may rebut this presumption by establishing that a departure from the International Standard for Laboratories occurred, which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding; if the Athlete or the other Person rebuts the preceding presumption by showing that a departure from the International Standard for Laboratories occurred which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, then the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding.

4. Departures from any other International Standard or other anti-doping rule or policy set forth in the Code or these Anti-Doping Regulations shall not invalidate analytical results or other evidence of an anti-doping rule violation, and shall not constitute a defense to an anti-doping rule violation; provided, however, if the Athlete or other Person establishes that a departure from one of the specific International Standard provisions listed below could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding or whereabouts failure, then the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding or the whereabouts failure:

a. a departure from the ISTI related to Sample collection or Sample handling, which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding, in which case the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding;

b. a departure from the ISRM or ISTI related to an Adverse Passport Finding, which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation, in which case the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the anti-doping rule violation;

c. a departure from the ISRM related to the requirement to provide notice to the Athlete of the B Sample opening which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding, in which case the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding;

d. a departure from the ISRM related to Athlete notification which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on a whereabouts failure, in which case the Antidoping Centre shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the whereabouts failure.

5. The facts established by a decision of a court or professional disciplinary tribunal of competent jurisdiction, which is not the subject of a pending appeal, shall be irrebuttable evidence against the Athlete or other Person to whom the decision pertained of those facts unless the Athlete or other Person establishes that the decision violated principles of natural justice.

6. The hearing panel in a hearing on an anti-doping rule violation may draw an inference adverse to the Athlete or other Person who is asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation based on the Athlete's or other Person's refusal, after a request made in a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, to appear at the hearing (either in person or telephonically as directed by the hearing panel) and to answer questions from the hearing panel or the Antidoping Centre.

Article 38. At the Disciplinary Committee hearings, written minutes shall be taken. Upon request, the parties may receive a copy of such minutes.

Article 39. (1) Decisions of the panel shall be taken by majority.

(2) The decision shall be in writing and contain a date, jurisdiction and applicable rules, detailed factual background, the anti-doping rules violation committed, applicable Consequences and motives, modes and terms of appeal for the Athlete or other Person, as well as signatures.

(3) The decisions shall be promptly notified by the Disciplinary Committee to the Antidoping Centre. The Antidoping Centre shall notify it to the Athlete or other Person and to other Anti-Doping Organizations with a right of appeal under Article 40, paras.6-10. The Antidoping Centre shall provide

a summary in English to other Anti-Doping Organizations with a right of appeal under Article 40, paras.6-10 and shall promptly report it into ADAMS. The decisions shall be delivered personally or to a representative at the address designated to the correspondence. When the addressee was not found at the designated address, the decision is delivered at the present address, and when it is missing – at the permanent one.

(4) A decision may also be delivered to the party at an electronic address, designated by it. It is assumed as delivered with its incoming at the designated electronic address.

(5) When the decision could not be delivered in the modes indicated in para. 3 and 4, it shall be sent to the licensed sports organization of the Athlete or the other Person, if applicable, and shall be assumed as delivered to the addressee as of the moment of its receipt by the licensed sports organization, if applicable. If the notification takes place via licensed sports organization, it shall confirm the notification to the Antidoping Centre.

Article 40. (1) Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre, and the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration may be appealed as further specified in this Article and shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise. The scope of review on appeal shall include all issues relevant to the matter and is expressly not limited to the original issues or scope of review at the initial decision maker. Each of the parties on the appeal may present evidence, legal arguments and claims, which have not been presented at the first hearing instance, provided that they are based on the same reason or on the same general facts or circumstances, brought forward or touched during the hearing at the first instance.

(2) Where WADA has a right to appeal and no other party to the case has appealed a final decision within the Antidoping Centre's process, WADA may appeal such decision directly to CAS without having to exhaust other remedies in the Antidoping Centre's process. In making its decision, CAS does not need to give deference to the discretion exercised by the body, whose decision is being appealed.

(3) Any of the following may be appealed exclusively as provided in this article:

1. decisions of the Disciplinary Committee and the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre that an anti-doping rule violation was committed, decisions imposing Consequences or not imposing Consequences for an anti-doping rule violation, as well as decisions that no anti-doping rule violation was committed;
2. decisions of the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre and the Disciplinary Committee that an anti-doping rule violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example, prescription);
3. a decision of WADA not to grant an exception to the 6-month notice requirement for a retired Athlete to return to competition under Article 19.11;
4. a decision of WADA assigning Result Management under Article 7.1 of the Code;
5. decisions of the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre not to bring forward an Adverse Analytical Finding or an Atypical Finding as an anti-doping rule violation, or decisions not to go forward with an anti-doping rule violation after an investigation in accordance with ISRM;
6. a decision to impose or lift a Provisional Suspension as a result of a Provisional Hearing;
7. the Antidoping Centre's failure to comply with Article 7.4 of the Code;
8. a decision that the Antidoping Centre lacks authority to rule on an alleged anti-doping rule violation or its Consequences;
9. a decision to suspend, or not suspend, Consequences or to reinstate, or not reinstate, Consequences under Article 10.7.1 of the Code;

10. failure to comply with Articles 7.1.4 and Article 7.1.5 of the Code;
11. failure to comply with Article 46.1;
12. a decision under Article 10.14.3 of the Code;
13. a decision by the Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre not to implement another Anti-Doping Organization's decision under Article 41; and
14. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) a decision under §6 of Transitional and Final Provisions.

(4) In cases arising from participation in an International Event or in cases involving International-Level Athletes, the decision may be appealed exclusively to CAS.

(5) In cases where item (4) is not applicable, the decision may be appealed to the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration, which shall pass a decision within 15 days after the end of the hearing, this term being subject to prolongation, if necessary.

(6) The following parties shall have the right to appeal under para. 1-5:

1. appeals to CAS in cases under item (4):
 - a. the Athlete or other Person who is the subject of the decision being appealed;
 - b. the other party to the case, in which the decision was rendered;
 - c. the relevant International Federation;
 - d. the Antidoping Centre and/or the National Anti-Doping Organization of the Person's country of residence or the countries, where the Person is a national or a license holder;
 - e. the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic or Paralympic Games; and
 - f. WADA;
2. Appeals to the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration under item (5):
 - a. the Athlete or other Person, who is the subject of the decision being appealed;
 - b. the other party to the case, in which the decision was rendered;
 - c. the Antidoping Centre and/or National Anti-Doping Organization of the Person's country of residence or the countries, where the Person is a national or license holder;
 - d. the relevant International Federation;
 - e. the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic or Paralympic Games; and
 - f. WADA;
3. appeals of any decision of the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration under item (5) to CAS:
 - a. WADA;
 - b. the International Olympic Committee,
 - c. the International Paralympic Committee, and
 - d. the relevant International Federation.

4. Any party filing an appeal shall be entitled to assistance from CAS to obtain all relevant information from the Anti-Doping Organization whose decision is being appealed, and the information shall be provided if CAS so directs.

5. notwithstanding any other provision herein, the only Person who may appeal an imposition of a Provisional Suspension is the Athlete or other Person upon whom the Provisional Suspension is imposed;

(7) All parties on each appeal to the CAS shall ensure that WADA and all other parties with a right to appeal have been given timely notice of the appeal.

(8) The appeal deadlines shall be as follows:

1.1. appeals before the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration in its capacity as an appellate instance shall be submitted within 21 days of the date of the receipt of the decision by the appealing party;

2. the deadline for appeal before CAS shall be 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing party.

(9) The following shall apply to an appeal filed by a party with right to appeal, which was not a party to the proceedings, resulting in the decision subject to appeal:

1. within 15 days from the notice of the decision, the party may request from the decision issuing body a copy of the file;

2. upon submission of request under item 1 within the 15-day term, the submitting party shall have 21 days from the day of receipt of the file to lodge an appeal to CAS.

(10) The filing deadline for an appeal by WADA shall be the later of:

1. twenty-one days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed, or;

2. twenty-one days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

(11) In cases brought to CAS and to the Bulgarian Sport Arbitration, cross appeals, as well as other subsequent appeals by any respondent named are specifically permitted. Any party with a right to appeal under this article shall file a cross appeal or a subsequent appeal at the latest with the party's answer.

(12) In cases, where the Antidoping Centre fails, within a reasonable deadline set by WADA, to render a decision with respect to whether an anti-doping rule violation was committed, WADA may elect to appeal directly to CAS, as if the Antidoping Centre had rendered a decision finding no anti-doping rule violation. If the CAS hearing panel determines that an anti-doping rule violation was committed and that WADA acted reasonably in electing to appeal directly to CAS, then WADA's costs and attorney's fees in prosecuting the appeal shall be reimbursed to WADA by the Antidoping Centre.

(13) TUE decisions may be appealed as provided in Article 9-11

(14) Being a party to an appellate case, the Antidoping Centre shall duly notify for this the athlete or the relevant other person, as well as the other anti-doping organisations with a right to appeal.

Article 41. (1) A decision of an anti-doping rule violation made by a Signatory Anti-Doping Organization, an appellate body or CAS shall, after the parties to the proceeding are notified, automatically be binding beyond the parties to the proceeding – for the Antidoping Centre and every sports federation in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as upon every Signatory in every sport with the effects described below:

1. A decision by any of the above-described bodies imposing a Provisional Suspension (after a Provisional Hearing has occurred or the Athlete or the relevant other Person has either accepted the Provisional Suspension or has waived the right to a Provisional Hearing, expedited hearing or expedited appeal offered in accordance with Article 7.4.3 of the Code) automatically prohibits the Athlete or the

relevant other Person from participation (as described in Article 10.14.1 of the Code) in all sports within the authority of any Signatory during the Provisional Suspension.

2. A decision by any of the above-described bodies imposing a period of Ineligibility (after a hearing has occurred or been waived) automatically prohibits the Athlete or the relevant other Person from participation (as described in Article 10.14.1 of the Code) in all sports within the authority of any Signatory, for the period of Ineligibility.

3. A decision by any of the above-described bodies accepting an anti-doping rule violation automatically binds all Signatories.

4. A decision by any of the above-described bodies to Disqualify results under Article 10.10 of the Code for a specified period, automatically Disqualifies all results obtained within the authority of any Signatory during the specified period.

(2) The Antidoping Centre and each sports organization in the Republic of Bulgaria are under the obligation to recognize and implement a decision and its effects as required by para. 1, without any further action required, on the earlier of the date the Antidoping Centre receives actual notice of the decision or the date the decision is placed into ADAMS.

(3) A decision by an Anti-Doping Organization, an appellate body or CAS to suspend, or lift, Consequences shall be binding upon the Antidoping Centre and each sports organization in the Republic of Bulgaria without any further action required, on the earlier of the date the Antidoping Centre receives actual notice of the decision or the date the decision is placed into ADAMS.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision in para 1, however, a decision of an anti-doping rule violation by a Major Event Organization, made in an expedited process during the Event, shall not be binding on the Antidoping Centre and each sports organization in the Republic of Bulgaria unless the rules of the Major Event Organization provide the Athlete or the relevant other Person with an opportunity to an appeal under non-expedited procedures.

SECTION VIII

SANCTIONS FOR ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

Article 42. Sanctions on Athletes and other Persons under these Regulations shall be imposed regardless of the property, administrative and penal or criminal liability if so provided for in another regulation.

Article 43. An anti-doping rule violation in individual sports in connection with an in-competition test automatically leads to disqualification of the individual results obtained in that competition with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

Article 44. (1) An anti-doping rule violation occurring during or in connection with a sports Event may, upon the decision of the ruling body of the Event, lead to Disqualification of all of the Athlete's individual results obtained in that Event with all Consequences, including forfeiture of all medals, points and prizes, at considering the following circumstances, except as provided under item 2 below:

1. Factors to be included in considering whether to Disqualify other results in an Event might include, for example, the seriousness of the Athlete's anti-doping rule violation and whether the Athlete tested negative in other Competitions.

2. If the Athlete establishes that he or she bears No Fault or Negligence for the violation, the Athlete's individual results in the other Competitions shall not be Disqualified, unless the Athlete's results in Competitions other than the Competition, in which the anti-doping rule violation occurred, were likely to have been affected by the Athlete's anti-doping rule violation.

(2) The period of Ineligibility for a violation of Article 6.1, items 1, 2 and 6, shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction or suspension pursuant to para. 5, para. 6 and Article 45:

1. The period of Ineligibility, subject to para. 2.4 shall be four years, where:
 - a. The anti-doping rule violation does not involve a Specified Substance or a Specified Method, unless the Athlete or the other Person can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional.
 - b. The anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance or a Specified Method and the Antidoping Centre can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was intentional.
2. If item 1 does not apply, subject to para. 2.4 the period of ineligibility shall be two years.
3. For the purposes of application of item 2, “intentional” is meant to identify that athlete or other person who is engaged in conduct, which they knew constituted an anti-doping rule violation or knew that there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an anti-doping rule violation and manifestly disregarded that risk. An anti-doping rule violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall be rebuttably presumed to be not “intentional” if the substance is a Specified Substance and the athlete can establish that the Prohibited Substance was used out-of-competition.

An anti-doping rule violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall not be considered “intentional” if the substance is not a Specified Substance and if the athlete can establish that the Prohibited Substance was used out-of-competition in a context unrelated to sport performance.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this para. 2, where the anti-doping rule violation involves a Substance of Abuse:

- a. If the Athlete can establish that any ingestion or Use occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance, then the period of Ineligibility shall be three (3) months Ineligibility. In addition, the period of Ineligibility, calculated under this item, may be reduced to one month if the Athlete or the relevant other Person satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse Treatment Program approved by the Antidoping Centre. The period of Ineligibility established in this item is not subject to any reduction based on any provision in para.6.

- b. If the ingestion, Use or Possession occurred In-Competition, and the Athlete can establish that the context of the ingestion, Use or Possession was unrelated to sport performance, then the ingestion, Use or Possession shall not be considered intentional for purposes of para 2.1.a and para 2.1.b, and shall not provide a basis for a finding of Aggravating Circumstances under para. 4.

(3) In cases where para. 6 and Article 45, para. 7, are not applied, the period of ineligibility for anti-doping rule violations other than those provided in para. 2, shall be as follows:

1. for a violation of Article 6, para. 1, item 3 or 5, the period of ineligibility is 4 years, except:

- a. in case of failing to submit to Sample collection, if the Athlete can establish that the commission of the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years;

- b. in all other cases, if the Athlete or the relevant other Person can establish exceptional circumstances that justify a reduction of the period of Ineligibility, then the period of ineligibility shall be in a range from two (2) years to four (4) years, depending on the Athlete or the relevant other Person’s degree of Fault; or

- c. in a case involving a Protected Person or Recreational Athlete, the period of Ineligibility shall be in a range between a maximum of two years and, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person or Recreational Athlete’s degree of Fault.

2. For violations of Article 6.1.4, the period of Ineligibility shall be two (2) years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Athlete’s degree of Fault. The flexibility between two (2) years and one (1) year of Ineligibility in this article is not available to Athletes where a pattern of last-minute

whereabouts changes or other conduct raises a serious suspicion that the Athlete was trying to avoid being available for Testing.

3. For violations of Article 6.1.7 or Article 6.1.8, the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of four years up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation. An Article 6.1.7 or Article 6.1.8 violation involving a Protected Person shall be considered a particularly serious violation and, if committed by Athlete Support Personnel, for violations other than for Specified Substances shall result in lifetime Ineligibility for Athlete Support Personnel. In addition, significant violations of Article 6.1.7 or Article 6.1.8, which may also violate non-sporting laws and regulations, shall be reported to the competent administrative, professional or judicial authorities.

4. For violations of Article 6.1.9, the period of Ineligibility imposed shall be a minimum of two (2) years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

5. For violations of Article 6.1.10, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Athlete's or other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case.

6. For violations of Article 6.1.11 of the Code, the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of two years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation by the Athlete or the relevant other Person.

(4) If the Antidoping Centre establishes in an individual case, involving an anti-doping rule violation other than violations under Article 6.1, items 7-9 or 11, that Aggravating Circumstances are present, which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction, then the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable shall be increased by an additional period of Ineligibility of up to two years depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of the Aggravating Circumstances, unless the Athlete or the relevant other Person can establish that he or she did not knowingly commit the anti-doping rule violation.

(5) If an Athlete or other Person establishes in an individual case that he or she bears No Fault or Negligence, then the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be eliminated.

(6) Based on No Significant Fault or Negligence the Period of Ineligibility may be reduced in particular circumstances for violations under Article 6.1, items 1, 2 and 6:

1. all reductions under this item 1 are mutually exclusive and not cumulative.

a. Where the anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) or Specified Method, and the Athlete or the relevant other Person can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two (2) years of Ineligibility, depending on the Athlete's or the relevant other Person's degree of Fault.

b. In cases where the Athlete or the relevant other Person can establish both No Significant Fault or Negligence and that the detected Prohibited Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) came from a Contaminated Product, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two (2) years Ineligibility, depending on the Athlete or the relevant other Person's degree of Fault,

c. Where the anti-doping rule violation not involving a Substance of Abuse is committed by a Protected Person or Recreational Athlete, and the Protected Person or Recreational Athlete can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two (2) years Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person's or Recreational Athlete's degree of Fault.

2. If an Athlete or other Person establishes in an individual case, where item 1 is not applicable, that he or she bears No Significant Fault or Negligence, then, subject to further reduction or elimination as

provided in Article 45, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be reduced based on the Athlete's or the relevant other Person's degree of Fault, but the reduced period of Ineligibility may not be less than one-half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the reduced period under this Article may be no less than eight (8) years.

Article 45. (1) Prior to an appellate decision or prior to the expiration of the time to appeal, the Antidoping Centre may suspend a part of the Consequences (other than Disqualification and mandatory Public Disclosure) imposed in an individual case, where the Athlete or the relevant other Person has provided Substantial Assistance to an Anti-Doping Organisation, criminal authority or professional disciplinary body, which results in:

1. the Anti-Doping Organisation discovering or bringing forward an anti-doping rule violation by another Person, or
2. a criminal or disciplinary body discovering or bringing forward a criminal offense or the breach of professional rules committed by another Person and the information provided by the Person providing Substantial Assistance is made available to the Antidoping Centre or other Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management responsibility, or
3. WADA initiating a proceeding against a Signatory, WADA-accredited laboratory, or Athlete passport management unit for non-compliance with the Code, International Standard or Technical Document; or
4. with the approval by WADA, a criminal or disciplinary body bringing forward a criminal offense or the breach of professional or sport rules arising out of a sport integrity violation other than doping.

(2) After an appellate decision or the expiration of time to appeal, with the approval of WADA and the applicable International Federation, the Antidoping Centre may suspend only a part of the otherwise applicable Consequences,.

(3) The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended shall be based on the seriousness of the anti-doping rule violation committed by the Athlete or the relevant other Person and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Athlete or other Person to the effort to eliminate doping in sport, non-compliance with the Code and/or sport integrity violations. No more than three-quarters of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period under this Article must be no less than eight (8) years. For the purposes of this paragraph, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall not include any period of Ineligibility that could be added under Article 47.6.

(4) If so requested by an Athlete or other Person, who seeks to provide Substantial Assistance, the Antidoping Centre shall allow the Athlete or other Person to provide the information to it, subject to a Without Prejudice Agreement.

(5) If the Athlete or other Person fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a suspension of Consequences was based, the Antidoping Centre shall reinstate the original Consequences. If the Antidoping Centre takes a decision to reinstate the suspended Consequences or not to reinstate suspended Consequences, this decision may be appealed by any person entitled to appeal in accordance with Article 40 and Article 41.

(6) To further encourage Athletes and other Persons to provide Substantial Assistance to Anti-Doping Organisations, at the request of the Antidoping Centre or at the request of the Athlete or other Person who has, or has been asserted to have, committed an anti-doping rule violation, or other violation of the Code, WADA may agree at any stage of the Results Management process, including after an appellate decision, to what it considers to be an appropriate suspension of the otherwise-applicable period of Ineligibility and other Consequences. In exceptional circumstances, WADA may agree to suspensions of the period of Ineligibility and other Consequences for Substantial Assistance greater than those otherwise provided in

this Article, or even no period of Ineligibility, no mandatory Public Disclosure and/or no return of prize money or payment of fines or costs. WADA's approval shall be subject to reinstatement of Consequences, as otherwise provided in this Article. Notwithstanding Article 40 and Article 41, WADA's decisions in the context of this para. may not be appealed.

(7) If the Antidoping Centre suspends any part of an otherwise applicable sanction because of Substantial Assistance, then notice providing justification for the decision shall be provided to the other Anti-Doping Organizations with a right to appeal under Article 40.6-40.12 as provided in Article 14 of the Code. In unique circumstances, where WADA determines that it would be in the best interest of the fight against use of doping, WADA may authorize the Antidoping Centre to enter into appropriate confidentiality agreements limiting or delaying the disclosure of the Substantial Assistance agreement or the nature of Substantial Assistance being provided.

(8) Where an Athlete or other Person voluntarily admits the commission of an anti-doping rule violation before having received notice of a Sample collection which could establish an anti-doping rule violation (or, in the case of an anti-doping rule violation other than Article 6.1.1 before receiving first notice of the admitted violation pursuant to RMP), and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the violation at the time of admission, then the period of Ineligibility may be reduced, but not below one-half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable.

(9) Where an Athlete or other Person establishes entitlement to reduction in sanction under more than one provision of Article 44.5 and 44.6, and Article 45, before applying any reduction or suspension under Article 45, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be determined in accordance with Article 44.2, 44.3, 44.5, and 44.6. If the Athlete or the other Person establishes entitlement to a reduction or suspension of the period of Ineligibility under Article 45, then the period of Ineligibility may be reduced or suspended, but not below one-fourth of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility.

Article 46. (1) Where an Athlete or other Person, after being notified by the Antidoping Centre of a potential anti-doping rule violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Article 44.4), admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than 20 (twenty) days after receiving notice of an anti-doping rule violation charge, this Athlete or other Person may receive a 1 (one) year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by the Antidoping Centre. Where an Athlete or other Person receives the one year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this Article, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other Article.

(2) Where the Athlete or other Person admits an anti-doping rule violation after being confronted with the anti-doping rule violation by the Antidoping Centre and agrees to Consequences acceptable to the Antidoping Centre and WADA, at their sole discretion, then:

1. the Athlete or the relevant other Person may receive a reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an assessment by the Antidoping Centre and WADA of the application of Article 44 and Article 45 to the asserted anti-doping rule violation, the seriousness of the violation, the Athlete or the other Person's degree of Fault and how promptly the Athlete or other Person admitted the violation; and

2. the period of Ineligibility may start as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another anti-doping rule violation last occurred. In each case, however, where this Article is applied, the Athlete or other Person shall serve at least one-half of the agreed-upon period of Ineligibility going forward from the earlier of the date the Athlete or other Person accepted the imposition of a sanction or a Provisional Suspension which was subsequently respected by the Athlete or other Person.

(3) The decision by WADA and the Antidoping Centre to enter or not enter into a case resolution agreement, and the amount of the reduction to, and the starting date of the period of Ineligibility, are not matters for determination or review by the Disciplinary Commission, and are no subject of appeal according Article 40 and Article 41.

(4) If so requested by an Athlete or other Person who seeks to enter into a case resolution agreement under this Article, the Antidoping Centre shall allow the Athlete or the relevant other Person to discuss an admission of the anti-doping rule violation with it subject to a Without Prejudice Agreement.

Article 47. (1) For an Athlete's or other Person's second anti-doping rule violation, the period of Ineligibility shall be the greater of the following two:

1. A six-month period of Ineligibility; or
2. A period of Ineligibility in the range between:
 - a. the sum of the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first anti-doping rule violation plus the period of Ineligibility, otherwise applicable to the second anti-doping rule violation, treated as if it were a first violation, and
 - b. twice the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable to the second anti-doping rule violation treated as if it were a first violation. The period of Ineligibility within this range shall be determined based on the entirety of the circumstances and the Athlete's or the other Person's degree of Fault with respect to the second violation.

(2) A third anti-doping rule violation will always result in a lifetime period of Ineligibility, except if the third violation fulfills the condition for elimination or reduction of the period of Ineligibility under Article 44.5 and 44.6, or involves a violation of Article 6.1.4. In these particular cases, the period of Ineligibility shall be from eight (8) years to lifetime Ineligibility.

(3) The period of Ineligibility provided for in para. 1 and 2 may then be further reduced by the application of Article 45.

(4) An anti-doping rule violation, for which an Athlete or other Person has established No Fault or Negligence, shall not be considered a violation for purposes of this Article. In addition, an anti-doping rule violation sanctioned under Article 44.2.4a., shall not be considered a violation for the purposes of this Article.

(5) For purposes of imposing sanctions under this Article, except as provided in para. 6 and 7, an anti-doping rule violation will only be considered a second violation if the Antidoping Centre can establish that the relevant Athlete or other Person committed the additional anti-doping rule violation after the Athlete or the relevant other Person received notice pursuant to Results Management Procedure, or after the Antidoping Centre made reasonable efforts to notify him/her of the first anti-doping rule violation. If the Antidoping Centre cannot establish this, the violations shall be considered together as one single first violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of Aggravating Circumstances. Results in all Competitions, dating back to the earlier anti-doping rule violation, will be disqualified as provided in Article 48.

(6) If the Antidoping Centre establishes that an Athlete or other Person committed an additional anti-doping rule violation prior to notification, and that the additional violation occurred 12 months or more before or after the first-noticed violation, then the period of Ineligibility for the additional violation shall be calculated as if the additional violation were a stand-alone first violation and this period of Ineligibility is served consecutively, rather than concurrently, with the period of Ineligibility imposed for the earlier-noticed violation. Where this para. applies, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for the purposes of this Article paragraphs (1) to (3).

(7) If the Antidoping Centre establishes that an Athlete or other Person committed a violation of Article 6.1.5, in connection with the Doping Control process for an underlying asserted anti-doping rule violation, the violation of Article 6.1.5 shall be treated as a stand-alone first violation and the period of Ineligibility for such violation shall be served consecutively, rather than concurrently, with the period of Ineligibility, if any, imposed for the underlying anti-doping rule violation. Where this para. is applied, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for the purposes of this Article paragraphs (1) to (3).

(8) If the Antidoping Centre establishes that an Athlete or other Person has committed a second or third anti-doping rule violation during a period of Ineligibility, the periods of Ineligibility for the multiple violations shall run consecutively, rather than concurrently.

(9) For the purposes of this Article, each anti-doping rule violation must take place within the same ten-year period, in order to be considered multiple violations.

Article 48. In addition to the automatic disqualification of the results in the competition which produced the positive Sample under Article 43, all other competitive results of the Athlete, obtained from the date a positive Sample was collected (whether in-competition or out-of-competition), or other anti-doping rule violation occurred, through the commencement of any provisional-suspension or ineligibility period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be disqualified with all of the resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

Article 49. The licensed sport organization, the Antidoping Centre, or another Signatory, which has recovered prize money, forfeited as a result of an anti-doping rule violation, shall take reasonable measures to allocate and distribute this prize money to Athletes, who would have been entitled to it had the forfeiting Athlete not competed. An international federation may provide in its rules whether or not the redistributed prize money shall be considered for the purposes of its ranking of athletes.

Article 50. (1) Where an Athlete is already serving a period of Ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation, any new period of Ineligibility shall commence on the first day after the current period of Ineligibility has been served. Otherwise, and except the cases referred to in this Article, the period of Ineligibility shall start on the date of the final hearing decision providing for Ineligibility or, if the hearing is waived or there is no hearing, on the date Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed.

(2) Where there have been substantial delays in the hearing process or other aspects of Doping Control, and the Athlete or other Person can establish that such delays are not attributable to the Athlete or other Person, the Disciplinary Committee may start the period of Ineligibility at an earlier date commencing as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another anti-doping rule violation last occurred. All competitive results achieved during the period of Ineligibility, including retroactive Ineligibility, shall be disqualified.

(3) If a Provisional Suspension is respected by the Athlete or other Person, then he/she shall receive a credit for such period of Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility, which may ultimately be imposed. If the Athlete or other Person does not respect a Provisional Suspension, then the Athlete or other Person shall receive no credit for any period of Provisional Suspension served. If a period of Ineligibility, pursuant to a decision that is subsequently appealed, is served, then the Athlete or the relevant other Person shall receive a credit for such period of Ineligibility served against any period of Ineligibility, which may ultimately be imposed on the appeal.

(4) If an Athlete or other Person voluntarily accepts in writing a Provisional Suspension from the Antidoping Centre and thereafter respects the Provisional Suspension, the Athlete or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of voluntary Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility, which may ultimately be imposed. A copy of the Athlete's or other Person's voluntary acceptance of a Provisional Suspension shall be provided promptly to each party entitled to receive notice of an asserted anti-doping rule violation under Article 14.1 of the Code.

(5) No credit against a period of Ineligibility shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the Provisional Suspension or voluntary Provisional Suspension, regardless of whether the Athlete elected not to compete or was suspended by a team.

(6) In Team Sports, where a period of Ineligibility is imposed upon a team, unless fairness requires otherwise, the period of Ineligibility shall start on the date of the final hearing decision providing for Ineligibility or, if the hearing is waived, on the date Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed. Any

period of team Provisional Suspension (whether imposed or voluntarily accepted) shall be credited against the total period of Ineligibility to be served.

Article 51. (1) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) No Athlete or other Person who has been declared Ineligible or is subject to a Provisional Suspension may, during a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension, participate in any capacity in a Competition or activity (other than authorized anti-doping Education or rehabilitation programs) authorized or organized by any Signatory, Signatory's member organization, or a club or other member organization of a Signatory's member organization, or in Competitions authorized or organized by any professional league or any international- or national-level Event organization or any elite or national-level sporting activity, funded by a governmental agency.

(2) An Athlete or other Person subject to a period of Ineligibility longer than four (4) years may, after completing four (4) years of the period of Ineligibility, participate as an Athlete in local sport events not sanctioned or otherwise under the authority of a Code Signatory or member of a Code Signatory, but only so long as the local sport event is not at a level that could otherwise qualify such Athlete or other Person directly or indirectly to compete in (or accumulate points toward) a national championship or International Event, and does not involve the Athlete or other Person working in any capacity with Protected Persons.

(3) An Athlete or other Person subject to a period of Ineligibility shall remain subject to Testing and any requirement by the Antidoping Centre to provide whereabouts information.

Article 52. (1) (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) As an exception to Article 51, an Athlete may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a club or other Signatory's member-organization during the shorter of:

1. the last two months of the Athlete's period of Ineligibility, or
2. the last one-quarter of the period of Ineligibility imposed.

(2) (New, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) Before their returning after a sanction the Athletes should complete anti-doping education, delivered or recognized by the Antidoping centre.

Article 53. (1) Where an Athlete or other Person who has been declared Ineligible violates the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility described in Article 51, the results of such participation shall be disqualified and a new period of Ineligibility, equal in length to the original period of Ineligibility, shall be added to the end of the original period of Ineligibility. The new period of Ineligibility, including a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, may be adjusted based on the Athlete or the relevant other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case. The determination of whether an Athlete or other Person has violated the prohibition against participation, and whether an adjustment is appropriate, shall be made by the Anti-Doping Organization whose Results Management led to the imposition of the initial period of Ineligibility. This decision may be appealed under Article 40 and Article 41.

(2) An Athlete or other Person who violates the prohibition against participation during a Provisional Suspension described in Article 51, shall receive no credit for any period of Provisional Suspension served and the results of such participation shall be disqualified.

(3) Where an Athlete Support Person or other Person assists a Person in violating the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility or a Provisional Suspension, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose sanctions for a violation of Article 6.1.9 for such assistance.

Article 54. In addition, for any anti-doping rule violation not involving a reduced sanction as described in Article 44.5 or Article 44.6, some or all sport-related financial support or other sport-related benefits received by such Person will be withheld by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria, the National Olympic Committee of Bulgaria, the National Paralympic Association of Bulgaria and the relative national sport licensed organization.

Article 55. A mandatory part of each sanction shall include automatic publication in accordance with Results Management Procedure. The mandatory public disclosure is not required where it has been established that an anti-doping rule violation has been committed by a Minor, Protected Person or Recreational Athlete. Any optional Public Disclosure in a case involving a Minor, Protected Person or Recreational Athlete shall be proportionate to the facts and circumstances of the case.

Article 56. (1) Where more than one member of a team in a Team Sport has been notified according to the Results Management Procedure of an anti-doping rule violation in connection with an Event, the ruling body of the Event shall conduct appropriate Target Testing of the team during the Event Period.

(2) If more than two members of a team in a Team Sport are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during an Event Period, the ruling body of the Event shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team (e.g., loss of points, Disqualification from a Competition or Event, or other sanction) in addition to any Consequences imposed upon the individual Athletes committed the anti-doping rule violation.

(3) The ruling body of an Event may elect to establish rules for the Event, which impose Consequences for Team Sports stricter than those in para. 2, for the purposes of the Event. Similarly, an International Federation may elect to establish rules imposing stricter Consequences for Team Sports within its authority than those in para. 2.

Article 57. The licensed Bulgarian sports organizations shall be the bodies implementing the effective decisions for imposition of sanctions on persons falling under their authority, who have committed anti-doping rule violations.

Article 58. The Executive Director of the Antidoping Centre shall propose to the Minister of Youth and Sports to impose a compulsory administrative measure on sports organization, legal entity providing sports services, or organization under Chapter Four of the LPES, which:

1. failed to fulfil any of its obligations under Article 4;
2. failed to submit information under Article 14, para. 2;
3. failed to implement an enforced decision for imposition of a sanction on an athlete or other person in accordance with the Regulations;
4. failed to take measures against the use of doping and this has led to violations by its licensed Athletes, or Athlete Support Personnel, or officials in the sport it administers, or other Persons;
5. if as an Event organizer of a Competition and/or Event, it fails to fulfil its obligation under Article 26;
6. fails to comply with the anti-doping rules.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Within the meaning of this Regulations:

1. "ADAMS" is a Web-based database management tool for data entry, storage, sharing, and reporting data, designed to assist stakeholders and WADA in realization of their anti-doping operations in conjunction with data protection legislation.
2. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Anti-Doping Activities" are Anti-doping Education and information, planning of tests distribution, Maintenance of the Registered Testing Plan, management of the Athlete's Biological Passport, Testing conduction, organizing of Samples analysis, gathering of intelligence and performing investigations, proceeding TUE applications, Result Management, monitoring and enforcing compliance with any imposed Consequences, and all other activities related to the fight against doping, which are done by or in the name of Anti-Doping Organization, as foreseen in the Code and/or in the International Standards.
3. "Anti-Doping Organization" is WADA or Signatory, responsible for adopting rules for initiating, implementing or enforcing any part of the Doping Control process. This includes organizations like the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, other Major Event

Organizations that conduct Testing at their Events, International Federations, and National Anti-Doping Organizations.

4. "Atypical finding" is a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory, which requires further investigation as provided by the International Standard for Laboratories or related Technical Documents, prior to determining whether there is an Adverse Analytical Finding.

5. "Atypical Passport Finding" is a report described as an A Passport Finding in the applicable International Standards.

6. "Athlete Biological Passport" is the program and methods of gathering and collating data as described in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations and International Standard for Laboratories.

7. "Fault" is any breach of duty or any lack of care appropriate to a particular situation. Factors to be taken into consideration in assessing an Athlete or other Person's degree of Fault include, for example, the Athlete's or the other Person's experience, whether the Athlete or other P is a Protected Person, special considerations such as impairment, the degree of risk that should have been perceived by the Athlete and the level of care and investigation exercised by the Athlete in relation to what should have been the perceived level of risk. In assessing the Athlete's or the other Person's degree of Fault, the circumstances considered must be specific and relevant to explain the Athlete's or other Person's departure from the expected standard of behavior. Thus, for example, the fact that an Athlete would lose the opportunity to earn large sums of money during a period of Ineligibility, or the fact that the Athlete only has a short time left in his/her career, or the timing of the sporting calendar, would not be relevant factors to be considered in reducing the period of Ineligibility under Article 44.6.

8. "Provisional suspension" see 51. Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

9. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Delegated Third Party" is any Person to which an Anti-Doping Organization delegates any aspect of Doping Control or anti-doping Education programs including, but not limited to, third parties or other Anti-Doping Organizations conducting Sample collection or other Doping-Control services or anti-doping Educational programs for the Anti-Doping Organization, or individuals serving as independent contractors who perform Doping Control services for the Anti-Doping Organization (for example, non-employee Doping Control officers or chaperones). This definition does not include CAS.

10. "Disqualification" see 51. Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

11. "Doping control": All steps and processes from test distribution planning through to ultimate disposition of any appeal and the enforcement of Consequences, including all steps and processes in between, including but not limited to, Testing, investigations, whereabouts, TUEs, Sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, Results Management and investigations or proceedings relating to violations of Article 51-54 (status during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension).

12. "National Event" is a sports Event or Competition involving National or International Level Athletes that is not an International Event.

13. "Prohibited List" is the list that identifies the Prohibited Substances and the Prohibited Methods.

14. "Prohibited Method" is any method so described in the Prohibited List.

15. "Prohibited Substance" is any substance or class of substances so described on the Prohibited List.

16. "Contaminated Product": A product that contains a Prohibited Substance, which is not disclosed on the product label or in information available in a reasonable Internet search.

17. "Protected Person" is an Athlete or other natural Person who, at the moment of anti-doping rule violation:

a/ has not reached sixteen years of age;

b/ (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) has not reached eighteen years of age and is not included in any Registered Testing Pool and has never competed in any International Event in an open category; or

c/ due to reasons, different than age, he/she is determined to lack legal capacity under applicable national legislation.

18. "Substantial assistance" is assistance where the Person providing it must (i) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information he/she possesses in relation to anti-doping rule

violation, or other proceeding described in Article 45.1-Article 45.5, and (ii) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, presenting testimony at hearings if requested to do so by the Anti-Doping Organization or hearing panel. Further, The information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding which is initiated, or, if no case or proceeding is initiated, must have provided a sufficient basis on which a case or proceeding could have been brought.

19. "Out-of-Competition" is any period which is not In-Competition.

20. "Individual Sport" is any sport that is not a Team Sport.

21. "Institutional Independence" designates that the hearing panels on appeal are institutionally completely independent from the Anti-Doping Organization responsible for the Results Management. Therefore, they must not in any way be administered by, connected or subject to the Anti-Doping Organization responsible for the Results Management.

22. "Code" is the World Anti-Doping Code.

23. "Decision Limit" is the value of the result for a threshold substance in a Sample, above which an Adverse Analytical Finding shall be reported, as defined in the International Standard for Laboratories.

24. "UNESCO Convention" is the International Convention against Doping in Sport adopted by the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference on 19 October 2005, including any and all amendments adopted by the States Parties to the Convention and the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport.

25. "No Fault or Negligence" designates the cases where the Athlete or other Person establishes that he/she did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected, even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he/she had Used or been administered a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or otherwise violated an anti-doping rule. Except in the case of a Protected Person or a Recreational Athlete, for any violation of Article 6.1.1, the Athlete must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered his or her system.

26. "No Significant Fault or Negligence" designates the case the Athlete or other Person establishes that any Fault or negligence (when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for No Fault or Negligence) was not significant in relation to the anti-doping rule violation. Except in the case of a Protected Person or Recreational Athlete, for any violation of Article 6.1.1, the Athlete must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered his/her system.

27. "Person" is any natural person, or an organization, or other entity.

28. "Licensed sports organization" is sports federation – a non-profit association for implementing of socially useful activity, which has obtained sports license for one or similar types of sport, including military-applied sports, or sports license for development of more than one sport on unifying principle. To the sports federations, only sports clubs could belong.

29. "Ineligibility" see 51. Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

30. "Marker" is a compound, or group of compounds, or biological variable(s) that indicate the Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

31. "International Standard" is a standard adopted by WADA in support of the Code. Compliance with an International Standard (as opposed to another alternative standard, practice or procedure) shall be sufficient to conclude that the procedures addressed by the International Standard were performed properly. International Standards shall include any Technical Documents issued pursuant to the International Standard.

32. "International Event" is an Event or Competition where the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, an International Federation, a Major Event Organization, or another international sports organization is the ruling body for the Event or appoints the technical officials for the Event.

33. "Metabolite" is any substance produced by a biotransformation process.

34. "Minimum Reporting Level" is the estimated concentration of a Prohibited Substance, or its Metabolite(s), or Markers in a Sample, below which the WADA-accredited laboratories should not report that Sample as an Adverse Analytical Finding.

35. "Event Venue" the venue or the venues, so designated by the ruling body for the Event.

36. "National Anti-Doping Organization" is an entity designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of Samples, manage test results, and conduct Results Management at the national level. If this designation has not been made by the competent public authorities, the entity shall be the country's National Olympic Committee or its designee. In the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Anti-Doping Organization is the Antidoping Centre.

37. "National Olympic Committee" is organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The term National Olympic Committee shall also include the National Sport Confederation in those countries where the National Sport Confederation assumes typical National Olympic Committee responsibilities in the anti-doping area. In the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Olympic committee is the Bulgarian Olympic Committee.

38. "Adverse Analytical Finding" is a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory which, consistent with the International Standard for Laboratories, establishes in a Sample the presence of a Prohibited Substance, or its Metabolites, or Markers, or evidence of the Use of a Prohibited Method.

39. "Adverse Passport Finding" is a report identified as an Adverse Passport Finding as described in the applicable International Standards.

40. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Recreational Athlete" is a natural Person who is so defined by the relevant National Anti-Doping Organization, however, under the condition that this term does not include any Person who, within a 5-year period prior to committing any anti-doping rule violation, has been an International-Level Athlete (according to the definition of each International Federation consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations), or National-Level Athlete (as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organization consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations), has represented any country in an International Event in an open category, or has been included within any Registered Testing Pool or another whereabouts information pool maintained by any International Federation or National Anti-Doping Organization.

41. "Minor" is a natural person, who has not reached the age of eighteen years.

42. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Education" is a process of learning to instill values and develop behaviors that foster and protect the spirit of sport, and to prevent the intentional and unintentional doping.

43. "Attempt" is purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct to culminate in the commission of an anti-doping rule violation. There shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on an Attempt to commit a violation if the Person renounces the Attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the Attempt.

44. "Operational independence" designates that (1) board members, members of the staff, members of Committees, consultants and officials of the Anti-Doping Organization with the responsibility for Results Management or its affiliates (such as member federation or confederation), as well as any Person involved in the investigation and the pre-adjudication of the matter cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of hearing panels of that Anti-Doping Organization with the responsibility for the Results Management; and (2) the hearing panels shall be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from the Anti-Doping Organization or any third party. The objective is to ensure that the members of the hearing panel or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the hearing panel, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with the case.

45. "Major Event Organizations" are the continental associations of National Olympic Committees and other international multi-sport organizations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional, or other International Event.

46. "Team Sport" is a sport, in which the substitution of players during a Competition is permitted.

47. "Event Period" is the time between the beginning and end of an Event, as established by the ruling body of the Event.

48. "In-Competition" is the period starting at 23:59 on the day before a Competition, in which the Athlete is scheduled to participate, through the end of such Competition and the Sample collection process

related to such Competition. However, WADA may approve alternative definition for a particular sport, in case that the International Federation provides a compelling justification that a different definition is necessary for its sport. After such approval by WADA, this alternative definition shall be followed by all Major Event Organizations for that particular sport.

49. "Signatory/Signatories" are the entities accepting the Code and agreeing to implement the Code, as provided in Article 23 of the Code.

50. "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" ("Consequences"): an Athlete's or other Person's violation of an anti-doping rule may result in one or more of the following:

a) Disqualification – promulgation of the Athlete's results in a particular Competition or Event invalid, with all resulting Consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes;

b) Ineligibility – an Athlete or other Person is barred on account of an anti-doping rule violation for a specified period of time from participating in any Competition, or other activity, as well as from funding as provided in Article 51-54;

c) Provisional Suspension – imposing on the Athlete or other Person a temporary prohibition to take part in any Competition or activity prior to the final decision at a hearing conducted under Article 8 of the Code;

d) Financial Consequences – financial sanctions imposed for an anti-doping rule violation or to recover costs associated with an anti-doping rule violation; and

e) Public Disclosure – the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public or Persons beyond those Persons entitled to earlier notification in accordance with Code Article 14; the Teams in Team Sports may also be subject to Consequences as provided in Article 56.

51. "Provisional Hearing" is a expedited abbreviated hearing occurring prior to a hearing under Article 8 of the Code that provides the Athlete with notice and an opportunity to be heard in either written or oral form.

52. "Administration" is providing, supplying, supervising, facilitating or otherwise participating in the Use or in the Attempted Use by another Person of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method. This definition does not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method Used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification, and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances that are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing, except where the circumstances as a whole demonstrate that such Prohibited Substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

53. "Possession" is the actual, physical Possession, or the constructive Possession, which shall be found only if the Person has exclusive control or intends to exercise control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists; provided, however, that if the Person does not have exclusive control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists, constructive Possession shall only be found if the Person knew about the presence of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and intended to exercise control over it. There shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on Possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the Person has committed an anti-doping rule violation, the Person has taken concrete action demonstrating that the Person never intended to have Possession and has renounced Possession by explicitly declaring it to an Anti-Doping Organization. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this definition, the purchase (including by any electronic or other means) of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method constitutes Possession by the Person, who makes the purchase.

54. "Sample or Specimen" is any biological material collected for the purposes of Doping Control.

55. "Independent Observer Program" is a team of observers and/or auditors, under the WADA supervision, who observe and provide guidance on the Doping Control process prior to or during certain Events and report on their observations as part of WADA's compliance Monitoring Program.

56. "Publicly Disclose" see Article 51, item "e", Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

57. "Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)" allows an Athlete with a medical condition to Use a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, but if only if the conditions set forth in the Code Article 4.4 and in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions are met.

58. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Regional Anti-Doping Organization" is a regional legal entity designated by member countries to coordinate and manage delegated areas of their national anti-doping programs, which may include the adoption and implementation of anti-doping rules, the planning and collection of Samples, the results management, the review of TUEs, the conduct of hearings, and the conduct of Educational programs at a regional level.

59. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Registered Testing Pool" is the pool of highest-priority Athletes established separately at the international level by International Federations and at the national level by National Anti-Doping Organizations, who are subject to focused In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing, as part of that International Federation's or National Anti-Doping Organization's test distribution plan. These Athletes are required to provide whereabouts information as provided in Article 19.4.1 and the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

60. "WADA" is the World Anti-doping Agency.

61. "CAS" is the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

62. "Specified Method" is only the Prohibited Method that is identified as such on the Prohibited List.

63. "Specified Substance" – all Prohibited Substances shall be "Specified Substances" except as identified on the Prohibited List.

64. "Without Prejudice Agreement" is a written agreement between an Anti-Doping Organization and an Athlete or other Person for the purposes of Article 45.1-Article 45.5 and Article 46.3, which allows the Athlete or the other Person to submit information to the Anti-Doping Organization in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that if an agreement for Substantial Assistance or a case resolution agreement is not finalized, the information provided by the Athlete or other Person in this particular setting may not be used by the Anti-Doping Organization against the Athlete or other Person in any Results Management proceeding under the Code, as well as the information provided by the Anti-Doping Organization in this particular setting may not be used by the Athlete or the other Person against the Anti-Doping Organization in any Results Management proceeding under the Code. Such an agreement does not preclude the Anti-Doping Organization, an Athlete or other Person from using any information or evidence, collected from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

65. (amended, SG No. 3/09.01.2024, effective 09.01.2024) "Athlete" is any Person who competes in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Federation), or the national level (as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organization). Each Anti-Doping Organization has discretion to apply anti-doping rules to an Athlete who is neither an International-Level Athlete nor a National Level Athlete, and, in this way, to bring them within the definition of "Athlete". Concerning Athletes, who are neither an International-Level Athletes nor a National Level Athletes, the Anti-Doping Organization may elect: to conduct limited Testing or no Testing at all; to analyze the Samples for less than the full menu of the Prohibited Substances; to require a limited or no whereabouts information; not to require advance TUEs. However, if anti-doping rule violation according to Article 6.1.1, Article 6.1.3, or Article 6.1.5 is committed by an Athlete over whom an Anti-Doping Organization has elected to exercise its authority to test and who competes at a level lower than international or national level, then the Consequences set forth in the Code shall be applied. For purposes of Article 6.1.8 and Article 6.1.9, and for purposes of anti-doping information and Education, any Person who participates in sport under the authority of any Signatory, government, or other sports organization accepting the Code, is an Athlete.

66. "International-Level Athlete" is an Athlete, who competes in sport at the international level, as defined by each International Federation, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

67. "National-Level Athlete" is an Athlete who competes in sport at the national level, as defined by each National Anti-Doping Organization consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations. In Bulgaria, National-Level Athletes are defined in Article 5.1 of these Regulations.

68. "Event": A series of individual Competitions conducted together under one ruling body (e.g., the Olympic Games, World Championships of an International Federation or Pan-American Games).

69. "Athlete Support Personnel" is any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team-staff member, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other Person working with, treating or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports Competition.

70. "Strict Liability" is the rule, which provides that under Article 6.1.1 and Article 6.1.2, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence, or knowing Use on the Athlete's part be demonstrated by the Anti-Doping Organisation in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation.

71. "Substance of abuse" is the Prohibited Substance that is specifically identified in the Prohibited List as a Substance of Abuse, because it is frequently abused in society outside of the context of sport.

72. "Competition" is a single race, game, match or singular sport contest. For the stage races or other sport contests where the prizes are awarded on a daily or other interim basis, the distinction between a Competition and an Event is determined according to the rules of the applicable International Federation.

73. "Testing" are the parts of the Doping Control process involving test distribution planning, Sample collection, Sample handling and Sample transport to the laboratory.

74. "Technical document" is a document adopted and published by WADA from time to time containing mandatory technical requirements on specific anti-doping topics, as set forth in an International Standard.

75. "Trafficking" is selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering or distributing (or possessing for any such purpose) a prohibited substance or prohibited method (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by an athlete, athlete's support personnel or any other person subject to the jurisdiction of an anti-doping organization to any third party; provided, however, this definition shall not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a prohibited substance used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification, and shall not include actions involving prohibited substances, which are not prohibited in out-of-competition testing, unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate such prohibited substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

76. "Use": The utilization, application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatever of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

77. "Results management" is the process encompassing the timeframe between notification as per Article 5 of the International Standard for Results Management, or in certain cases (e.g., Atypical Finding, Athlete Biological Passport, whereabouts failure), such pre-notification steps expressly provided for in Article 5 of the International Standard for Results Management, through the charge until the final resolution of the matter, including the end of the hearing process at first instance or on appeal (if an appeal was lodged)..

78. "Aggravating Circumstances" are circumstances involving, or actions by, an Athlete or other Person which may justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction. Such circumstances and actions shall include, but are not limited to: the Athlete or other Person Used or Possessed multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Used or Possessed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions or committed multiple other anti-doping rule violations; a normal individual would be likely to enjoy the performance-enhancing effects of the anti-doping rule violation(s) beyond the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility; the Athlete or Person engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of an anti-doping rule violation; or the Athlete or other Person engaged in Tampering during Results Management. For the avoidance of doubt, the examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a longer period of Ineligibility.

79. "Tampering" is an intentional conduct which subverts the Doping Control process but which would not otherwise be included in the definition of Prohibited Methods. Tampering shall include, without limitation, offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, preventing the collection of a Sample, affecting or making impossible the analysis of a Sample, falsifying documents submitted to an Anti-Doping Organization or TUE committee or hearing panel, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon the Anti-Doping Organization or hearing body to affect Results

Management or the imposition of Consequences, and any other similar intentional interference or Attempted interference with any aspect of Doping Control.

80. "Financial Consequences": see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

81. "Target testing" is the selection of specific Athletes for Testing based on criteria set forth in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

§ 2. At incompleteness or discrepancy of the Regulations with the World Anti-doping Code, the provisions of the World Anti-doping Code prevail, observing the following rules for its interpretation:

1. In the event of any conflict between the English and French versions, in which the Code is published, the English version shall prevail.

2. The comments annotating various provisions of the Code shall be used to interpret the Code.

3. The Code shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of the Signatories or governments.

4. The headings of the Parts and the Articles of the Code shall not be deemed part of the substance of the Code provisions.

5. Where the term "day" is used in the Code or in an International Standard, it shall mean a calendar day, unless otherwise specified.

6. The Code shall not apply retroactively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by the Signatories and implemented in its rules. Exceptions are the cases, where pre-Code anti-doping rule violations would continue to count as "First violations" or "Second violations" for purposes of determining sanctions under Article 10 of the Code for subsequent post-Code violations.

7. The Purpose, Scope and Organization of the World Anti-Doping Program, the Code and Appendix 1, the definitions, shall be considered integral parts of the Code.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 3. These Regulations are adopted based on Article 90.7 of the Law for Physical Education and Sports, in relation to the World Anti-doping Code provisions, at observance of the principle of its interpretation and application.

§ 4. The proceedings started before enforcing of these Regulations shall be completed under the hitherto existing Regulations.

§ 5. The provisions of Article 6.2 and Article 47.9 are deemed to be procedural rules and are applied retrospectively, together with other procedural rules of these Regulations, provided that the statute of limitations has not expired by the effective date of these Regulations. Any case of anti-doping rule violation, which is pending at the effective date of these Regulations, as well as any anti-doping rule violation case brought after the effective date based on an anti-doping rule violation which occurred before this date, shall be governed by the substantive anti-doping rules effective at the time when the alleged anti-doping rule violation has occurred, unless the hearing panel determines to apply the principle of "lex mitior" considering the circumstances of the case.

§ 6. With respect to cases where the final decision establishing an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered prior to the Effective Date of these Regulations, but the Athlete or other Person is still serving a period of ineligibility as of the Effective Date, the Athlete or other Person may apply to the Antidoping Centre or other Anti-Doping Organization which had results management responsibility for the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the Ineligibility period in light of these Regulations before expiry of the ineligibility period. The decision rendered by the Anti-Doping Organization may be appealed pursuant to Article 40 and Article 41. These Regulations may not be applied in cases of anti-doping rule violation, where a final decision has been taken and the period of Ineligibility has expired.

§ 7. For the purposes of assessing the period of Ineligibility for a second violation under Article 47.1 – Article 47.3, where the sanction for the first violation was determined based on the rules prior to the Effective Date of these Regulations, the period of Ineligibility which would have been assessed for that first violation, had these Regulations been applicable, shall be applied.

§8. Changes to the Prohibited List and Technical Documents relating to substances or methods on the Prohibited List shall not, unless they specifically provide otherwise, be applied retroactively. As an exception, however, when a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method has been removed from the Prohibited List, an Athlete or other Person currently serving a period of Ineligibility on account of the

formerly Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method may apply to the Antidoping Centre or other Anti-Doping Organization which had Results Management responsibility for the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of the removal of the substance or method from the Prohibited List.

§ 9. These Regulations shall come into force on 01.01.2021.