

Introduction

Fully in line with the [World Anti-Doping Code](#) and the [International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#), the ISU TUE policy is incorporated in the ISU Anti-Doping Regulations.

The ISU has delegated responsibility for all TUE applications to the International Testing Agency (ITA). This means that the ITA is now fully responsible for the TUE application process for all international-level skaters that fall under ISU's jurisdiction.

What is a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)?

Skaters, like anyone else, may have illnesses or conditions that require them to take particular medications or undergo procedures. If the substances/method they are required to take for their treatment are on the [WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Methods](#), they should ask for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) which may give them the authorization to use that substance/method while competing without invoking an Anti-Doping Rule violation (ADRV) and applicable sanction. The TUE may be granted either by the ITA on behalf of the ISU or by the National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO), depending on the status level of the Skater. Applications for TUEs are evaluated by a panel of physicians, the TUE Committee (TUEC).

What are the criteria for granting a TUE

All of the four following criteria must be met (for more details, please refer to the [WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\) Article 4.2](#)):

- a) The athlete has a clear diagnosed medical condition which requires treatment using a prohibited substance or method.
- b) The therapeutic use of the substance will not, on the balance of probabilities, produce significant enhancement of performance beyond the athlete's normal state of health.
- c) The prohibited substance or method is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted therapeutic alternative.
- d) The necessity to use that substance or method is not a consequence of the prior use (without a TUE) of the substance or method which was prohibited at the time of use.

Who should apply for a TUE? Where and when to apply

Skaters who are subject to Anti-Doping Rules would need a TUE to take a prohibited substance or use a prohibited method.

Skaters:

- You should verify with the ITA to know to whom you need to apply and if you can apply retroactively.
- First, check if the required medication or method you intend to take, or use is prohibited as per the [WADA Prohibited List](#).
- You may also use a 'check your medication' online like globalDRO (<https://globaldro.com>) or ask your NADO if it has one.
- You have a responsibility to inform your physician(s) that you are a skater bound to Anti-Doping Rules. You and your physician(s) should check the [Prohibited List](#) for the substance/method you are prescribed. If the substance/method is prohibited, discuss non-prohibited alternatives, if there are none, apply for a TUE. Remember you, as skater, have the ultimate responsibility. Contact your NADO or the ITA if you are having difficulties in assessing the status of a substance.
- Then, verify below your status, to determine your competition level and TUE application requirements:

International Level Definition

- a. Any skater who is part of the ISU Registered Testing Pool or the ISU Testing Pool
- b. Any skater who participates in an ISU Event, according to Rule 100/3, b) and c) of the ISU General Regulations.

ISU Events according to Rule 100/3, b) and c) of the ISU General Regulations currently are:

- ISU Championships
- ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and Series (ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating)
- ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and Series (ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating)
- ISU World Team Trophy in Figure Skating
- ISU Figure Skating Olympic Qualifying Competition
- ISU Speed Skating World Cup Senior and Junior
- ISU World Tour Short Track Speed Skating
- ISU Short Track Speed Skating World Cup Junior

→ **If it is determined that you are an International-Level Skater** you must apply to the ITA in advance, as soon as the need arises, unless there are emergency or exceptional circumstances.

For substances prohibited in-competition only, you should apply for a TUE at least 30 days before your next competition, unless one of the exceptions on retroactive TUEs (see below) applies.

Please refer to the section “How to apply for a TUE?” below.

If you already have a TUE granted by your National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO):

ITA’s TUEC will automatically recognize it for purposes of international competition without the need to review the relevant clinical information.

→ **If you are NOT an International-Level Skater and you have been tested by the ISU, ITA’s TUEC** recognizes a valid TUE granted by your NADO (i.e., it satisfies the ISTUE criteria for granting a TUE).

If you are NOT a National-Level Skater as defined by your NADO and you have been tested by the ISU, you must apply for a retroactive TUE to the ITA.

Retroactive TUE Application

A skater may apply retroactively for a TUE if one of any of the following exceptions applies:

- a) Emergency or urgent treatment of a medical condition was necessary.
- b) There were insufficient time, opportunity or other exceptional circumstances that prevented the Skater from submitting (or the TUEC to consider) an application for the TUE prior to Sample collection
- c) Due to national level prioritization of certain sports, the Skater’s National Anti-Doping Organization did not permit or require the skater to apply for a prospective TUE.
- d) If the ISU chooses to collect a Sample from a skater who is not an International-Level Skater or National-Level Skater, and that skater is Using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method for Therapeutic reasons, the ISU will permit the skater to apply for a retroactive TUE or
- e) The skater used Out-of-Competition and for Therapeutic reasons a Prohibited Substance that is only prohibited In-Competition. (for example, glucocorticoids).

In rare and exceptional circumstances and notwithstanding any other provision in the ISTUE, a TUE may be granted retroactively, if considering the purpose of the Code, it would be manifestly unfair not to grant a retroactive TUE. This unique retroactive TUE will only be granted with the prior approval of WADA; WADA may in its absolute discretion agree with or reject the ISU’s decision.

Important note:

- Using a prohibited substance or method without a TUE could result in an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
- In case an application for a retroactive TUE is necessary following sample collection, skaters are strongly advised to have a medical file prepared and ready to submit for evaluation.

How to apply for a TUE

The ISU encourages skaters to submit their TUE applications via ADAMS, together with the required medical information. If skaters do not have an ADAMS account yet, they should contact tue@ita.sport to have it set up.

Otherwise, skaters can download the **TUE Application Form** (found on <https://ita.sport/TUE>), and once duly completed and signed, send it together with the required medical using this **online form**.

The TUE application must be submitted in legible capital letters or typing.

The medical file must include:

- A comprehensive medical history, including documentation from the original diagnosing physician(s) (where possible)
- The results of all examinations, laboratory investigations and imaging studies relevant to the application.

Any costs incurred by the skater in making the TUE application and in supplementing it as required by the TUEC are the responsibility of the skater.

Any TUE application that is not complete or legible will not be dealt with and will be returned for completion and re-submission.

Skaters:

To assist you and your doctor in providing the correct medical documentation, we suggest consulting the WADA's **Checklists for TUE applications** for guidance and support, and **Medical Information to Support the Decisions of TUECs** for guidance on specific common medical conditions, treatments, substances, etc.

Keep a complete copy of the TUE application form and all medical information submitted in support of your application, and proof that it has been sent.

How to submit a request for recognition of NADO's TUE

ITA's TUEC will automatically recognize TUE for purposes of international competition without the need to review the relevant clinical information. If TUE is correctly entered into ADAMS, there is no need to contact the ITA. Nevertheless, should the skaters require confirmation, they can submit their request to the ITA in writing quoting their ADAMS TUE reference number.

TUE certificate can be downloaded directly from ADAMS.

What happens at Major Events, such as the Olympic Winter Games

Skaters must verify with the Major Event what are its TUE requirements.

Before the Period of the Games

Skaters should follow the normal process and submit new requests to ITA or NADO. Pre-existing TUEs will follow the recognition process provided they are entered into ADAMS.

During the Period of the Games

Skaters should verify the exact process on the Event's webpage or contact the organizers.

Time to render a decision

The ITA's TUEC shall decide whether or not to grant the application as soon as possible, and usually (i.e., unless exceptional circumstances apply) within no more than 21 days of receipt of a complete application.

TUE Renewal

Each TUE has a specific duration, at the end of which it expires automatically. To continue to use the prohibited substance or method, after the expiration date, it is the skater's responsibility to submit a new application for a TUE with updated medical information ahead of the expiry date, so that there is sufficient time for a decision to be made prior to the expiry of the current TUE.

Skaters, important note:

The presence (following sample collection), use, possession or administration of the prohibited substance or method must be consistent with the terms of your TUE. Therefore, if you require a materially different dosage, frequency, route or duration of administration, you should contact the ITA, as you may be required to apply for a new TUE. Some substances and dosages, e.g. insulin, are often modified during treatment and these possible fluctuations should be mentioned by the treating physician in the TUE application and would usually be accepted by the ITA's TUEC.

What to do if a TUE Application is denied

A decision to deny a TUE Application will include a written explanation of the reason(s) for the denial. If it is not clear, skaters can contact the ITA to understand exactly why the TUE was denied. Sometimes, there may be a critical piece of information, diagnostic test, laboratory results missing, etc. In which case, TUE should be re-applied to the ITA.

Skaters and/or their NADO may refer the matter to WADA for review no later than 21 days after notification of the ITA's TUEC decision. The same information that was submitted to the ITA, and on which the decision to deny TUE was based on, must be sent via a secure on-line method or by registered mail at:

WADA Medical Department
World Anti-Doping Agency
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Place Victoria (Suite 1700)
P.O. Box 120
Montreal (Quebec) H4Z 1B7
Canada

The email address to enquire and/or send the request for review is: medical@wada-ama.org

It should be noted that WADA is not obliged to proceed with a request for a review. In that case, the denial's decision may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

What to do if a NADO's TUE is not recognized by the ISU

Skaters and/or their NADO have 21 days from the date of decision to refer the matter to WADA for review. The email address to enquire and/or send the request for review is: medical@wada-ama.org or alternatively, by mailing at:

WADA Medical Department
World Anti-Doping Agency
Stock Exchange Tower

800 Place Victoria (Suite 1700)
P.O. Box 120
Montreal (Quebec) H4Z 1B7
Canada

The same information that was provided to NADO should be submitted to WADA. It is strongly recommended to use a secure on-line method unless sent by registered mail.

Pending WADA's decision, the NADO TUE remains valid for national-level competition and out-of-competition testing only.

If the matter is not referred to WADA for review, NADO must determine whether the original TUE that was granted should remain valid for national-level Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing.

Confidentiality

All the information contained in a TUE application, including the supporting medical information and any other information related to the evaluation of a TUE request is kept strictly confidential and treated in accordance with the Athlete's Declaration contained in the ADAMS TUE and in the TUE Application Form which can be found [here](#). All members of the TUEC and any other authorized recipients of a TUE request and related information (as described in the Athlete's Declaration) are subject to a professional or contractual confidentiality obligation.

Should a skater wish to revoke the right of the ITA's TUEC to obtain the information related to its TUE in accordance with the Athlete's Declaration, the TUE application will be deemed withdrawn without approval [or recognition] being granted.

The TUE request-related information will be retained by the ITA and any other authorized recipients for no longer than necessary for the purposes stated in the Athlete's Declaration, in accordance with the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

Contact Information

For any further information and questions in relation to ISU's personal information practices, please contact privacy@ita.sport.

If you have a doubt as regards to which organization you should apply for a TUE, or as to the recognition process, or any other question about TUEs, please contact: tue@ita.sport.

Useful links

[WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#)

[WADA Q&A on Therapeutic Use Exemptions](#)

[WADA Checklists for TUE Applications](#)

[WADA Medical Information to Support the Decisions of TUECs](#)

[WADA Guidelines for the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions \(ISTUE\)](#)

[WADA Anti-Doping Education and Learning \(ADEL\)](#)