



**commonwealth
sport**

**COMMONWEALTH SPORT
NO NEEDLE POLICY**

NO NEEDLE POLICY

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The 2026 Commonwealth Games are “needle-free” for all participating Athletes.

1.2 The aim of this Commonwealth Sport (“CS”) Policy is to protect Athlete health, prevent misuse of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods and support clean sport throughout the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

1.3 Needles must not be used except by:

1.3.1 medically qualified practitioners for the clinically justified treatment of injury, illness or other medical conditions (for which a valid Therapeutic Use Exemption (“TUE”) may be required); or

1.3.2 those requiring auto-injection therapy for an established medical condition with a valid TUE approved by the CS TUE Committee, e.g. for insulin dependent diabetes.

1.4 Capitalised terms shall have the meaning given to them set out in Schedule 1.

2. SCOPE

2.1 It is the responsibility of each Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel and each Commonwealth Games Association (“CGA”) to ensure compliance with this Policy.

2.2 In particular, each Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel and CGA must ensure that:

2.2.1 any needles, and associated clinical materials, intended for use by them (or members of its delegation) are stored in a central secured location, access to which is restricted to authorised medical personnel of the CGA delegation. Athletes with a valid TUE for the use of insulin, and non-athletes requiring other forms of auto-injection may keep appropriate materials with them if safely stored and disposed of in accordance with point 2.2.2 below;

2.2.2 all used needles and associated materials (vials, syringes, and swabs) are safely disposed of in an appropriate bio-hazards container (e.g. “sharps bin”). If necessary, these may be procured from the Clinical Hub. CGAs should maintain a simple disposal log to support any post-2026 Commonwealth Games audit, if required.

3. INJECTION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the Games Period, the “Injection Declaration Form” must be completed and forwarded to the CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission no later than noon on the day after the injection. This applies to all injections administered to Athletes whether they occur in the Team Hotels, elsewhere in the host country of the 2026 Commonwealth Games or in another country. Where injections occur outside the host country, the time zone in which the injection occurred should be noted.

3.2 The Injection Declaration Form can be found at Schedule 2 to this Policy.

3.3 Injection Declaration Forms must be completed legibly in English and any additional evidence attesting to the need for injection therapy (e.g. imaging, laboratory reports), must be attached. The completed Injection Declaration Form must be e-mailed to TUE@commonwealthsport.com

3.4 No Injection Declaration Form is required if the injection has been administered by a medically qualified practitioner from the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company and the injection has been recorded by them. Acupuncture or the use of dry needling techniques is not considered to be a medical injection and thus an Injection Declaration Form is not required for these treatments.

3.5 The Injection Declaration Form does not constitute a TUE for the use of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method. Furthermore, any injection or infusion of > 100 mL/12hr of fluid is a Prohibited Method, regardless of whether or not it contains a Prohibited Substance.

4. MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION OF INJECTIONS

4.1 There is no justification for any *Athlete* (except those with an established clinical condition requiring auto-injection and a valid *TUE*, approved by the *CS TUE Committee*), *Athlete Support Personnel* or any other non-medically qualified *Person* to administer an injection. Injections are only permitted when there is a clinically justified reason for such an intervention and this is administered by a medically qualified *Person*, as determined by the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission*.

4.2 All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission*. Any concerns identified as a result will prompt a review of the rationale and justification for the treatment by a panel of physicians convened by the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission*. Ordinarily this review will include a meeting with the practitioner(s) involved in the administration of the injection.

4.3 Any dispute regarding whether the medical justification for the injection is accepted as normal medical practice shall be determined by the Chair of the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission*, or an appointed delegate.

4.4 If the relevant *CGA* or *International Federation* also has rules in place regarding the subject matter dealt with herein, the rules of the relevant *CGA* or *International Federation* shall also apply. In the event of any conflict between such rules and the present Policy, during the period of the *2026 Commonwealth Games*, the Federation Court shall resolve the discrepancy.

5. NEEDLE SAFETY AND DISCOVERY OF NEEDLES IN ATHLETE ACCOMMODATION OR OTHER FACILITIES

5.1 Where use of needles has been permitted, the *2026 Commonwealth Games* has in place procedures regarding their safe disposal using a sharps bin. *Athletes* and *CGA* officials are reminded to follow the No-Needle Policy and to use these facilities to avoid any danger to others from needle stick injuries, or misunderstanding regarding the purpose of the needles.

5.2 Any *Athlete*, *Athlete Support Personnel*, *CGA* official or other *Person* who finds any needles or suspect equipment is required to report the finding immediately to the Doping Control Command Centre ("**DCCC**"), using the following contact details (G2026@ukad.org.uk or 07788390242). The *DCCC* will arrange for the location to be secured and will notify the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* upon receipt of the information. Do not touch or interfere with any item(s). Remain at a safe distance, keeping the items under observation or securely located until an official from UKAD or the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* arrives to take command of the location. Equipment that may be considered doping paraphernalia includes any equipment, product, substance or material of any kind which is intended, designed or capable of use in processing, preparing injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing a substance into the body.

5.3 In support of this Policy and the *2026 Commonwealth Games*' Anti-Doping Rules, the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* will initiate a thorough investigation into the discovery of suspicious equipment including needles during the *Games Period*.

6. FAILURE TO COMPLY

6.1 A failure to comply with any requirement of this Policy (an "**Offence**") may result in disciplinary action. *Offences* include, but are not limited to:

6.1.1 failure to complete or submit an Injection Declaration Form in accordance with this Policy;

6.1.2 possession, use or storage of needles or associated equipment in violation of this Policy;

6.1.3 failure to cooperate with any inquiry or request for information made under this Policy;

6.1.4 obstruction, disruption or attempted interference with any inspection, investigation or related process;

6.1.5 any conduct which, in the view of the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission*, undermines the purpose or effective operation of this Policy.

6.2 Where the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* becomes aware of a potential *Offence*, it may take any steps it considers appropriate, including (but not limited to):

6.2.1 requesting further information or documentation;

6.2.2 conducting interviews with relevant *Persons*;

6.2.3 inspecting accommodation, storage areas or other relevant locations;

6.2.4 referring any matter for additional anti-doping testing;

6.2.5 escalating the matter to the *Commonwealth Sport Federation Court* where necessary.

6.3 The *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* shall determine whether an *Offence* has occurred, on the balance of probabilities, and may impose any sanction it considers proportionate. Sanctions may include (without limitation):

6.3.1 verbal or written warnings;

6.3.2 mandatory education or re-training;

6.3.3 increased testing or monitoring;

6.3.4 limitations on access to medical facilities or equipment;

6.3.5 removal of needles or associated equipment;

6.3.6 withdrawal, suspension or modification of accreditation for the *2026 Commonwealth Games*;

6.3.7 referral for possible anti-doping consequences where the conduct may constitute an anti-doping rule violation;

6.3.8 any other measure the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* considers necessary to protect *Athlete* health, uphold good medical practice and preserve the integrity of the *2026 Commonwealth Games*.

6.4 In determining any sanction, the *CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission* may take into account any factors it considers relevant, including (without limitation): the nature and seriousness of the *Offence*; the degree of risk posed to *Athlete* health; prior conduct; evidence of intent, negligence or mistake; and any cooperation with the investigative process.

6.5 Any dispute arising from, or in connection with, this Policy (including any sanction imposed) shall be heard exclusively by the *Commonwealth Sport Federation Court*, whose decision shall be final and binding.

SCHEDULE 1 – DEFINITIONS

2026 Commonwealth Games: The XXIII Commonwealth Games, to be staged in Glasgow in 2026.

Athlete: 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 Organisation). This includes all competitors at the *2026 Commonwealth Games*.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other *Person* working with, treating or assisting an *Athlete* participating in or preparing for sports competition.

Commonwealth Games Associations: An affiliated Commonwealth Games Association as defined in Commonwealth Sport's Articles of Association as 'Affiliated CGAs'.

CS: Commonwealth Sport.

CS Anti-Doping and Medical Commission: Commonwealth Sport's Anti-Doping and Medical Commission as appointed by the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board.

Games Period: The period commencing on 19 July 2026, up until and including the day of the closing ceremony of the *2026 Commonwealth Games* on 2 August 2026.

Person: A natural *Person* or an organisation or other entity.

Prohibited List: The list identifying the *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods*.

Prohibited Method: Any method so described on the *Prohibited List*.

Prohibited Substance: Any substance, or class of substances, so described on the *Prohibited List*.

Team Hotel: This includes the Courtyard, Clayton, Crowne Plaza, Glasgow Marriott, Hilton Doubletree, Hilton Garden Inn, Ibis Central, Ibis Glasgow City, Leonardo Royal, Maldron, Mercure, Novotel, Moxy, Premier Inn, Radisson Blu, Radisson Red, Village Glasgow, Voco and any other hotel where an *Athlete* is staying during the *Games Period*.

Testing: The parts of the doping control process involving test distribution planning, sample collection, sample handling, and sample transport to the laboratory.

Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE): A *Therapeutic Use Exemption* allows an *Athlete* with a medical condition to *Use* a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*, but only if the conditions set out in the CS Anti-Doping Rules for the *2026 Commonwealth Games* and the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions are met.

SCHEDULE 2 – INJECTION DECLARATION FORM

COMMONWEALTH SPORT NO NEEDLE POLICY INJECTION DECLARATION FORM

2026 Commonwealth Games

This form must be submitted no later than noon the day after the injection has been provided. The Physician who has administered the injection should complete the form. Please complete it in English in BLOCK CAPITALS and email completed forms to:
TUE@commonwealthsport.com.

ATHLETE	
Name of the Athlete:	
Representing CGA of:	Sport:
Date of Birth:	Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female
INJECTION	
Substance(s) Injected:	
Anatomical Site of Injection:	
Date of Injection: Date of next competition:	
Where was injection performed? (e.g. hotel, clinic, competition site etc)	
CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION	
Brief clinical history and diagnosis	
PHYSICIAN WHO ADMINISTERED THE INJECTION	
Name:	
Mobile number:	
E-mail address:	
Specialty:	Licensed to practice in:

Signature of the Physician having administered the injection:

By my signature, I hereby confirm that the information in this form is true and accurate, that the injection was medically justified and necessary, and administered in accordance with the CS No Needle Policy, including safe disposal of needles and associated materials.

Signature:

Date: