



## IOC Needle Policy & Rules applicable to the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad in Paris in 2024

The Olympic Games are “needle-free” for all participating athletes at the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad in Paris in 2024 (respectively the “**Athletes**” and the “**Games**”). Needles must not be used except by: (i) 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 (ii) those requiring auto-injection therapy for an established medical condition with a valid TUE, e.g. for insulin-dependent diabetes.

It is the responsibility of each Athlete, his/her entourage and each National Olympic Committee (“**NOC**”) to ensure compliance with this IOC Needle Policy, in particular:

- (i) any needles, and associated clinical materials, intended for use by members of the NOC’s delegation are stored in a central secured location, access to which is restricted to authorised medical personnel of the NOC’s delegation. Athletes with a valid TUE for the use of insulin, and non-athletes requiring other forms of auto-injection, may keep the appropriate materials with them if safely stored and disposed of in accordance with point (ii) below;
- (ii) 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 Olympic Village Polyclinic;
- (iii) whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the period of the Games (i.e. from the date of the opening of the Olympic Village(s) on 12 July 2024 to and including the date of the Closing Ceremony on 11 August 2024), a formal declaration using the Injection Declaration Form (“**Injection Declaration Form**”) shall be duly completed either online here: <https://ioc-needleform.integrityline.org/> or delivered to the Olympic Village Polyclinic for processing by the IOC, in particular its Medical and Scientific Commission, by no later than noon of the day following such injection. This applies to all injections administered to Athletes on the occasion of the Games;
- (iv) Injection Declaration Forms shall be completed legibly in English or French and include any additional evidence attesting to the need for injection therapy (e.g. imaging or laboratory results). The completed Injection Declaration Form may be submitted after completion either online or on paper and then placed in the Injection Declaration Form box at the Olympic Village Polyclinic.

No Injection Declaration Form is required if the injection has been administered by a medically qualified practitioner from the Paris 2024 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the injection has been recorded in the medical encounter system. Acupuncture or the use of dry needling techniques are not considered to be a medical injection, and thus an Injection Declaration Form is not required for such treatments.

### Privacy:

In the event that an Injection Declaration Form is required, the practitioner shall bring the Information Notice to the attention of the Athlete and:

- (i) ensure that the Athlete has read and understood the content of this Information Notice;
- (ii) if deemed necessary by the IOC, collect any further proof that the Athlete has provided the necessary authorisations for the processing of his/her personal data.



### **Justification of injections:**

There is, as a matter of principle, no justification for any Athlete, coach or other non-medically qualified person to administer an injection. The only exception is auto-injection, by those Athletes with an established clinical condition requiring auto-injection and a valid corresponding TUE.

Injections by medically qualified person are permitted only when there is a clinically justified reason for such an intervention as determined by the IOC, in particular its Medical and Scientific Commission. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the IOC, and in particular its Medical and Scientific 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 IOC. Ordinarily, this review will include a meeting with the practitioner(s) involved in the administration of the injection.

Based on the above review, the IOC, and in particular its Medical and Scientific Commission, shall decide whether an injection shall be considered as justified. Such decision shall be final and binding in respect of the Games, and is not subject to a challenge.

Failure to respect this IOC Needle Policy, including, without limitation, failure to submit a completed Injection Declaration Form to the IOC and the performance of injections without sufficient justification, may expose the Athlete(s), the entourage of the Athlete(s), the NOC and the members of its delegation, as well as the person(s) who administered the injection, to disciplinary measures and/or sanctions in application of Rule 59 of the Olympic Charter. Such disciplinary measures and/or sanctions are without prejudice to (i) any other rights of the IOC and of any other competent body, organisation and/or authority, and/or to (ii) proceedings in accordance with the applicable anti-doping regulations, in particular the IOC Anti-Doping Rules applicable on the occasion of the Games, in the event that the circumstances in question may constitute anti-doping rule violations. In such cases, the consequences shall be determined in application of the applicable anti-doping regulations as *lex specialis*.