



IPC Position Statement on the Use of Catheters in Doping Control

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International Paralympic Committee

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1. The IPC considers the use of a urinary catheter by an athlete with a need for self-catheterization as ‘personal equipment’. There are potential hazards to using different catheters, such as urethral trauma, infection and/or allergic reactions. Athletes who use urinary catheters for urinary sample collection for anti-doping purposes should supply their own catheter. This is the responsibility of the athlete. It is also the athlete’s responsibility to use a catheter in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
2. The IPC is not responsible for the training of doping control personnel, however, for IPC sanctioned events, the IPC requires all doping control personnel to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code International Standard for Testing and Investigations, Annex B – Modifications for Athletes with Impairments.
3. Due to the variety of brands, models and sizes, it cannot be expected that Organising Committees or doping control authorities will supply catheters that meet the individual requirements of each athlete. In some circumstances, e.g. at the Paralympic Games, the doping control stations may be equipped with a small number of different catheters as a service to the athletes. However the use of the athlete’s own catheter is preferable as noted in section 1.
4. The IPC is aware of exceptional cases of adverse analytical findings (AAFs) caused by self-catheterization in doping control related to the use of glycerol. Glycerol is widely used as an antiseptic in the storage of urethral catheters and as a lubricant for urethral catheters. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) recently has increased the threshold for reporting an adverse analytical finding (AAF) for glycerol (WADA TD2014DL), reducing the likelihood of an AAF resulting from glycerol lubrication. However, athletes should be informed to consult with their physician on any alternatives that do not involve the use of glycerol.

This position statement takes into consideration evidence and precedent where it is available, including:

- CAS 2007/A/1312 (16 May 2008)
- Okano, M., Nishitani, Y. & Kageyama, S. (2014). Possibility of analytical finding of glycerol caused by self-catheterization in doping control. Drug Testing and Analysis, e-pub DOI 10.1002/dta.1701.