INTRODUCTION

Athletes, managers, trainers, coaches, and other support personnel play a critical role in helping to protect the integrity of sport at every level. The United States Anti-Doping Agency’s mission is based on the fundamental truth that all athletes deserve the right and opportunity to compete clean – to achieve their own personal victories through commitment, sacrifice, and hard work. USADA works tirelessly to ensure that no clean athlete is ever cheated by a competitor engaging in the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

This Handbook is designed to provide UFC athletes with a summary of the information needed to successfully participate in the UFC Anti-Doping Program. Access to accurate information ensures that UFC athletes are not only fully prepared for training and competition, but also for the important role they play in the broader global anti-doping movement.

“This program is important for all athletes in any sports. Only because it takes away that factor, that ‘it’ factor of wanting to cheat. There are a lot of athletes out there who are honest individuals who believe that hard work and dedication to their sport can help them gain success. And then there are those athletes who feel that enhancing their performances is the only way to do it. And this program allows for the separation of those two athletes.”

- Marion Reneau, UFC Bantamweight

USADA’S MISSION

We hold the public trust to STAND with athletes to champion their right to clean sport, INSPIRE true and healthy sport, and PROMOTE the integrity of sport.

(719) 785-2000 or Toll-Free (866) 601-2632
International Toll-Free: +8008-120-8120
UFCAthleteexpress@USADA.org

The information in this publication is provided for reference purposes and is only a summary. The categories of prohibited substances and prohibited methods in this Handbook are subject to change. In the case of any discrepancy between the information contained within this Handbook and the UFC Anti-Doping Policy, the Policy prevails. For the most up-to-date information, visit: UFC.USADA.org, or UFC Global Drug Reference Online: UFC.GlobalDRO.com.

© 2021 U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. The material contained herein may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted or otherwise used, except with the express written permission of United States Anti-Doping Agency.
USADA is recognized by the UFC® as the official, independent anti-doping agency for the UFC. USADA began operations on October 1, 2000, and is a non-profit, non-governmental agency whose sole mission is to stand with athletes to champion their right to clean sport, to inspire true and healthy sport, and to promote the integrity of sport.

As part of the global UFC Anti-Doping Program, which launched in July 2015, USADA works with its network of international DCOs and other independent anti-doping organizations around the world to ensure that all UFC athletes are subject to the anti-doping program run by USADA, no matter where they live, train, or compete.

THE UFC PROHIBITED LIST

The UFC Prohibited List incorporates the most current Prohibited List published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). All UFC athletes may be subject to testing for any substance or method on the UFC Prohibited List.

THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY PROHIBITED LIST

WADA prepares and publishes the WADA Prohibited List each year following an extensive consultation process. The WADA Prohibited List identifies substances and methods that are prohibited at all times, as well as substances and methods prohibited in-competition only.

How does a substance or method get placed on the WADA Prohibited List?

A substance or method is included on the WADA Prohibited List if it meets at least two of the following three criteria:

- It enhances, or has the potential to enhance, sport performance.
- It represents an actual or potential health risk to the athlete.
- It violates the spirit of sport.1

USADA has created several resources to help athletes determine the prohibited status of their products. One of the fastest ways to search the status of a medication is by using UFC Global Drug Reference Online (UFC.GlobalDRO.com), which provides easily-accessible and accurate information on the status of specific pharmaceutical products sold in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Some over-the-counter medicinal products are also included in the database. UFC Global DRO® does not contain information on, or applicable to, dietary supplements. If an athlete cannot find the brand name of their medication on Global DRO, they can also search the active ingredients listed on the medication, which is often necessary in the case of cold, flu, and other such over-the-counter medications.

The only way to be 100 percent safe from supplements is to not use supplements. If an athlete chooses to use supplements, they should use only Certified Supplements identified in the UFC Prohibited List. For more information on Certified Supplements, visit UFC.USADA.org/supplements.

For additional assistance with medications, supplements, or ingredients, contact USADA’s Drug Reference Line at (719) 785-2000, Toll-Free at (866) 601-2632, or email ufcdrugreference@usada.org.

1 As defined in the World Anti-Doping Code, the spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, body, and mind. It is the essence of Olympism and is reflected in the values we find in and through sport, including health, ethics, fair play, honesty, character, joy, teamwork, dedication, respect for rules and one’s self, and other similar values.
This section provides answers to common questions about the health and safety risks associated with substances and methods included on the UFC Prohibited List. Details are provided by category, as outlined in the UFC Prohibited List. This section also provides information concerning the legitimate medical use of substances.

See UFC.USADA.org for more information.

**SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**

**Anabolic Agents**

Anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS) are by far the most prevalent performance-enhancing drugs to build muscle strength and lean muscle mass. Due to scientific advances in detection sensitivity, AAS like testosterone, stanozolol, oxandrolone, and nandrolone and are readily detectable in athlete samples. However, the vast majority of anabolic agents have no established medical use.

**What are some potential side effects of anabolic steroid abuse?**

Physiological and psychological side effects of anabolic steroid abuse have the potential to impact any user, while other side effects are gender specific. The list below is not comprehensive.

**Physiological**
- Acne
- Male pattern baldness
- Liver damage*
- Premature closure of the growth centers of long bones (in adolescents), which may result in stunted growth*

**Psychological**
- Increased aggressiveness and sexual appetite, sometimes resulting in abnormal sexual and criminal behavior, often referred to as “Roid Rage”
- Withdrawal from anabolic steroid use can be associated with depression and suicide

**Peptide Hormones, Growth Factors, Related Substances and Mimetics**

Some substances in this category have important medical uses, such as erythropoietin (EPO) to treat anemia and human growth hormone (hGH) for growth hormone insufficiency. But many substances in this category are experimental and have no legitimate therapeutic use.

**What are some potential side effects and health risks of this category?**

- Hypertension (ESAs/hGH)
- Blood cancers/leukemia (ESAs/hGH)
- Anemia (ESAs)
- Stroke (ESAs)
- Heart attacks
- Pulmonary embolism (ESAs)
- Feminization (hCG)
- Thyroid problems (hGH)

**Beta-2 Agonists**

The primary medical use of these compounds is to treat conditions like asthma and other respiratory ailments. The anti-doping status of beta-2 agonists depends on the medication, the route of administration, whether it is being used in conjunction with another medication, and the dosage. It is essential that athletes check UFC.GlobalDRO.com before using any beta-2 agonist. Some inhaled beta-2 agonists, such as albuterol/salbutamol and salmeterol, are permitted up to certain dose thresholds.

**What are some potential side effects of beta-2 agonists?**

- Rapid heart rate or palpitations
- Headaches
- Sweating
- Nausea
- Muscle cramps
- Nervousness

**Are there limitations placed on the use of asthma medications?**

These agents, when inhaled, are the first line for rescue therapy, especially with asthma. They are also powerful stimulants. Some of these agents also possess anabolic properties, especially when taken orally or by injection. Due to their stimulatory and potential anabolic effects, limitations have been placed on their use. To check the status of asthma medications, please visit UFC.GlobalDRO.com.

**NOTE:** See the UFC Therapeutic Use Exemption Policy pertaining to the use of prohibited medications at UFC.USADA.org/tue.
**Hormone and Metabolic Modulators**

Hormone antagonists are agents that modify hormone functions. Specific classes of hormone antagonists and modulators are prohibited, including:

- Aromatase inhibitors
- Selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs)
- Agents modifying myostatin function(s)
- Other anti-estrogenic substances such as clomiphene
- Insulin and insulin mimetics
- Meldonium, trimetazidine, AICAR

**Diuretics and Masking Agents**

The primary medical use of these compounds is to treat conditions like hypertension, kidney disease, and congestive heart failure. Blood plasma expanders (e.g. intravenous administration of albumin, dextran, hydroxyethyl starch, and mannitol) are also prohibited.

There are some ophthalmic (topical eye) preparations of substances in this category that are permitted. The use of diuretics or masking agents in conjunction with a beta-2 agonist inhaler invalidates the permitted dosages for the inhalers. Athletes should check UFC.GlobalIDRO.com for ALL of their medications before use.

**Non-Approved Substances**

This category refers to substances that are not addressed by any of the other sections of the UFC Prohibited List and that have no current approval by any governmental regulatory health authority for human therapeutic use (i.e., drugs under pre-clinical or clinical development, discontinued designer drugs, and substances approved only for veterinary use).

**What are some potential side effects and health risks of hormone and metabolic modulators?**

- Drop in blood sugar levels (Insulin)
- Endocrine system disruption (Clomiphene)
- Liver damage (AICAR)
- Cholesterol imbalance (Aromatase Inhibitors)
- Motor function disorders and tremors (Trimetazidine)

**What are some potential side effects and health risks of diuretic abuse?**

- Dehydration
- Dizziness or fainting
- Muscle cramping and heart arrhythmia due to potassium depletion
- Drop in blood pressure
- Loss of coordination and balance
- Death

**SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED IN-COMPETITION ONLY**

“In-competition” is defined as the period commencing at noon on the day prior to the Fight Card on which a Bout is contested and ending upon the completion of the post-Bout sample or specimen collection. If post-Bout sample collection is not initiated by USADA within a reasonable time, not to exceed one hour following the athlete’s post-Bout medical clearance, then the in-competition period will expire at that time.

Because clearance times depend on many individual factors, USADA cannot typically advise athletes on when they should discontinue using a substance to ensure that it has completely “washed out” from their body.

**Stimulants**

The primary medical use of these compounds is to treat conditions like Attention Deficit Disorders, asthma, narcolepsy, and obesity.

**What are some potential side effects and health risks of stimulant use?**

- Insomnia
- Anxiety
- Weight loss
- Dependence and addiction
- Dehydration
- Tremors
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Increased risk of stroke, heart attack, and cardiac arrhythmia

**Could over-the-counter medications or supplements possibly contain stimulants?**

Yes, prohibited stimulants such as pseudoephedrine, levomethamphetamine, and propylhexedrine, and ephedrine can be present in over-the-counter products such as allergy, cold, and flu medications, or nasal sprays or inhalants. Other stimulants can be found in dietary supplements such as pre-workout powders and diet aids.

Athletes should ensure they do not take medications with pseudoephedrine during or within the 24 hours before the in-competition period.

Dietary supplements, which can be purchased over-the-counter, can also contain prohibited stimulants like octopamine, methylhexaneamine, and oxilofrine, also known as methyleneprine. For more information, see the dietary supplement section.

**Narcotics**

When dosed appropriately, narcotics have medical uses like relieving or managing severe pain.

**What are some potential side effects and health risks of narcotics?**

While a sensation of euphoria or psychological stimulation are effects common to the use of narcotics, misuse of narcotics can pose serious health risks. Those include:

- A false sense of invincibility
- Nausea and vomiting
- Increased pain threshold and failure to recognize injury
- Decreased heart rate
- Physical and psychological dependence, leading to addiction
- Respiratory depression
- Death

Substances that have not undergone safety and clinical efficacy testing for use in humans do not have a safety profile, and their potential side effects are unknown.
What should I do if painkillers are needed for an injury?

Check UFC.GlobalDRO.com, consult the UFC Wallet Card, or contact USADA's Drug Reference Line at (719) 785-2000 or Toll-Free at (866) 601-2632, or email ufcdrugreference@USADA.org to see if the substance is prohibited. Go to the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) section of this Handbook to learn more about applying for a TUE if needed.

Cannabinoids

Positive tests for carboxy-THC (the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana and cannabis) will not be considered a violation of the UFC Anti-Doping Policy unless USADA determines that an athlete used it intentionally for performance-enhancing purposes. All other “phyto” cannabinoids (those derived naturally from a plant) are not prohibited.

UFC athletes need to keep in mind that all state Athletic Commissions have rules that prohibit certain levels of carboxy-THC and other cannabinoids and should therefore familiarize themselves with the rules of the state where they plan to compete.

While cannabidiol (CBD) is not prohibited, CBD extracted from the cannabis plant (e.g., CBD oil) may contain varying concentrations of psychoactive THC and other natural cannabinoids, which may be prohibited by state Athletic Commissions. The body absorbs THC, which is the active ingredient in cannabinoids, and breaks it down into metabolites. These metabolites can accumulate in the body and be excreted in the urine over an extended period of time after use depending on the user’s metabolism and other habits. UFC athletes should exercise extreme caution when considering CBD products in the lead-up to a regulated competition and should familiarize themselves with the rules of the state where they plan to compete.

What are some potential side effects and health risks of marijuana use?

- Increased heart rate
- Impaired short-term memory
- Distorted sense of time and space
- Diminished ability to concentrate
- Slowed coordination and reaction of reflexes
- Mood instability
- Impaired thinking and reading comprehension
- Respiratory diseases

Glucocorticoids

The primary medical use of these compounds is to treat allergies, asthma, inflammatory conditions, and skin disorders, among other musculoskeletal ailments.

Glucocorticoids are often found in asthma control inhalers, eye or ear drops, topical creams, intra-muscular or intra-articular injections, and nasal sprays.

Glucocorticoids, such as cortisone and prednisone, are prohibited in-competition when taken by oral, intramuscular, intravenous, or rectal routes of administration. Athletes should exercise care when glucocorticoids are used as injections, infusions, suppositories, or pills taken by mouth and apply for a TUE in advance. Depending on the dose, frequency, and proximity to competition, these specific routes of administration may result in the medication taking weeks to clear from the body. Athletes should check UFC.GlobalDRO.com before using any glucocorticoid.

What are some of the potential side effects of glucocorticoids?

- Loss of muscle mass and bone density
- Weakening of injured areas in muscle, bone, tendons, or ligaments
- Decrease in, or cessation of, growth in young people
- Suppression of immune system

SUMMARY OF PROHIBITED METHODS OF DOPING

Intravenous (IV) Infusions and/or Injections

All IV infusions and/or injections of any substance (including those for re-hydration) of more than 100 mL (~3.4 oz.) per 12-hour period are prohibited both in and out-of-competition, except for those legitimately received during a hospital treatment, surgical procedure, clinical diagnostic investigation, and/or those that are determined to be medically justified and within the standard of care by a licensed physician and administered by a licensed medical professional.

Small volume intravenous injections (under 100mL) are not prohibited as long as the substance delivered is not prohibited. If a prohibited substance is administered intravenously or via injection, a TUE is necessary regardless of volume.

IV infusions that do not meet the above criteria require a TUE and will be strictly evaluated under the UFC TUE Policy. A precise description of the clinical situation and specific medical indication for the IV infusion must be given in the TUE application, to include a complete medical file, diagnosis, and physical exam at minimum. Emergency TUEs will be considered in exceptional circumstances. Please note that the health and well-being of the athlete must always remain the priority in emergency circumstances.

For questions regarding IV infusions, contact USADA's Drug Reference Line at (719) 785-2000, Toll-Free at (866) 601-2632, or email ufcdrugreference@usada.org.
Manipulation of Blood and Blood Components

Blood doping is a prohibited method of increasing oxygen to the tissues. Blood doping is used to artificially increase the number of red blood cells in the body by transfusion of one's own blood (autologous transfusion) or blood from donors matched by blood type (homologous). The end result is that the hemoglobin mass (amount of red cells in the blood) is increased for a period of time and translates into the potential for increased endurance, workload, and recovery.

What are the health risks of blood doping?

Adding more red blood cells to the cardiovascular system can cause the blood to be more viscous and cause the heart to overwork. A person with already thickened blood is at greater risk of dehydration. Artificially boosting the number of red blood cells increases the risk of:

- Stress on the heart and cardiovascular system, leading to an enlarged heart
- Blood clotting
- Stroke
- Adverse immune response, including allergic reactions

With transfusions, there is an increased risk of infectious disease, such as HIV/AIDS or hepatitis.

Chemical and Physical Manipulation

Chemical and physical manipulation is tampering, or attempting to tamper, to alter the integrity and validity of samples collected during Doping Control. This includes but is not limited to sample substitution and/or adulteration, and the use of intravenous infusions and/or injections of more than a total of 100 mL per 12-hour period except for those legitimately received in the course of hospital treatments, surgical procedures, clinical diagnostic investigations, and/or those that are determined to be medically justified and within the standard of care by a licensed physician and administered by a licensed medical professional.

Gene and Cell Doping

Gene doping is the use of normal or genetically modified cells, the transfer of nucleic acids or nucleic acid sequences, or the use of agents that directly or indirectly affect functions known to influence performance by altering gene expression. Most gene transfer technologies are still in experimental phases. The long-term effects of altering genetic material are unknown, although several deaths have occurred during experimentation.

Medical information used for this section was taken from the WADA Sport Physician’s Toolkit, available at wada-ama.org and used with permission.
### PEDS

**Examples**

Please see the UFC Prohibited List for the full list of prohibited substances.

- Testosterone
- Nandrolone
- Stanazolol
- Boldeone
- Androstenedione (Andro)
- Drostanolone
- Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA)
- Oxandrolone
- Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) (e.g., ostarine, LGD-4033, andarine)
- Clenbuterol
- Tetrathydrogestrinone (THG)

**Athlete Rational**

- Building mass and muscular strength
- Recovery
- Reduction of joint pain

**Legitimate Medical Uses**

- Weight gain for wasting conditions (e.g., AIDS, Cancer)
- Decreased gonadal function in males
- Delayed puberty in males
- Osteoporosis
- Severe anemia
- Hereditary angioedema
- Metastatic breast cancer

**Risks**

- Rage
- Liver and kidney dysfunction
- Cancer
- Clothing disorders
- Stunted growth
- Masculinization
- Abnormal menstrual cycles
- Reduced breast size
- Menstrual irregularities
- Sperm reduction
- Testicular shrinkage
- Breast and prostate gland enlargement

---

### HORMONES AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

- **Androgens**: Androstenedione, testosterone
- **Corticosteroids**: Cortisol, hydrocortisone
- **Estrogens**: Estriol, estradiol
- **Gonadotropins**: LH, FSH
- **Growth Hormone**: hGH
- **Thyroid Hormones**: T3, T4

### BETTA-2 AGONISTS

- **Epinephrine**: Increases heart rate, blood pressure
- **Norepinephrine**: Increases heart rate, blood pressure
- **Isoleucine**: Increases muscle mass
- **Leucine**: Increases muscle mass
- **Valine**: Increases muscle mass

---

### DIURETICS AND MASKING AGENTS

- **Diuretics**: Hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide
- **Beta-blockers**: Betaxolol, atenolol
- **ACE inhibitors**: Enalapril, lisinopril
- **Angiotensin II receptor blockers**: Losartan, valsartan

### STIMULANTS

- **Amphetamines**: Methamphetamine, methaqualone
- **Cocaine**: Methamphetamine, methaqualone
- **Caffeine**: Caffeine, methylxanthines

### NARCOTICS

- **Morphine**: Opioid analgesic
- **Heroin**: Opioid analgesic
- **Fentanyl**: Opioid analgesic
- **Oxycodone**: Opioid analgesic
- **Methadone**: Opioid analgesic

### OTHER

- **Anti-Estrogenic Agents**: Tamoxifen, letrozole
- **Anabolic Steroids**: Nandrolone, testosterone
- **Prohormones**: Androstenedione, DHEA
- **SARMs**: Ostarine, LGD-4033
- **Cannabinoids**: THC, CBD

---

### ENHANCEMENT OF OXYGEN TRANSFER

- **Erythropoietin (EPO)**: Increases red blood cell count
- **Human Growth Hormone (hGH)**: Increases muscle mass
- **Epoetin (EPO)**: Increases red blood cell count
- **Megafermin**: Increases muscle mass

### CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL MANIPULATION

- **Blood doping**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Blood transfusion**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Blood plasma**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Blood transfusion**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity

### GENE AND CELL DOPING

- **Gene doping**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Cell transplantation**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Stem cell transplantation**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity
- **Gene therapy**: Increases oxygen-carrying capacity

---

### PEDS

- **Examples**

- **Beta-2 Agonists**
  - Epinephrine
  - Norepinephrine
  - Isoleucine
  - Leucine
  - Valine

- **Diuretics and Masking Agents**
  - Hydrochlorothiazide
  - Furosemide

- **Stimulants**
  - Amphetamines
  - Cocaine
  - Caffeine

- **Narcotics**
  - Morphine
  - Heroin
  - Fentanyl

- **Other**
  - Anti-Estrogenic Agents
  - Anabolic Steroids
  - Prohormones

- **Enhancement of Oxygen Transfer**
  - Erythropoietin (EPO)
  - Human Growth Hormone (hGH)

- **Chemical and Physical Manipulation**
  - Blood doping
  - Blood transfusion
  - Blood plasma
  - Blood transfusion

- **Gene and Cell Doping**
  - Gene doping
  - Cell transplantation
  - Stem cell transplantation
  - Gene therapy

---

### Risks

- **Rage**
- **Liver and kidney dysfunction**
- **Cancer**
- **Clothing disorders**
- **Stunted growth**
- **Masculinization**
- **Abnormal menstrual cycles**
- **Reduced breast size**
- **Menstrual irregularities**
- **Sperm reduction**
- **Testicular shrinkage**
- **Breast and prostate gland enlargement**

---

### Performance-Enhancing Drugs and Methods Reference Chart
There may be a time during an athlete’s career when they have a legitimate medical need to use a prohibited substance or method. If that situation arises, athletes must submit a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application before beginning the use of the medication or method. All TUEs are evaluated in accordance with the UFC TUE Policy.

UFC athletes may apply to USADA for a TUE for any prohibited substance or method at any time; however, such applications should be completed and received by USADA in accordance with the following timeline:

- At least 21 days in advance of an athlete’s intended use of the prohibited medication when the athlete is not scheduled to participate in a Bout.
- At least 90 days in advance of the athlete’s intended use when the athlete is scheduled to participate in any Bout more than 90 days in the future.
- As soon as practicable when the athlete is scheduled to participate in a Bout with less than 90 days advance notice.

*** A prescription from a physician is not sufficient grounds to obtain a TUE. It’s important to understand that a positive test can arise from a variety of sources, including prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, supplements, or herbal products. Never use a prescription medications that has not been prescribed to you, and always check the prohibited status of medications before you use them.

USADA will consider late filed or applications for retroactive TUEs; however, the athlete does so at his or her own risk of committing an anti-doping policy violation, as USADA makes no guarantees regarding the processing of a TUE under such circumstances.

NOTE: In the rare circumstances when a prohibited substance or method is required for emergency treatment, an athlete must file a TUE application with full medical documentation from the emergency as soon as reasonably possible after the treatment. Emergency treatment should not be withheld, as the athlete’s health and well-being remain the top priority. In such cases, the emergency TUE request will be considered by a TUE Committee after treatment has taken place.

USADA has several resources available to help athletes determine if they need to apply for a TUE. UFC.GlobalDRO.com allows athletes to search online for the prohibited status of medications purchased in select countries and is mobile friendly. Athletes can also contact USADA’s Drug Reference Line at (719) 785-2000, Toll-Free at (866) 601-2632, or email ufcdrugreference@usada.org.

Upon application, USADA must receive the entire medical file relevant to a given diagnosis in order for an independent TUE Committee to be able to reach the same diagnosis and arrive at the same treatment plan as the athlete’s physician. The most common reason for delayed or denied TUEs is a lack of medical documentation or a clear diagnosis. Again, a prescription from a physician is not sufficient grounds to obtain a TUE.

Please visit UFC.USADA.org/tue/apply for more information on TUEs and the application process.
No organization, including USADA, can guarantee the contents or safety of any dietary supplements. Consequently, athletes always assume some risk of testing positive for prohibited substances when they use supplements. As always, athletes have strict liability for substances they ingest, including those consumed through dietary supplements. It is very important for athletes who are considering using supplements to be aware of the potential risks, including:

1. A positive anti-doping test result
2. Negative and potentially dangerous health issues

Athletes also need to be aware that manufacturers may misidentify prohibited substances on labels, or they may omit prohibited substances from labels altogether. Because dietary supplements are regulated in a post-market manner, the Food and Drug Administration does not analyze the safety, efficacy, or contents of supplements before they are sold to consumers.

Be an Informed Consumer
- Athletes should always investigate the source of the product. Never use a product unless you have checked the ingredients against the UFC Prohibited List and fully investigated the source of that product. If you have any questions, always contact USADA before using the product.
- Never use a pill, capsule, powder, drink, injectable, or other product that has been removed from its packaging by anyone other than you.
- Extreme caution should be used when considering substances from supplement stores, vitamin stores, and online pharmacies.
- It is risky to use products from a seller that also sells products containing prohibited substances, markets to bodybuilders, or makes extreme claims about the performance-enhancing benefits of the product.
- No product should ever be used that is advertised as being for research purposes only, or not for human consumption.

CERTIFIED SUPPLEMENTS
USADA has always recommended that athletes use only dietary supplements that have been certified by a third-party program that tests for substances prohibited in sport.

The only way to be 100 percent safe from supplements is to not use supplements. For those athletes who elect to use supplements, it’s important that you use only supplements from the Certified Supplement providers identified in the UFC Prohibited List. Athletes will not receive an anti-doping policy violation if they can establish by clear and convincing evidence that their positive test was due to the use of a Certified Supplement identified in the UFC Prohibited List.

For more information or to view the list of Certified Supplements, visit [UFC.USADA.org/supplements](http://UFC.USADA.org/supplements).

High Risk List
Because of inadequate industry oversight, the use of dietary supplements is very risky and can result in a positive drug test for substances that are not listed on the label or listed by a name different than the one used on the UFC Prohibited List.

USADA has compiled a non-exhaustive and growing list of products that are considered to be of high risk to athletes and consumers. This can be found at [Supplement411.org](http://Supplement411.org). The absence of a product is not proof of minimal risk for a potential positive test.

DOPING CONTROL PROCEDURES
Any athlete competing in the UFC may be subject to urine, blood, and other testing matrices, including dried blood spot and oral fluid collections, both in and out-of-competition. Athletes may also be subject to additional testing by Athletic Commissions or other independent Anti-Doping Organizations not governed by the UFC Anti-Doping Policy.

The UFC Anti-Doping Program utilizes both in-competition (Bout) testing, as well as no-advance notice, out-of-competition testing, to help protect the rights of clean athletes and maximize the unpredictability and deterrent value of testing.

“In-competition” is defined as the period commencing at noon on the day prior to the Fight Card on which a Bout is contested and ending upon the completion of the post-Bout sample or specimen collection. If post-Bout sample collection is not initiated by USADA within a reasonable time, not to exceed one hour following the athlete’s post-Bout medical clearance, then the in-competition period will expire at that time. Athletes are subject to both urine and blood testing 365 days a year and tests can occur at any time and any place. The sample collection process is designed to be as safe, comfortable, and consistent as possible for athletes.

The information below identifies athlete rights and responsibilities, the processes unique to each type of test, and the procedures athletes can expect to follow when providing a sample. The steps for blood and urine sample collection and processing are similar for both in-competition and out-of-competition testing.

Paperless Sample Collection Documentation
Doping Control Officers (DCOs) will document a test on the Doping Control Official Record (DCOR), and athletes will receive a copy of that paperwork either in hard copy or electronic format.
ATHLETES RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletes have a number of rights and responsibilities during doping control. These rights and responsibilities are essentially the same for both in-competition and out-of-competition testing.

When selected for testing, athletes have the RIGHT to:

- Have a representative accompany the athlete throughout the doping control process
- Have an interpreter present, if available
- Complete a training session or other activities while the DCO or notifying chaperone observes the athlete (out-of-competition)
- Have the testing procedures explained to the athlete, including how the sample collection equipment works
- Request to view the DCO’s credentials
- Have a choice of collection vessels and sample collection kits
- Receive a copy of the sample collection documentation used to document the processing of the athlete’s sample
- Provide feedback on the USADA Athlete Evaluation Form and/or a Supplementary Report Form
- Request a delay in reporting to the doping control station for valid reasons (in-competition)
- Request modifications if the athlete has a disability

During a test, athletes are RESPONSIBLE for:

- Complying with the sample collection procedures and DCO instructions**
- Reporting immediately to the doping control area unless there are approved reasons for delay (in-competition testing)
- Presenting government issued photo identification at the time of notification
- Staying in direct observation of the DCO or notifying chaperone from the time of notification until the sample collection session is complete
- Keeping the collection vessel in their possession and in view of the DCO at all times
- Having control of the sample until it is sealed in the sample collection bottles (the DCO may assist upon request)
- Ensuring the sample code number is correctly documented on the sample collection documentation
- Ensuring all appropriate sample collection documentation is accurate, complete, and signed

**NOTE: As defined by Article 2.3 of the UFC Anti-Doping Policy: “Intentionally evading Sample collection, or without compelling justification, intentionally refusing or intentionally or negligently failing to submit to Sample collection after notification as authorized in the UFC Anti-Doping Policy shall result in an Anti-Doping Policy Violation.”

In addition, tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control, as defined in Article 2.5 of the UFC ADP and outlined on page 30 of this handbook, shall also result in an Anti-Doping Policy Violation.
SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCESS

While drug testing may not be the most glamorous part of an athlete's career, it is critical to the global fight for clean sport. By participating in the UFC Anti-Doping Program, athletes are doing their part to help protect their sport and the integrity of competition. The following information provides an overview of the sample collection process.

Sample Collection Process - Urine

1. An athlete selected for testing will be notified by a Doping Control Officer (DCO) or chaperone. The DCO will ask the athlete to provide photo identification.

2. Following notification, the athlete must stay within direct observation of the chaperone. Athletes should report to the doping control station (in-competition), or to an appropriate location (out-of-competition) immediately, unless a valid reason is discussed with, and permitted by, a DCO or chaperone.

3. The athlete will be asked to select a sealed sample collection vessel from a choice of vessels. The athlete should check and inspect the collection vessel to ensure that it has not been tampered with and rinse their hands with only water before opening the vessel.

4. The athlete will be required to provide a urine sample of at least 90 mL under direct observation of a DCO or witnessing chaperone of the same gender.

5. The athlete will be offered a choice of sealed sample collection equipment (which includes A sample and B sample bottles). The athlete should check and inspect the equipment thoroughly prior to use.

6. The athlete will then divide their sample between the A and B sample bottles as instructed and seal them. The DCO will not handle any of the equipment during the procedure unless requested to do so by the athlete. The athlete is to maintain direct observation and control of their sample until the sample is sealed.

7. Once the sample is sealed in tamper-evident bottles, the athlete will be asked to place the A and B sample bottles into plastic transport bags and seal them in a protective container.

8. The DCO will check the specific gravity (concentration) with what's left of the sample. Additional samples may be requested if the sample is not within the required range.

9. When instructed by the DCO, the athlete will declare any substances or medications that they may have taken on the Doping Control Official Record (DCOR), along with details of any approved Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) on file. Finally, any comments should be included on the athlete evaluation form.

10. The athlete should check the entire DCOR thoroughly to ensure that the information is correct. The athlete’s name is not on the documentation that goes to the laboratory. The laboratory reports all results based on the unique sample code numbers to ensure the athlete’s anonymity is protected.

An athlete will receive notification (either electronic and/or postal mail) from USADA that states the analysis has been completed. The sample may be subject to long-term storage and further analysis at any time at the discretion of USADA.
Sample Collection Process - Blood

The blood collection process closely resembles the urine collection process described previously, and it is not uncommon to provide both a urine and blood sample during a sample collection session. Here are a few things to know and expect:

Some USADA DCOs will be qualified phlebotomists, but if they are not, a certified and/or licensed phlebotomist, called a blood collection officer (BCO), will perform the blood draw.

To control for blood plasma volume changes, the athlete will be asked to remain seated for a specified period of time (20 minutes) prior to providing a blood sample. If an athlete has trained in the past 2 hours prior to notification, the athlete will need to observe a 2 hour wait time, including the 20-minute seated wait before the blood collection.

The BCO or DCO will select an area, typically the non-dominant arm, from which to draw the blood. The amount of blood drawn, which is less than two tablespoons, is unlikely to affect performance.

Sample Shipment and Notification

After the conclusion of the collection session, the DCO will ship the sample(s) to a WADA-accredited laboratory. The chain of custody of the sample is closely monitored by USADA. The sample may be subject to long-term storage and further analysis at any time at the discretion of USADA.

An athlete will receive notification (either electronic and/or postal mail) from USADA once the analysis of the sample(s) has been completed.

IN-COMPETITION (IC) VS. OUT-OF-COMPETITION (OOC) TESTING

- For an OOC test, a DCO or chaperone can notify an athlete at any time and any location, including their home, training facility/area, work, school, etc.
- Any test could be conducted by USADA or another Anti-Doping Organization that is collecting samples on behalf of USADA.
- The procedures for providing and processing the sample are the same during both an IC and OOC testing session.
- During an IC test, the athlete must report to doping control as soon as possible unless a valid reason is discussed with, and permitted by, the DCO or chaperone.
- Once an athlete has been notified for testing, the athlete may resume their activities until they are ready to provide a sample, as long as they are directly observed by the DCO or chaperone until that time.
PROVIDING FEEDBACK
Athletes have the right to share their feedback on the anti-doping process and will be provided that opportunity after their sample collection is completed. USADA encourages athletes to provide feedback about their experience, and every feedback form that is submitted to USADA is reviewed.

If the athlete or the athlete's representative is interested in submitting written comments specific to their sample collection session, this is done on a supplementary report form. This form is available from the DCO at the time of the sample collection.

GIVING CONSENT FOR RESEARCH
Recognizing that research is the cornerstone of an effective anti-doping program, USADA has always placed emphasis on the study of prohibited substances, the development of tests, and the advancement of other research impacting anti-doping science.

During the drug testing process, a DCO will ask about the athlete's consent for research. When an athlete voluntarily chooses to contribute their sample to anti-doping research, any identification is removed so that the sample cannot be traced back to the particular athlete if it is ultimately selected for research. This anonymous sample can then be used in various anti-doping research projects. An athlete's decision on consenting to have their sample used for anti-doping research does not affect the selection or frequency of testing.

GLOBAL TESTING
As a member of the global anti-doping community, USADA works with its network of international DCOs and many other Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) from around the world to coordinate testing in the various countries where athletes live and train. If an athlete is selected for testing under USADA's program, and the attempt is made outside of the United States, the sample collection authority or DCO will provide the athlete with a Letter of Authority confirming their authorization to test from USADA.

When an athlete is contacted or notified for testing, it is important to be aware of which entity is conducting the test. Ask for the DCO's credentials and have an understanding of an athlete's basic rights and responsibilities. While many aspects of the testing process are identical worldwide, minor modifications to notification, collection equipment, paperwork, and collection protocols are normal. If an athlete experiences modifications to the testing process, such as different sample collection equipment, this should not be a cause for concern since all international testing agencies utilized by USADA are required to use sample collection equipment that meets the standards of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) and International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI). Ask to document any irregularities in writing should they arise or if you have questions regarding the process or equipment.

THE UFC REGISTERED TESTING POOL
Athletes who have been identified and notified that they are part of the UFC Registered Testing Pool (RTP) are responsible for directly keeping USADA informed of their Whereabouts so as to be available for out-of-competition testing. Providing thorough and accurate Whereabouts information is essential to an effective out-of-competition testing program.

How will an athlete know if they are in the UFC RTP?
Any athlete under contract with the UFC will receive an email notification from USADA stating that they are in the RTP and will need to provide Whereabouts. Upon signing with the UFC, athletes should provide updated contact information, including an email address that they regularly check.

How long does an athlete need to be in the UFC RTP before they can compete?
Athletes who are new to the RTP, as well as athletes who have been in the RTP and whose contract was terminated or was not renewed by the UFC, must be in the RTP for at least one month before competing in a Bout.

If an athlete is replacing another athlete on a Fight Card due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances, the one-month notice requirement will be automatically waived.

What if an athlete used a prohibited substance before they entered the UFC RTP?
New athletes have an obligation to complete an onboarding declaration form. In the event that you disclose, prior to testing, the use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or method included on the UFC Prohibited List, you will not be subject to an anti-doping policy violation if you proceed to test positive for the disclosed substance or substances, as long as USADA determines that the positive resulted from the use of the substance or method prior to entering the UFC Anti-Doping Program.

The disclosure of (a) clomiphene, (b) a non-specified method, or (c) a non-specified substance that is prohibited at all times on the UFC Prohibited List will subject you to a waiting period in the testing pool of a minimum of six months or one year after your last use, whichever is shorter, and you may be required to provide at least two negative samples prior to being allowed to compete. If an athlete does not declare the prior use of any of the above substances or methods, that athlete may be subject to a publicly announced policy violation and a minimum two-year period of ineligibility.

How long may an athlete be subject to the requirements of the RTP?
If an athlete ceases to have a contractual agreement with the UFC or has provided written notification of their retirement or self-initiated hiatus to the UFC, he or she will be notified of their removal from the RTP and the end of their requirement to provide Whereabouts information.
ATHLETE WHEREABOUTS REQUIREMENTS

What do athletes need to do to be sure that they are in compliance with the Whereabouts Policy?

Under the UFC Whereabouts Policy, athletes who are included in the RTP are responsible for informing USADA of their Whereabouts. It is required that they submit accurate and complete quarterly Whereabouts filings and updates so that USADA can locate them for testing.

Access to an athlete's Whereabouts Account is located at UFCAthlete.USADA.org.

Information Required for Whereabouts Filings

Whereabouts filings must contain specific schedule information that is complete and accurate, including overnight locations and regularly scheduled activities like work, school, and training.

QUARTERLY FILING DEADLINES

Whereabouts filings must be submitted quarterly (every three months). Deadlines for submitting Whereabouts filings are:

- December 15 for the first quarter (beginning January 1)
- March 15 for the second quarter (beginning April 1)
- June 15 for the third quarter (beginning July 1)
- September 15 for the fourth quarter (beginning October 1)

At least once a year an athlete must also complete UFC Athlete’s Advantage®, an online education tutorial that provides information related to anti-doping requirements for UFC RTP athletes. Athletes must complete the tutorial prior to submitting Whereabouts filings.

HOW TO SUBMIT WHEREABOUTS INFORMATION

Online: Login to UFC Athlete Express at UFCAthlete.USADA.org

Athlete Express App: Athletes can update their Whereabouts via the USADA Updater app, which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store.

USADA will provide athletes with a username and password to access the online Whereabouts system. For questions or to obtain a username and password, contact UFC Athlete Express at (719) 785-2000 or toll-free at (866) 601-2632, or email UFCAthleteexpress@USADA.org.

Submitting Whereabouts Updates

If an athlete's schedule changes during the quarter, they must submit an update to USADA as soon as possible. For example, if an athlete will be in a location different from what they provided on their quarterly Whereabouts filing, such as traveling for a competition, training in a new location, or moving or changing an overnight location or address, they must submit an update. It is important to remember that athletes can be tested at any time and any place. It is an athlete's responsibility to update USADA any time their regularly scheduled activities or overnight location differs from the information they submitted on their quarterly Whereabouts filing.

Whereabouts Failures

Providing timely and accurate Whereabouts information is vitally important to ensure USADA can provide the best anti-doping program to clean athletes. It is crucial that athletes submit their quarterly Whereabouts filing by each deadline, update their Whereabouts information when plans change, and make sure that they are available at the locations and times specified in their Whereabouts filing or updates.

How could an athlete receive a Whereabouts Failure?

An athlete could receive a Whereabouts Failure in one of four ways if they are in the UFC RTP:

- Failure to submit an accurate and completed Whereabouts filing by the deadline
- Failure to promptly update Whereabouts information upon learning that information on the Whereabouts filing has changed or is otherwise no longer accurate
- Failure to provide accurate or sufficient information to be located for testing
- Failure to be located for testing due to providing inaccurate information on the Whereabouts filing

How many Whereabouts Failures make an athlete ineligible?

An athlete is subject to an anti-doping policy violation (ADPV) should they accumulate three Whereabouts Failures within a rolling 12-month period. Should an athlete accumulate three Whereabouts Failures, they may receive up to a two-year period of ineligibility. Athletes may also lose competitive results obtained since the last of the three Whereabouts Failures and their violation will be publicly announced.

How will an athlete be notified of a Whereabouts Failure?

Athletes will be sent initial notice by email of an apparent Whereabouts Failure no later than 14 days after the discovery of the Whereabouts Failure.

- After notice is received, athletes will also be responsible for future Whereabouts Failures, regardless of whether the subsequent failure involves
Upon the issuance of a third Whereabouts Failure within a rolling 12-month period, eliminates the conflicts that could arise from sports organizations directly the same type of Whereabouts Failure or a different type of Whereabouts Failure. For example, an athlete whose first failure resulted from a failure to file Whereabouts by the deadline will also be held responsible for a second failure whether it’s related to the continued failure to file by the subsequent deadline, or another missed test or filing failure.

- Athletes have the opportunity to provide a response to the initial letter and explain their actions in writing within 14 days of the initial notification.
- If a response is received, USADA will review the response and make a final determination within 14 days of receipt of the response. The athlete is then notified of the final decision.
- If no response is provided by the athlete, the initial decision will be upheld, and the athlete will be notified.
- Upon the issuance of a third Whereabouts Failure within a rolling 12-month period, the athlete may appeal USADA’s decision to declare a Whereabouts Failure on any or all of the Whereabouts Failures to an independent administrative review panel within 14 days of the date of the issuance of the third Whereabouts Failure.

For a complete copy of the UFC Whereabouts Policy, visit the UFC Anti-Doping Program website at UFC.USADA.org/Whereabouts. Under any circumstances where there are discrepancies found between this Handbook and the UFC Whereabouts Policy, the Policy prevails.

**Athlete Retirement and Athlete-Initiated Inactivity**

At some point in their career, an athlete may make the decision to retire or go on hiatus from the UFC. When they are ready for retirement or a hiatus, there are steps that must be taken to make it official and to remove themselves from the testing pool, including, but not limited to, promptly informing the UFC in writing via mail or email that they are retiring or going on hiatus.

Until an athlete has finalized all of the necessary steps, they are still subject to the requirements of an athlete in the UFC Registered Testing Pool.

If an athlete does not provide advance written notice of retirement or a hiatus and is notified for testing but refuses to provide a sample for an out-of-competition test, this is regarded as a refusal. If the athlete refuses testing, they will be subject to all consequences consistent with an ADPV.

If an athlete retires, goes on hiatus, or ceases to be under contract with the UFC while USADA is conducting the results management process, USADA retains jurisdiction to complete its results management process. If an athlete retires, goes on hiatus, or ceases to be under contract with the UFC before any results management process has begun, and USADA had results management authority over the athlete at the time the athlete committed an ADPV, USADA retains the authority to conduct results management for that ADPV. If USADA had results management authority over athlete support personnel or another person at the time they committed an ADPV, USADA has authority to conduct results management for that ADPV.

USADA is responsible for the results management and adjudication process for the UFC Anti-Doping Program, in accordance with the UFC Anti-Doping Policy.

The objective of the UFC Anti-Doping Policy is to provide full due process to all parties charged with an anti-doping policy violation (ADPV). This process is:

- Fair to athletes and others
- Has international credibility
- Provides for a full evidentiary hearing
- Eliminates the conflicts that could arise from sports organizations directly sanctioning their own members

**Anti-Doping Policy Violations (ADPVs)**

The following constitute anti-doping policy violations:

- Presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an athlete’s sample.
- Use or attempted use by an athlete of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method.
- Evading, refusing, or failing to submit to sample collection.
- Three Whereabouts Failures in a rolling 12-month period.
- Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control: 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 UFC or USADA or TUE committee or hearing panel, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon the UFC or USADA 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.
- Absent a compelling justification, the failure to disclose to USADA, prior to entering the Program, the Use, Attempted Use or Possession within the previous one year of clomiphene, a Non-Specified Method, or a Non-Specified Substance
prohibited at all times by the UFC Prohibited List. The past Use, Attempted Use or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method shall not constitute a violation of these Policies if disclosed prior to entering the Program; however, the admission of such conduct shall subject the Athlete to the notice period requirements outlined in Article 5.7.4. Furthermore, unless the Athlete's Use of the substance or method in question was pursuant to a valid medical prescription or recommendation, such conduct may also be considered in sanctioning or counted as a violation for purposes of Article 10.7 if the Athlete subsequently commits an Anti-Doping Policy Violation.

- Possession of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method.
- Trafficking or attempted trafficking in any prohibited substance or prohibited method
- Administration or attempted administration 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.
- Complicity or attempted complicity by an athlete or other person: Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up, or any other type of intentional complicity involving (a) an anti-doping policy violation, an attempted anti-doping policy violation, or violation of Article 10.12.1 by another person; or (b) conduct committed by an individual who is not subject to the UFC Anti-Doping Policy, which would otherwise have constituted an anti-doping policy violation.
- Prohibited Association: Association by an athlete or other person in a professional or sport-related capacity with any athlete support person who:
  - If subject to the authority of the UFC, USADA, another Anti-Doping Organization, or Athletic Commission, is serving a period of ineligibility under Article 10.12.1.2.
  - If not subject to the authority of the UFC, USADA, another Anti-Doping Organization, or Athletic Commission, has been convicted or found in a criminal, disciplinary, or professional proceeding to have engaged in conduct which would have constituted a violation of this Anti-Doping Policy if this Anti-Doping Policy had been applicable to such person. The disqualifying status of such person shall be in force for the longer of six years from the criminal, professional, or disciplinary decision or the duration of the criminal, disciplinary, or professional sanction imposed.
  - Is serving as a front or intermediary for an individual described in the preceding two paragraphs.

Substances of Abuse

When a violation involves a Substance of Abuse as defined in the UFC Prohibited List, and the athlete can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the violation did not enhance, and was not intended to enhance, the Athlete's performance in a Bout, then, provided that the clauses in 10.6.4.1 of the UFC ADP are satisfied, the period of ineligibility may be reduced or eliminated as determined by USADA and based upon the Athlete's participation in a rehabilitation program as provided in 10.6.4.2 of the UFC ADP.

Sanctions Resulting from a Positive Test

While a positive test generally carries a standard sanction of two years of ineligibility for a first violation and a loss of results, an athlete who tests positive for a “Specified Substance” has a standard sanction of one-year of ineligibility.

On the UFC Prohibited List, all prohibited substances are considered “Specified Substances” except for:

- Anabolic agents
- Peptide hormones, such as erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) and EPO-like substances
- Growth hormone, hormone-releasing peptides (GHRPs) and related substances, and mimetics
- Certain hormone and metabolic modulators, such as agents modifying myostatin function(s) and insulins
- Non-specified stimulants
- Non-specified prohibited methods

What are the consequences if an athlete commits a doping violation?

Sanctions on athletes may include, but are not limited to:

- Disqualification of results in a particular Bout or Bouts
- Forfeiture of title, ranking, purse, or other compensation
- An eligibility period that may vary according to circumstances
- Public announcement

For more information on the consequences of ADPVs, please refer to the UFC Anti-Doping Policy at [UFC.USADA.org/publications-policies](http://UFC.USADA.org/publications-policies).

When are doping violations publicly announced?

USADA publicly announces doping violations following the conclusion of its results management process or as otherwise provided in the applicable rules, including posting arbitration decisions on its website. USADA also announces aggregate data for all tests. USADA does not comment on cases in process; however, if an athlete or their representative publicly comments while their case is pending, USADA may respond publicly by providing details about the athlete's case.

What is the notification process for test results?

Laboratory results reports are sent to USADA. USADA provides notification of the test result to the athlete and the UFC. Written notification to an athlete will either be sent through email, if an email address was provided during the test session, and/or by first class/priority mail. The notification may also go to the applicable Athletic Commission. In general, athletes will receive their test results within six to eight weeks.

What is an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF)?

An AAF is a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory that identifies the presence of a prohibited substance and/or its metabolites or markers in a sample.
The UFC Anti-Doping Policy outlines the circumstances under which investigations shall be undertaken in order to gather intelligence. This includes the use of both analytical and non-analytical information.

Investigations may stem from tips left on the Play Clean Tip Line. USADA developed this resource for athletes and the public to report potential ADPVs anonymously. These tips are handled in a secure manner so as to ensure their reliability, relevance, and accuracy.

**Play Clean Tip Center**
- (877) 752-9253
- playclean@USADA.org
- UFC.USADA.org/playclean

---

**INVESTIGATIONS**

**GENERAL FAQS**

**How are athletes selected for testing?**

Athletes are subject to both in-competition and out-of-competition testing. USADA's test distribution plan establishes the number of tests based upon the number of athletes in the Registered Testing Pool. Tests are then allocated throughout the year at times when in-competition and out-of-competition tests are most effective. Please note, USADA, not the UFC, determines which athletes are tested, and when they are tested.

**What dietary supplements are safe to take?**

USADA does not approve or certify that any dietary supplements are safe to take, so athletes who consider taking them do so at their own risk. The dietary supplement industry is regulated in a post-market manner, which means that the Food and Drug Administration does not verify the safety, efficacy, or label accuracy of supplements before they are sold to consumers. This can lead to supplement contamination and mislabeling, resulting in a variety of potential risks for athletes, including a positive anti-doping test and/or negative health effect.

The only way to be 100 percent safe from supplements is to not use supplements. For those athletes who elect to use supplements, it’s important that you use only supplements from the Certified Supplement providers identified in the UFC Prohibited List. Athletes will not receive an anti-doping policy violation if they can establish by clear and convincing evidence that their positive test was due to the use of a Certified Supplement identified in the UFC Prohibited List.

**How do I know if a substance or medication is prohibited?**

USADA has developed an online database called UFC Global DRO, which allows athletes to quickly and easily search different ingredients and medications for information on their prohibited status. Athletes can visit this website at UFC.GlobalDRO.com. If an athlete cannot find the particular substance or medication they are looking for, they should call USADA’s Drug Reference Line at (719) 785-2000, Toll-Free at (866) 601-2632, or email ufcdrugreference@usada.org.

**Why am I being tested when I do not have a Bout scheduled?**

Under the UFC Anti-Doping Policy, athletes are subject to out-of-competition, no advance notice testing 365 days a year. This is done to ensure that there are no blackout periods during which those looking to gain an unfair advantage could take performance-enhancing drugs without detection. USADA’s testing is designed to maximize detection and deterrence in order to ensure athletes are given the opportunity to compete in an Octagon that is fair and level.

**If I have a UFC related activity, such as an event or media commitment, do I need to update my Whereabouts?**

Yes, athletes are always responsible for updating their Whereabouts, regardless of whether the activity is UFC related. USADA is the independent administrator of the UFC Anti-Doping Program, and as such, is not always aware of the UFC’s promotional engagements.
What kind of information accompanies the urine and/or blood sample to the lab?

Every sample sent to a WADA-accredited laboratory includes the required sample information in order for the lab to proceed with the analysis. The laboratory will not receive the athlete's name, but some of the information they will receive is:

- Athlete gender
- If it was an out-of-competition test or an in-competition test
- The athlete's sport and sport discipline
- The sample code number that matches the numbers on the urine/blood sample collection kit
- The date and time of the sample collection
- Indication of whether the athlete wants their sample to be donated to anti-doping research
- The list of medications, supplements, and other substances or methods that the athlete declares
- The athlete's current age, but not birth date, for certain types of blood testing
- Sample Collection, Testing and Results Management Authorities
- The approximate specific gravity measurement for urine samples
- The volume of urine sample collected and/or number of blood tubes collected