

BACKGROUND

World Netball condemns doping and the use of illegal, experimental and non-approved substances and methods as fundamentally contrary to the spirit of sport.

WADA, the IOC and CGF are aware of an increased use of injections to administer products not designated for medical purposes and developed policies and rules to deal with such abuse.

Following a recommendation from the World Netball Medical Commission, World Netball has adopted a 'Needle Policy' aiming to protect athletes' health, and reduce use of prohibited substances and methods in sport. The policy prohibits using injections without a justified and acceptable medical reason.

The policy seeks to protect the sport of Netball from the culture of needles, the trivialisation of injections, and exaggerated use of pseudo-medical products administered through injections.

The Needle Policy is in addition to the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List and World Netball Anti-Doping Rules.

The Needle Policy applies to all athletes, coaches, medical and support personnel.

Needle Policy

International Tournaments hosted by World Netball (Netball World Cup, Netball Youth World Cup and Fast 5), are "needle-free" for all participating athletes. The policy applies from the team's arrival at the host city to the completion of the team's final match.

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 and her entourage to ensure compliance with this World Netball Needle Policy. In particular each delegation must ensure that:

1. any needles, and associated clinical materials, intended for use by members of its delegation are stored in a central secured location, access to which is restricted to authorized medical personnel of the 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 (ii) below;
2. the disposal of all used needles, vials, syringes and other biomedical material which may affect the safety of others shall conform to recognised safety standards;
3. whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the period of the tournament, a formal declaration using the attached "Injection Declaration Form" shall be duly

completed and submitted within 24 hours to a representative of the World Netball Medical Commission or the Event Chief Medical Officer. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the representative of the World Netball Medical Commission or the Event Chief Medical Officer.

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 only permitted when there is a clinically justified reason for such an intervention as determined by the World Netball Medical Commission. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the World Netball Medical Commission or the Event Chief Medical Officer.

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 World Netball Medical Commission. Ordinarily this review will include a meeting with the practitioner(s) involved in the administration of the injection.

Based on the above review, the World Netball Medical Commission shall decide whether an injection shall be considered as justified. Such decision shall be final and binding and is not subject to a challenge.

Any violation of one of these principles may constitute a violation of World Netball Rules and may be subject to penalties and sanction.

The costs of any investigations related to this rule may be charged to the member federation concerned.

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 these treatments.

Approved by the WN Board**5th December 2021**

**NEEDLE POLICY INJECTION DECLARATION FORM
INTERNATIONAL NETBALL EVENT**

Please note that this needle declaration form does **NOT** constitute a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) for the use of any Prohibited Substance. Also note that an injection or infusion of > 50 mL/6 hr of fluid is a Prohibited Method regardless of whether it contains a Prohibited Substance or not.

ATHLETE

Name of the athlete having received the injection:

Representing Nation of:

Date of Birth:

Gender: Male Female

INJECTION

Material(s) Injected:

Date of injection:

MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION

Justification for injection, including clinical history and diagnosis (include confirmatory evidence when available):

PERSON HAVING PERFORMED THE INJECTION

Name of person having performed the injection:

Specialty:

Licensed to practice in:

Signature of the person having performed the injection:

By my signature, I hereby confirm that the information in this form is true and accurate and that the injection was medically justified and necessary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Place: _____

Note: Declaration. must be by a certified medical practitioner