



RUGBY LEAGUE IRELAND

Anti-Doping Policy 2025

1. Purpose

Rugby League Ireland (RLI) is committed to ensuring a clean, fair, and drug-free sport. This Anti-Doping Policy outlines RLI's obligations and expectations under the World Anti-Doping Code, the International Rugby League (IRL) Anti-Doping Policy, and the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Rules. All participants must support the integrity of rugby league by complying with anti-doping requirements at all times.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all RLI players, coaches, referees, medical personnel, volunteers, Board members, club officials, and any individual involved in rugby league activities within Ireland or under IRL jurisdiction. Compliance with this policy is a mandatory condition of participation in RLI competitions, events, and programmes.

3. Governing Anti-Doping Framework

RLI adopts and is bound by:

- Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Rules
- International Rugby League (IRL) Anti-Doping Policy
- WADA Prohibited List

Where inconsistencies exist, the rules of Sport Ireland and IRL take precedence.

4. Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)

RLI recognises all 11 ADRV s in the World Anti-Doping Code, including: presence or use of prohibited substances, refusing testing, tampering, trafficking, possession, prohibited association, complicity, and retaliation against whistleblowers.

5. Responsibilities of Participants

Athletes must ensure no prohibited substance enters their body, check medications and supplements, attend testing when notified, and apply for TUEs where required. Support personnel must not encourage or facilitate doping and must promote clean-sport behaviours. RLI must provide education, testing support, and ensure compliance across all levels of the organisation.

6. Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

Athletes needing prohibited substances for legitimate medical reasons must obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption.

- National-level athletes apply through Sport Ireland.
- International-level athletes apply through IRL.

TUEs must be approved before use except in emergency situations.

7. Testing Procedures

Testing may occur in-competition or out-of-competition, with or without notice. Athletes must comply fully with doping control officers, provide identification, follow sample-collection procedures, and remain in view until the process is complete.

8. Supplements

RLI warns athletes that supplements may contain banned substances. Strict liability applies. Athletes should use only batch-tested products and check all ingredients through Sport Ireland and WADA resources.

9. Education

RLI will deliver anti-doping education to players, coaches, officials, and clubs through workshops, online learning, and IRL or Sport Ireland training resources. Education is mandatory for national squads.

10. Reporting & Whistleblowing

Concerns regarding doping may be reported confidentially to Sport Ireland, the IRL Integrity Unit, or the RLI Integrity Officer. Whistleblowers are protected under RLI's Protected Disclosures Policy.

11. Consequences of Violations

Sanctions may include suspension, disqualification of results, loss of awards, or team penalties. All sanctions are determined and imposed by Sport Ireland or IRL, not RLI.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years, or earlier if required by changes to WADA, IRL, or Sport Ireland rules. The RLI Board is responsible for approving revisions.