



Protecting a culture of clean sport – Anti-Doping

This is a joint statement by CANI and WSKA. 9th August 2017.

We have taken advice from CANI, Sport NI, British Canoeing and UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) to ensure we have an appropriate and proportionate response to protecting a culture of clean sport, and anti-doping.

WADA, The World Anti-Doping Agency's mission is to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport. The World Anti-Doping Code (Code) is the core document that harmonizes anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organisations around the world.

UKAD (UK Anti-Doping) is the national organisation dedicated to protecting a culture of clean sport. They raise awareness of the issues with a prevention through education programme, and conduct athlete testing across more than 40 Olympic, Paralympic and professional sports. They help athletes to understand and follow the rules, and prosecute offenders. UKAD is responsible for ensuring sports bodies in the UK are compliant with the WADA Code through implementation of the UK's National Anti-Doping Policy.

British Canoeing is the national governing body in the UK. CANI is part of British Canoeing and is the National Governing Body for Canoeing in Northern Ireland.

A summary follows here of the Anti-Doping policy and rules:

CANI Anti-Doping

All athletes have the right to compete in sport knowing that they, and their competitors, are clean. The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) believe in clean Canoeing and work in partnership with Sport NI, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), British Canoeing and Canoeing Ireland to ensure that the integrity of canoeing is protected. The use of performance-enhancing drugs and other doping behaviour severely damages the legitimacy of sport and undermines the integrity of clean athletes.

CANI Anti-Doping rules

CANI / British Canoeing has in place a set of anti-doping rules that all athletes, coaches and athlete support personnel must abide by. These are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UKAD. You can find the following Anti-Doping rules below:

[Click here for the UK Anti-Doping Rules](#)

[Click here for the Irish Sport Council Anti-Doping Rules](#)

If you are a member of CANI or British Canoeing, then the anti-doping rules apply to you, regardless of what level you participate at. If you are a member of your National Governing Body anywhere in the world, it is highly likely your NGB adopts the WADA, ICF Anti-Doping rules and/or national equivalent, and then the anti-doping rules apply to you, regardless of what level you participate at.

Who can be tested? *"Any UK and non-UK athlete staying, training, residing, entering a competition, or named as a member of a team participating in a competition, at any level within the UK, is eligible for testing as part of UKAD's national anti-doping programme."* - UKAD website.

Consequently, the Anti-Doping rules apply to all participants entering the World Surf Kayak Championships being hosted by CANI in the UK.

All athletes need to be aware of the principle of strict liability. This means that all athletes are solely responsible for any banned substance they use, attempt to use, or that is found in their system, regardless of how it got there and whether or not they had an intention to cheat.

We sought advice on how to apply the rules for the Surf Kayak World Championships.

Consideration was given to several factors relevant to our sport:

- The amateur status of surf kayak athletes, compared to professional Olympic athletes;
- The relatively small number of surf participants and events within the Canoe/Kayak disciplines;
- Little or no known record or evidence of doping within surf kayaking at previous Worlds;
- For many, the motivation to attend the Worlds is as much about like-minded people collecting together every two years to share their interest, skills and passion for the sport, as it is about winning. This is with the greatest of respect to those athletes who train hard to compete for a title or their absolute best performance;
- Lack of funds for extra resource, lack of prize money, relatively low profile of published results;
- The open nature of the skill to select and surf a wave is probably less likely to be affected by use of a banned substance than, for example, in a pure power sport.
- We are advised that the cost of carrying out testing at the event would be £600 per test.

None of these guarantee an athlete will not cheat. We need to apply an appropriate and proportionate response for our sport.

Following the advice received, the outcomes are as follows:

1. WSKA and CANI confirm the event is subject to British Canoeing Anti-Doping policy and rules.
2. WSKA / CANI will support the policy by increasing awareness and education.
3. CANI is notifying UKAD that they are hosting the event for WSKA in the UK. We acknowledge UKAD are entitled to come and test if they wish.
4. The event will be supported by the Sport NI lead for Anti-Doping, who will be in attendance to provide educational materials and to answer any questions athletes or supports may have.
5. We have taken and will continue to take the approach that athletes attending the competition are clean and are not taking performance enhancing drugs and are adhering to the WADA Code and rules.

Ashley Hunter, CANI, and John Watson, WSKA, with thanks to Sport NI and British Canoeing for advice.

For more information:



100% me – Supporting Athletes to be Clean

100% me is UK Anti-Doping's education programme for athletes that provides information resources, education sessions and general advice to athletes throughout their sporting careers. Find out about 100% me in the dedicated **Athlete Zone of the UKAD website.**

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/competition/anti-doping-1/>

<http://www.ukad.org.uk/>

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>

Checking Medication It is crucial that athletes check all medications or drugs are safe and not prohibited to take prior to use. Medications can be checked online via Global DRO

<http://www.globaldro.com>

“Ultimately, we are working for everyone who loves sport – whether competing, training or spectating. Together, we’re creating an environment where all athletes know they can compete in the true spirit of sport.”