



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

OCA Needle Policy & Rules **Applicable to All OCA-Sanctioned Multi-Sport Games**

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) applies a “needle-free” policy during all OCA-sanctioned Multi-Sport Games (OCA Event). The use of needles for the administration of substances or treatments to Athletes is prohibited, except in the following circumstances:

- (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, his/her entourage and each National Olympic Committee (“NOC”) to ensure compliance with this IOC Needle Policy, in particular:

- (ii) any needles, and associated clinical materials, intended for use by members of the NOC’s delegation are stored in a central secured location, access to which is restricted to authorised medical personnel of the NOC’s delegation. Athletes with a valid TUE for the use of insulin, and non-athletes requiring other forms of auto-injection, may keep the appropriate materials with them if safely stored and disposed of in accordance with point (ii) below;
- (iii) all used needles and associated materials (vials, syringes and swabs) are safely disposed of in an appropriate bio-hazards container (e.g. “sharps bin”). If necessary, these may be procured from the Athlete Village Polyclinic.
- (iv) whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the period of the Games (i.e. from the date of the opening of the Athlete Village(s) to and including the date of the Closing Ceremony, a formal declaration using the Injection Declaration Form (“Injection Declaration Form”) shall be duly completed either online here: [Injection Declaration · OCA Injection Declaration](#) or delivered to the Athlete Village Polyclinic for processing by the OCA, in particular its Medical Committee, by no later than noon of the day following such injection. This applies to all injections administered to Athletes on the occasion of the Games.



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- (v) Injection Declaration Forms shall be completed legibly in English or French and include any additional evidence attesting to the need for injection therapy (e.g. imaging or laboratory results). The completed Injection Declaration Form may be submitted after completion either online or on paper and then email it to Antidoping@oca.asia

No Injection Declaration Form is required if the injection has been administered by a medically qualified practitioner from the Asian Games Organizing Committee (AGOC) for the OCA Events, and the injection has been recorded in the medical encounter system. 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 such treatments.

Privacy:

In the event that an Injection Declaration Form is required, the practitioner shall bring the Information Notice to the attention of the Athlete and:

- (i) ensure that the Athlete has read and understood the content of this Information Notice;
- (ii) if deemed necessary by the OCA, collect any further proof that the Athlete has provided the necessary authorisations for the processing of his/her personal data.

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 permitted only when there is a clinically justified reason for such an intervention as determined by the OCA, in particular its Medical Committee. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the OCA, and in particular its Medical Committee.



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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 OCA. Ordinarily, this review will include a meeting with the practitioner(s) involved in the administration of the injection.

Based on the above review, the OCA, and in particular its Medical Committee, shall decide whether an injection shall be considered as justified. Such decision shall be final and binding in respect of the Games and is not subject to a challenge.

Failure to comply with this OCA Needle Policy, including, without limitation, failure to submit a completed Injection Declaration Form or the administration of injections without sufficient medical justification, may constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, or otherwise give rise to Consequences under the OCA Anti-Doping Rules and the applicable provisions of the WADA Code.

Such conduct may expose the Athlete(s), Athlete Support Personnel, the NOC and members of its delegation, as well as any other Person involved, to Consequences in accordance with the OCA Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Code, including those set out in Article 10 of the WADA Code.

These Consequences shall be without prejudice to (i) any other rights or remedies available to the OCA or any other competent body, organisation, or authority, and (ii) any proceedings under the WADA Code and applicable Anti-Doping regulations. In all cases where the circumstances constitute, or may constitute, an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, such matters shall be determined exclusively in accordance with the OCA Anti-Doping Rules, which shall prevail as the *lex specialis*.

Medical Committee

Olympic Council of Asia