



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## **IOC Needle Policy & Rules for the Games of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018**

The Olympic Games are “needle-free” for all participating athletes (“**Athletes**”). 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 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, each NOC must ensure that:

- (i) 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 NOC 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;
- (ii) 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 pharmacy at one of the Olympic Village Polyclinics;
- (iii) whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the period of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games (i.e. from the date of the opening of the Olympic Villages on 1 February 2018 to and including the date of the Closing Ceremony on 25 February 2018), a formal declaration using the attached “Injection Declaration Form” shall be duly completed and forwarded to the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission no later than noon the day following such injection. This applies to all injections administered to Athletes whether they occur in the Olympic Village, elsewhere in the Host Country of the Games or in another country;
- (iv) Injection Declaration Forms shall be completed legibly in English or French and any additional evidence attesting to the need for injection therapy (e.g. imaging, laboratory reports), shall be attached. The completed Injection Declaration Form may be faxed, e-mailed or placed into the Injection Declaration Form box at the Olympic Village Polyclinic.

No Injection Declaration Form is required if the injection has been administered by a medically qualified practitioner from the PyeongChang OCOG 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 these treatments.



### **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 IOC Medical and Scientific Commission. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission.

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 IOC Medical and Scientific 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 IOC Medical and Scientific Commission shall decide whether an injection shall be considered as justified. Such decision shall be final and binding in respect of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018 and is not subject to a challenge.

Failure to respect this IOC Needle Policy, including failure to submit a completed Injection Declaration Form to the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission and the performance of injections without sufficient justification, may expose the Athlete(s), the entourage of the Athlete(s), the NOC and members of its delegation as well as the person(s) having administered the injection to disciplinary action in application of art. 59 of the Olympic Charter. Such disciplinary action is without prejudice to proceedings in accordance with the applicable Anti-Doping Regulations, in the event the circumstances at stake may constitute anti-doping rule violations. In this case, consequences shall be determined in application of the Anti-Doping Regulations applying as *lex specialis*.