



## **Therapeutic Use Exemptions** **Questions & Answers for Footballers**

### **1. Introduction**

In September 2003 the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published the first International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, with the intention of eradicating both accidental and deliberate doping from sport by standardising the process through which players apply to use an otherwise prohibited substance for therapeutic purposes.

As a result of the agreement between WADA and FIFA to implement the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), UEFA is required to introduce a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) process for all international players participating in UEFA competitions.

### **2. What is the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)?**

WADA is an independent organisation that was created on the initiative of the sports movement and governments in 1999. One of its main objectives is to promote the athlete's fundamental right to participate in doping-free sport and thus promote health, fairness and equality for athletes. WADA's major tasks are to harmonise anti-doping rules, regulations and procedures both at national and international level and to develop and assist anti-doping organisations worldwide. In this respect National Anti-Doping Organisations have been created so that an anti-doping programme can be implemented in each country.

### **3. What is a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO)?**

NADO is the state-approved body invested with the authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules and to oversee the collection of samples, manage test results and conduct hearings at national level. If no such body has been appointed by the competent public authorities, the role of NADO is fulfilled by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or a body designated by the NOC.

A list of National Anti-Doping Organisations can be found on the WADA website: [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org) in the Code Acceptance section. In case of doubt, please contact your national football association.

#### **4. What is a therapeutic use exemption (TUE)?**

As a football player, and like everyone else, you may have illnesses or conditions that require you to take medication. If the substance(s) you are required to take happen to be on the Prohibited List, a Therapeutic Use Exemption may allow you to take this medication.

#### **5. What happens if I fail to provide a TUE?**

Under the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and the UEFA TUE procedure, you, as a player, are responsible for providing a TUE. It is therefore of paramount importance that you apply for a TUE before using any prohibited substance.

Failure to submit the appropriate TUE form could result in a doping case and possibly result in disciplinary sanctions being taken against you.

You are responsible for any substance present in your body. You must therefore make sure that your team doctor knows about any substance you have taken whilst not under the supervision of club medical staff.

#### **6. What are the criteria for granting a TUE?**

- The player would experience significant health problems if he or she did not use the prohibited substance or method.
- Therapeutic use of the substance will not significantly enhance the player's performance.
- There is no reasonable therapeutic alternative to the otherwise prohibited substance or method.

#### **7. Who grants therapeutic use exemptions?**

Under the World Anti-Doping Code, WADA has issued an International Standard for the granting of TUEs. The Standard states that all international federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations must have a process in place for players with documented medical conditions to request a TUE and have such request dealt with appropriately by a panel of independent doctors called a Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC).

Through their TUECs, international federations and National Anti-Doping Organisations are responsible for granting or declining such applications. In some countries, national football associations are competent to grant TUEs.

## 8. Where do I make a Therapeutic Use Exemption request?

| <u>I am</u>  | <u>TUE applications addressed to</u>   | <u>Period</u>   | <u>Request made by</u>                  |
|--|--|---|---|
| a national player participating in domestic competitions only.<br><b>NB: this includes friendly matches abroad.</b>                              | my National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) or competent public authority, or to my association if applicable. | Entire domestic season  | Me (player) and my club doctor          |
| an international player called up by my association to participate in UEFA <b>national team</b> competitions and international friendly matches. | UEFA   | Period I am on duty with my national team (from arrival for pre-match training to departure after the match).   | Me (player) and my national team doctor |
| an international players participating in UEFA <b>club</b> competitions.   | UEFA   | Duration of my team's involvement in UEFA club competitions. <b>NB: when my club is no longer involved in UEFA competitions, any new applications must be addressed to my NADO.</b> | Me (player) and my club doctor          |
| an international player called up by my association to participate in FIFA competitions (i.e. 2006 World Cup qualifiers).                        | FIFA   | Period I am on duty with my national team (from arrival for pre-match training to departure after the match).   | Me (palyer) and my national team doctor |

You must not apply for a TUE to more than one organisation at a time. Your application must be sent to the authority which applies to your status as a player, based on the criteria in the table above. Do not send your application to WADA.

**9. Do I have to apply to UEFA if I already have a valid TUE from FIFA, my NADO, competent public authority or, if applicable, my football association?**

No. According to article 15.4 of the WADA Code regarding mutual recognition, TUEs shall be recognised and respected by all other anti-doping organisations provided that they comply with the International Standard for TUE.

However, if you are playing in a UEFA competition, you have to make sure that a copy of the TUE from your NADO is sent to UEFA in its original language together with an English, French or German translation for registration.

**10. Do I have to apply to FIFA, my NADO, competent public authority or, if applicable, my football association, if I already have a TUE from UEFA?**

No. The same provision as above applies.

When issuing a TUE, and provided that UEFA has all the contact details, it will send the original to you the player, and a confidential copy to your team doctor, your football association, FIFA, your National Anti-Doping Organisation and WADA.

**11. What is the difference between an abbreviated TUE and a standard TUE?**

| <b>Abbreviated TUE</b>  | <b>Standard TUE</b>  |
|---|--|
| Only for glucocorticosteroids by non-systemic routes (applied locally) and for beta-2 agonists (formoterol, salbutamol, salmeterol and terbutaline) by inhalation. Dermatological glucocorticosteroids do NOT require a TUE any more. | For any treatment involving a substance or method on the Prohibited List that is not admissible for an abbreviated TUE.  |
| Use the abbreviated TUE form.   | Use the standard TUE form.   |
| Granted automatically upon receipt of the completed application by the relevant organisation. NB: a check by the TUEC may be carried out at any time during the duration of the TUE.  | Will be examined by the TUEC.  |
| You can begin treatment as soon as the form has been received by the relevant organisation.   | If approved, you can begin treatment only once you have received the authorisation notice from the relevant organisation (except in rare cases of an acute life-threatening condition for which retroactive approval may be considered). |

## **12. How can I apply to UEFA for a TUE ?**

The process is fairly simple. You must complete a UEFA TUE form by:

- asking your team doctor for a copy, downloading it from the UEFA website: [www.uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com) (Anti-Doping Section) or requesting a copy from the UEFA Anti-Doping Unit ([Anti-Doping@uefa.ch](mailto:Anti-Doping@uefa.ch));
- getting your doctor to fill in the form and providing the required supporting documentation, personally signing the form and returning it to UEFA on confidential fax number **+41 22 990 31 31**.

## **13. Tips for making a TUE application**

- Make sure you choose the correct form (standard or abbreviated, as applicable).
- Fill in the form in print (by using a typewriter or writing in block letters). If the form is not legible, it will be considered incomplete and will be returned to the applicant.
- When faxing the form, make sure you include all the required documentation and keep the request as well as a record of the transmission or acknowledgement of receipt.

## **14. Why do I have to submit a TUE application at least 21 days before the start of the competition?**

This notice period of 21 days is fixed in the WADA International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions. A time limit was fixed to give the anti-doping organisations enough time to process and examine all TUEs before the start of a competition or event and to ensure that they are in possession of all the TUEs for athletes competing in their event.

TUE applications submitted within this deadline will generally be standard TUEs, since they are generally granted for health conditions that are already known about well in advance of the start of a competition. They could also be abbreviated TUEs for illnesses such as chronic asthma or pollen allergy, which again are conditions known about in advance.

However, exceptions can be made to this rule, as explained in the next two questions.

## **15. What happens if I need emergency treatment prior to a fixture?**

If the prohibited substance or method requires an abbreviated TUE application, approval is granted on receipt. Proof of delivery must be retained (fax receipt or recorded delivery details). A review by the TUEC may be initiated at any time during the duration of the TUE.

As standard TUE applications should only be submitted in emergency situations for acute conditions, you should not be competing immediately following the administration of a prohibited substance or method.

Short-term use of a prohibited substance or method to accelerate a player's recovery from an acute condition so that he or she can compete in a fixture would not be grounds for granting a TUE.

**16. What happens if I have to undergo emergency treatment and do not have time to submit a TUE in advance?**

You have to submit a TUE application as soon as possible in any case, explaining why you did not have time to submit the application before treatment and providing all the necessary medical evidence to show that your health would be seriously impaired if administration of the prohibited substance or method were withheld in the course of treatment. If the application is accepted, retroactive approval will be given.

**17. What happens if my TUE is granted ?**

TUEs are granted for a specific medication and a defined dosage. They are also granted for a specific period of time and expire. Therefore, you need to comply with all the conditions set out on the TUE application form.

Once you have been given a TUE by UEFA, FIFA, your National Anti-Doping Organisation, or, if applicable, by your football association, it will inform WADA, which will then have the opportunity to review this decision. If the decision does not conform with the International Standard for TUEs, WADA may reverse it and deny your TUE.

**18. What should I do if I am notified of an anti-doping control while using a prohibited substance under a granted TUE?**

When filling in the doping control form, make sure that you declare the substance or medication being used and state that you have been granted a TUE or to whom you faxed/sent an abbreviated TUE application. If you have a copy of the TUE at hand, it is even preferable, but not mandatory, to show it to the anti-doping control officer.

**19. What will happen if the prohibited substance is detected during the analysis?**

When the anti-doping control authority receives the report from the laboratory, an initial check will be made to verify that the TUE is still in force and that the results of the analysis are consistent with the TUE granted (nature of substance, route of administration, dose, time frame of administration, etc.). If the check proves satisfactory, the result of your test will be recorded as negative.

## **20. Will the information on my TUE application remain confidential?**

All information contained in your TUE application will be kept strictly confidential as medical data. The anti-doping organisation's staff and all TUEC members are required to sign confidentiality agreements and if they require advice from other scientific experts on a particular case, your name will not be used when circulating the application outside the TUEC.

## **21. What can I do if WADA reverses the original decision to grant me a TUE?**

You or your granting authority can appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for a final decision. The deadline for appealing to CAS is specified in the regulations of the anti-doping organisation that granted your TUE. If there is no such provision, the procedural rules of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration apply, in particular Rule 49, which provides for a time limit of 21 days from receipt of the decision being appealed against.

## **22. What can I do if my TUE is denied by UEFA?**

If UEFA denies you TUE application, you can make a request to the WADA TUEC (fax number: +1 514 904 4456) within 21 days of notification of the decision for the decision to be reviewed at your own expense. You must provide all of the information given for the first submission (complete file) as well as the initial decision. You may also have to submit additional medical information, if so requested by the WADA TUEC. The appeal procedure does not suspend the first decision, so you are not allowed to use the substance pending WADA's decision. If WADA upholds UEFA's decision not to grant the TUE, you can then appeal to CAS for a final decision. If WADA overturns UEFA's original position and grants the TUE, then UEFA also has the possibility of appealing to CAS for a final decision.

## **23. What can I do if my TUE is denied by my National Anti-Doping Organisation?**

If your National Anti-Doping Organisation rejects your TUE application you can appeal to the independent review body in your country. Details of this body and the time limit for appealing can be found in the rules of your National Anti-Doping Organisation. If the review body grants you the TUE, WADA could appeal against this decision to CAS.

## **24. Where can I find out more about the UEFA Doping Regulations, the List of Prohibited Substances and Therapeutic Use Exemptions?**

You can print out TUE forms, TUE Q&As and the current UEFA Doping Regulations 2004, the 2005 List of Prohibited Substances and the Q&As of the 2005 List of Prohibited Substances from the UEFA website: [www.uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com) (Anti-Doping Section).

You can also find useful information on WADA's website at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org).

You can also contact your National Anti-Doping Organisation.