

# Irish Sports Council's Whereabouts Policy 2009

## Whereabouts Policy

The Irish Sports Council has revised its whereabouts policy to be in line with the 2009 World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing. The Irish Anti-Doping Rules 2009 clearly outlines the whereabouts responsibilities of an athlete who is in the Council's Registered Testing Pool under **Article 5.10 Athlete Whereabouts Requirement**.

The Irish Sports Council will inform each athlete (in writing) on an annual basis if he/she is on the Council's Registered Testing Pool (RTP). This letter will inform an athlete that they are required to return quarterly whereabouts forms to the Council by a stated deadline each quarter.

The Council conducts No Advance Notice Out of Competition testing and the whereabouts form assists the Doping Control Officer to locate athletes who are selected for out of competition testing. The Council can test an athlete at any time or location.

An athlete will receive only **ONE** letter which will be sent one month before the relevant deadline reminding him/her to complete the forthcoming quarterly Whereabouts Filing. The deadlines for receipt of an athlete's whereabouts filings for 2009 are:

| Quarter                              | Return Date                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Quarter One February – March 2009    | January 15 <sup>th</sup> 2009   |
| Quarter Two April – June 2009        | March 15 <sup>th</sup> 2009     |
| Quarter Three July – September 2009  | June 15 <sup>th</sup> 2009      |
| Quarter Four October – December 2009 | September 15 <sup>th</sup> 2009 |

**There will be no second reminder letter and no extensions to deadlines. Failure to return the whereabouts form (Filing Failure) may potentially lead to a Whereabouts Failure.**

## Quarterly Whereabouts Form

An athlete **must** provide the following information on his/her whereabouts form (instructions how to fill out the form are included with the whereabouts form):

- Current mailing address and current residence address
- Times and location of their primary and, if relevant, secondary training locations
- Details of regular activities e.g. work address and schedule information
- Details of when an athlete will be away from their permanent addresses e.g. training camps, holidays including one day trips (Temporary Addresses/Activity)
- Details of all competitions
- One 60-minute time slot per day where they will be available and accessible for testing at a specific location. An update of the 60-minute time slot may be made at any time up until the beginning of the time slot.

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The requirement to provide a daily 60-minute time slot is a new addition to the whereabouts system for 2009. The provision of this information is vital. An athlete must provide a time slot for each day of the quarter and must be **available and accessible** during this nominated time slot. If the Council attempts to test an athlete during the nominated 60-minute time slot and the athlete is not available or accessible it may result in a Missed Test, which could proceed to a Whereabouts Failure.

The Council advises all athletes to keep a copy of all correspondence with the Anti-Doping Unit regarding their whereabouts just in case there is an alleged Whereabouts Failure and these records may be required to assist the athlete's case.

## Whereabouts Failure

The Irish Anti-Doping Rules 2009 Article 5.11 outlines the process the Council will follow in the event of a Whereabouts Failure. A Whereabouts Failure can be either a Filing Failure or a Missed Test.

***Filing Failure*** - If an athlete fails to return his/her quarterly whereabouts filing by the stated deadline this may result in a Filing Failure. The Council will notify the athlete in question in writing and the athlete will have an opportunity to respond to the alleged Filing Failure and may also request an administrative review. If the Council maintains that there was a Filing Failure the athlete will receive a formal Whereabouts Failure notification.

***Missed Test*** – If an athlete fails to be available for *Testing* at the location and time specified in the 60-minute time slot identified in his or her *Whereabouts Filing* for the day in question it may result in a Missed Test. The Council will notify the athlete in question in writing and the athlete will have an opportunity to respond to the alleged Missed Test and may also request an administrative review. If the Council maintains that there was a Filing Failure the athlete will receive a formal Whereabouts Failure notification.

Where it appears that an athlete has committed three Whereabouts Failures within any eighteen-month period, the Council may refer the matter to the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel to be dealt with as an alleged under Article 2.4 of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

Please note that previous warnings regarding return of whereabouts and/or missed tests which arose prior to January 1, 2009 may still be considered under the 2009 Irish Anti-Doping Rules (see Article 19.5) and may be combined with future Whereabouts Failures.

**This information is deliberately concise. For complete information you should refer to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules 2009 Version.**