INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1693

ISU Blood Screening Program

(This ISU Communication cancels and replaces ISU Communication No. 1530 &1662)

A. PURPOSE OF THE ISU BLOOD SCREENING PROGRAM

The Blood Screening Program assists the ISU to establish a basic haematological profile for all Speed Skaters and Short Track Speed Skaters who take part in the ISU Events.

The ISU Blood Screening program is a separate and independent ISU Program and is not subject to the ISU Skater Biological Passport Program (Communication No 1694).

A.1.1 Pre-competition Blood Screening
At designated ISU Events, a blood draw for screening of haematological parameters will be organized by the ISU Medical Advisor or a designated Agency appointed by the ISU and all Skaters entered in the competition, including substitutes, shall have a screening blood test prior to being allowed to participate. Blood drawn for screening of haematological parameters may take place on the days prior to the first competition and/or on the competition days.

A.1.2 Post-competition Blood Screening
A Blood Draw for screening parameters may also be carried out post-competition on any Skater, including those Skaters selected for post-race Anti-Doping Testing.

A. 1.3 Anti-Doping Testing ("A-D Testing") as follow-up of Blood Screening
The post-competition blood draw for screening as per A.1.2 or, if necessary, a second blood draw and/or urine may be taken for repeated blood screening or for A-D Testing for follow-up in accordance with the applicable procedures included in the ISU Anti-Doping Rules and Anti-Doping Procedures and/or with the ISU Skater Biological Passport Program

A.1.4. Every Skater selected to undergo Blood Screening/A-D Testing is obliged to report for and undergo Blood Screening/A-D Testing, even if the Skater has withdrawn from the competition. Failure to do so will be reported to the appointed ISU Official responsible for the Event. Such failure to comply with the procedure will be considered a violation of the ISU Anti-Doping Rules.

A.2 Out-of-competition Testing

Out-of-Competition Testing including A-D Blood Testing may be carried out at any time at any place on Skaters, including suspended Skaters of the ISU Members. This testing will be conducted by a designated Agency, appointed by the ISU or WADA and in accordance with the applicable Result Management procedures included in the ISU Anti-Doping Rules and Anti-Doping Procedures (including when applicable the WADA ABP Operating Guidelines and WADA International Standards).

B. BLOOD SCREENING - PROCEDURES FOR BLOOD DRAW

B.1 The materials for the Blood Draw for screening of haematological parameters shall be of an approved standard, determined by the ISU before the start of the season. The needles must be in sealed and sterile packaging.

B.2 A sample of blood will be taken from a forearm vein by a Blood Collection Officer (BCO) appointed by the ISU Medical Advisor, after the athlete has been sitting for a minimum of 10 minutes. The ISU Medical Advisor may also serve as the BCO.

B.3 Each sample will be given an anonymous code number.

B.4 In the case of refusal by a Skater to give a blood sample for such purpose, the ISU will forbid participation of the Skater in the present and future ISU sanctioned events until such a blood sample has been provided according to the ISU procedures.

B.5 The samples are transported in a sealed transmittal container to a designated laboratory with an appropriate Chain of Custody Form or to the analyzer located on site of the Event.

B. 6. Analysis of the blood screening samples will be carried out using a calibrated haematological analyzer that is capable of measuring various parameters, including haemoglobin (Hb), Hematocrit (Hct), and % reticulocytes (%ret). Further investigation of the samples may be performed including, but not limited to, any of the following: Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin (MCH) Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV), Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration (MCHC), Platelets (PLT), White Blood Cell Count (WBC), Red Blood Cell Count (RBC), determination of ferritin, soluble transferrin receptor, bilirubin, haptoglobin, total protein, erythropoietin receptors, serum EPO level, plasma expanders, oxygen carriers, familial and genetic tests.

B.7. The analysis shall be performed on an analyzer approved by the ISU Medical Commission and may be performed either in a laboratory appointed by the ISU or on site of the Event.

B. 8 The calibration and operation of the analyzer shall be performed by a duly qualified technician.

C. LOGISTICS

C.1 Information to Team Leaders

Information about the location of the Pre-competition blood draw will be available to Team Leaders. A communication will be provided at the Event to notify all teams that a Pre-competition Blood Draw for screening haematological parameters will occur at that Event. It is the responsibility of the Team Leader to notify their team/Skaters of the place and time of the Pre-competition Blood Draw.

C.2 Place of Pre-competition Blood Draw

The location for the Blood Draw will be indicated depending on the logistics of the specific competition venue.

C.3 In addition to the Skater(s) and one team representative, only the following persons may be present in the Blood Drawing room:

- ISU Representative;
- ISU Medical Advisor or in the case of unavailability, another physician approved by the ISU Medical Commission;
- The Skater's medical doctor;
- Technician(s) to assist with collecting and analysing the sample;
- Administration person(s) as necessary.

C.4 After the blood sample has been obtained the Skater will sign a master control sheet prepared by the ISU Medical Advisor or the designated physician to confirm that the Skater's name is linked to a specific barcode.

D. RESULTS MANAGEMENT

D.1. The results of the analysis will be given to the ISU Medical Advisor present at the Event and will be sent by the lab technician, when possible, directly in an electronic form into the ISU Data base in which the results will be organized and stored.

D.2. If a Skater's results from the first Blood Draw for the screening of Hematological Parameters in the opinion of the ISU Medical Adviser present at the Event warrants further investigation a second analysis of the initial blood sample will be performed as soon as possible and by the same procedure. This sample will be analyzed as outlined in B.6.
Pursuant to paragraph A.1.3, the post-competition blood draw for screening as per A.1.2 or, if necessary, a second blood draw and/or urine may be taken for Anti-Doping Testing for follow-up in accordance with the applicable procedures included in the ISU A-D Rules and Procedures and/or in the ISU Skater Biological Passport Program.

D.3 If, on the basis of results of one or more blood analyses, the ISU Medical Advisor, after consultation with a second ISU Medical Advisor, comes to the conclusion that there are abnormal haematological values of a particular Skater, such Skater shall be included into the ISU Skater Biological Passport Program.

E. ADDITIONAL RULES

E.1. Neither the Skater, his/her team or Member may ask to carry out another analysis of a new blood sample.

E. 2. Persons participating or involved in Blood Screening or Anti-Doping Testing are reminded that according to the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules they shall not make any statement regarding specific procedures or results relative to these Blood Screening/Testing activities to the media without prior authorization from the ISU.

F. COSTS

F.1 The Event Organizers are responsible for providing the facility/rooms for the Blood Draws and for assisting in the organization of the necessary number of personnel for blood collection.

F.2 The ISU will be responsible for the other costs including the analysis fees, officials' accommodation and travel costs, and equipment.

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