

CIPS Athlete Commission Recommendation

Out-of-Competition Testing and Whereabouts Requirements

Proposal to Support a Proportionate and Risk-Based Anti-Doping Programme

From: Greig Brown, President – CIPS Athletes Commission

To: CIPS Executive / AIMS / International Testing Agency (ITA)

Subject: Recommendations regarding Out-of-Competition Testing and Whereabouts Requirements

Date: 10/2/26

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide athlete-led recommendations to support the development of an effective, WADA-compliant, and proportionate anti-doping programme within the Confederation Internationale de la Peche Sportive (CIPS), with particular focus on Out-of-Competition (OOC) testing and whereabouts requirements.

The Athletes Commission supports robust anti-doping measures and recognises the importance of protecting clean sport. However, it is essential that CIPS anti-doping policies remain practical and appropriate to the athlete profile and risk factors within the sport of angling.

2. Background and Challenges Specific to Angling

CIPS athletes differ from many professionalised sports in that the majority are not full-time professional athletes. Most are in full-time employment and may be required to travel at short notice due to work commitments.

Examples of employment profiles common in angling include:

- tradespeople working on changing job sites,
- military personnel,
- fishing guides,
- workers travelling internationally for meetings,
- seasonal workers and contractors.

In addition, qualification for major championships is often uncertain until late in the season due to league promotion/relegation structures and national selection processes. This makes long-term planning of whereabouts information particularly difficult.

CIPS also hosts competition categories for older athletes where year-round whereabouts obligations may be viewed as intrusive or discouraging, leading to reduced participation and athlete retention.

3. Key Principle: Risk-Based and Proportionate Testing

WADA encourages a risk-based and intelligent approach to testing that prioritises athletes and disciplines with higher likelihood of performance impact, incentive, or historical risk.

The Athletes Commission strongly recommends that CIPS adopts a testing pool structure that recognises:

- the non-professional status of many athletes,
- the seasonal and unpredictable nature of competition participation,
- the need to maintain athlete engagement in Masters/Veterans categories,
- and the practical limitations of whereabouts compliance for amateur athletes.

4. Recommended Testing Pool Structure

The Athletes Commission recommends that CIPS adopts a three-tier approach:

A) Registered Testing Pool (RTP) – Limited and High Priority

The RTP should be strictly limited to a small number of athletes considered to present the highest risk or highest competitive impact.

Suggested RTP inclusion criteria:

- reigning World Champions,
- medalists at World Championships,
- top-ranked international athletes (e.g., top 1-3),
- athletes selected through a documented risk assessment, discipline based (carp, distant casting etc)
- athletes returning from anti-doping sanctions (where applicable).

RTP requirements:

- ADAMS registration,
- full whereabouts information,
- daily 60-minute time slot compliance,
- subject to OOC testing at any time.

This ensures that the most relevant elite athletes are subject to the strongest anti-doping oversight.

B) Event-Based Testing Pool (Pre-Event Pool)

For athletes who may qualify for major events but are not consistently competing at the highest international level, CIPS should implement an Event-Based Testing Pool.

Suggested application:

- athletes shortlisted for national teams,
- athletes entering qualification finals,
- athletes ranked within a defined range below RTP level,
- athletes likely to qualify for World Championships.

Suggested timeframe:

- active only for a defined period (e.g., 8–12 weeks) before major events such as World Championships.

Requirements:

- simplified whereabouts or availability reporting,
- ability to update rapidly due to employment travel,
- OOC testing possible during the pre-event window.

This approach is used successfully in many Olympic and non-professional sports and ensures testing remains relevant and targeted without imposing unnecessary year-round burdens.

C) General Athlete Population

The majority of athletes should remain outside any formal whereabouts pool.

Testing approach for general athletes:

- in-competition testing at championships and qualifying events,
- targeted OOC testing only where justified by intelligence, risk indicators, or specific selection criteria.

This maintains deterrence and fairness while ensuring CIPS does not create unrealistic administrative burdens for amateur participants.

5. Recommendation Regarding Masters/ veterans Categories

The Athletes Commission recommends that Masters and Veterans athletes are not automatically placed into RTP or year-round whereabouts systems solely due to participation in age-based World Championship events.

Suggested approach:

- primarily in-competition testing,
- OOC testing only if supported by risk-based assessment or intelligence.

This ensures clean sport while protecting participation and avoiding unnecessary deterrents for older athletes.

6. Athlete Education and Communication

The Athletes Commission recommends that CIPS, supported by ITA/AIMS, implements a clear education programme that ensures athletes understand:

- the purpose of whereabouts systems,
- how to submit and update information in ADAMS,
- how RTP selection is determined,
- how athletes can exit RTP after defined review periods,
- and the consequences of missed tests and filing failures.

Clear communication is essential to maintain athlete trust and ensure compliance.

7. Transparency and Review Mechanisms

To support fairness and reduce confusion, the Athletes Commission recommends:

- publishing clear RTP and event pool selection criteria,
- establishing a defined review period (e.g., quarterly or annually),
- confirming the length of time an athlete remains in the RTP,
- ensuring the process for inclusion/exclusion is documented.

This will support transparency, reduce athlete frustration, and improve compliance.

8. Conclusion

The Athletes Commission fully supports a strong anti-doping programme and recognises the importance of effective OOC testing. However, angling is a unique sport with a large proportion of amateur athletes and unpredictable schedules due to employment and qualification structures.

A proportionate three-tier system (RTP / Event Pool / General Population) provides an effective, WADA-aligned solution that ensures high-risk athletes are properly monitored while protecting the majority of athletes from unnecessary administrative burdens.

The Athletes Commission recommends that CIPS adopts this approach as part of its updated anti-doping policy framework in cooperation with AIMS and the ITA.

Kind regards,

Greig Brown