

# **Categorisation of IWF Member Federations**

## **2026 Operational Guidelines**

## Categorisation of IWF Member Federations

### Introduction

As of the 1 January 2024, the IWF's Member Federations shall be categorised based on the doping risk to the sport and are required to fulfil specific anti-doping requirements for athletes to be eligible to compete at the **IWF World Junior Championships, IWF World Championships** and the **Olympic Games**. The anti-doping requirements applicable for the Olympic Games shall apply exclusively during an Olympic year.

The purpose of the document is to provide an overview of the anti-doping requirements detailed in IWF's Anti-Doping Rules, the criteria used to assess the doping risk and outline the responsibilities of each Member Federation to ensure compliance with the new requirements. In accordance with the IWF Anti-Doping Rules, the International Testing Agency (ITA) is responsible for the categorisation of Member Federations on behalf of the IWF.

### Categorisation of Member Federations

With the introduction of Articles 18.8, 18.9, and 18.10 to the IWF Anti-Doping Rules, Category 'A' and 'B' Member Federations are required to ensure all athletes competing in the IWF World Junior Championships, IWF World Championships, and Olympic Games, known as "**Selected Events**", are tested and educated in line with IWF's updated Anti-Doping Rules. **As an important note, the testing requirements apply ONLY to athletes who are not already in the IWF's Registered Testing Pool.**

The table below shows the anti-doping requirements of the Member Federation based on the category assigned following the IWF's categorisation process:

Member Federation Categorisation	Testing Requirements	Education Requirements
<b>Category A</b>	All affiliated athletes (not in the IWF RTP) competing in a Selected Event must be tested <b>twice (2)</b> out-of-competition <b>by the NADO/RADO</b> in the <b>six (6) months</b> prior to the event with no advance notice.	All affiliated athletes competing in a Selected Event and all coaches and medical professionals participating in the event <b>must complete</b> the WADA ADEL education programme specified by the ITA for each event.
<b>Category B</b>	All affiliated athletes (not in the IWF RTP) competing in a Selected Event must be tested <b>once (1)</b> out-of-competition <b>by the NADO/RADO</b> in the <b>six (6) months</b> prior to the event with no advance notice.	MFs are <b>strongly encouraged</b> to ensure that all athletes competing in a Selected Event and coaches and medical professionals participating in the event complete the WADA ADEL education programme specified by the ITA for each event.
<b>Category C</b>	MFs are encouraged to ensure that all affiliated athletes competing in a Selected Event are subject to testing by the NADO/RADO (no minimum requirement).	MFs are <b>strongly encouraged</b> to ensure that all athletes competing in a Selected Event and coaches and medical professionals participating in the event are subject to anti-doping education programmes before their participation.

## Criteria for the Categorisation of Member Federations

Article 18.8.3 of the IWF Anti-Doping Rules details a non-exhaustive list of criteria by which the ITA will assess the doping risk of each Member Federation. In addition to the criteria described in the IWF Anti-Doping Rules, the ITA has the discretion to consider other matters which may impact the overall doping risk of the Member Federation. Please see below a list of criteria the ITA has established to assess the doping risk of each Member Federation:

1. The performance of the Member Federation at international-level events
  - The performance of the Member Federation at particular international level weightlifting events, including the World Championships, Olympic Games, and Continental Championships.
  - The number of athletes representing the Member Federation at international-level events.
  - Any significant improvements in the performance of athletes associated with the Member Federation.
2. Testing activities on athletes from the Member Federation
  - Analysis of the testing history of athletes competing at international-level weightlifting events.
  - Review of the National Anti-Doping Organisation's testing programme in weightlifting.
  - Limitations with conducting code-compliant testing in a Member Federation's country or region.
  - Compliance by the Member Federation with Article 18.
3. Country Risk Assessment
  - Assessment of the prevalence of political/economic corruption.
  - Analysis of the anti-doping rule violations associated with athletes and athlete support personnel affiliated with the Member Federation.
  - Analysis of the anti-doping rule violations of the country associated with the Member Federation.
4. Confidential human source reporting and other information provided to the ITA
  - Reliable confidential human source reporting to the ITA.
  - Intelligence information provided by other anti-doping organisations, including but not limited to WADA and the National Anti-Doping Organisation of the respective Member Federation.
  - Intelligence information as a result of ITA's investigations.
  - The assessment of athlete biological passport data or relevant analytical results of the athletes affiliated with the Member Federation.
5. Case-by-case assessment of any other matters relating to a particular Member Federation

## Responsibilities of the Member Federations

	Anti-Doping Requirements	Timeframes
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Liaise with the appropriate National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) to identify athletes who are likely to compete at each Selected Event and ensure they are subject to the testing requirements in articles 18.9.3 and 18.9.4 of the IWF Anti-Doping Rules.</li> <li>✓ <b>Category 'A'</b> Member Federations shall ensure that <b>at minimum two (2)</b> no advance notice out-of-competition tests are conducted on their affiliated athletes (<b>not in the IWF RTP</b>) registered to compete in a Selected Event in the <b>six (6) months prior to the event</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b><u>The tests</u></b> conducted on athletes associated with <b><u>Category 'A'</u></b> Member Federations <b><u>must be conducted at least 14 days apart.</u></b></li> <li>✓ <b><u>All tests shall be conducted under the Testing and Results Management authority of the appropriate NADO or RADO.</u></b></li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Category 'B'</b> Member Federations shall ensure that <b>at minimum one (1)</b> no advance notice Out-of-Competition test is conducted on their affiliated athletes (<b>not in the IWF RTP</b>) registered to compete in a Selected Event in the <b>six (6) months prior to the event</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b><u>All tests shall be conducted under the Testing and Results Management Authority of the appropriate NADO or RADO.</u></b></li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ All tests must be conducted in line with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.</li> <li>✓ Testing implemented by the ITA under IWF's Testing Authority does <b>NOT</b> count to meet the above-mentioned minimum testing requirements (see exception below). <b>Only testing conducted by the NADO/RADO is taken into account.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At least six (6) months prior to the Selected event</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Any costs associated with implementing the testing requirements shall be borne by the Member Federation or the NADO.</li> <li>✓ In exceptional circumstances outside of the control of the Member Federation, a Federation may submit a request to IWF/ITA to fulfil the testing requirements (art. 18.9.8) under IWF's Testing Authority. <u>All costs shall be borne by the Member Federation.</u> In order to submit a request, Member Federations must send an email to <a href="mailto:iwf@ita.sport">iwf@ita.sport</a> no later than two (2) months prior to the Selected Event explaining in detail the exceptional circumstances why the athletes cannot be tested under the NADO/RADO's Testing Authority. Only testing activities (under IWF's Testing Authority) pre-approved by the ITA can count towards the minimum testing requirements mentioned above.</li> <li>✓ <b><u>Any athlete who has not been tested according to the minimum criteria above, will be automatically INELIGIBLE to compete in the upcoming Selected Event.</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At least two (2) months prior to the Selected Event</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Category 'A'</b> Member Federations must ensure that all affiliated athletes competing in a Selected Event and all coaches and medical professionals participating in the event complete the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Anti-Doping E-Learning (ADEL) education program(s) specified by the ITA for each event (see page 7-8 for more information on the courses for each event in 2026). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The WADA Anti-Doping E-Learning is available in many languages on the ADEL platform.</li> <li>✓ The ADEL courses are considered valid for 24-months from the time of completion.</li> <li>✓ Persons who have already completed the corresponding ADEL course and are within the 24-month validity period will NOT be required to re-complete the respective course.</li> <li>✓ The Member Federations shall upload the certifications of completion of the ADEL courses for all their athletes, coaches and medical professionals no later 60 days before each Selected Event to the IWF e-entry system. If the Member Federation encounters any issues uploading ADEL education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

certificates to the IWF e-entry system, please send all documents to [weightlifting.education@ita.sport](mailto:weightlifting.education@ita.sport).

- ✓ **Category 'B'** and **Category 'C'** Member Federations are **strongly encouraged** to ensure that all athletes competing in a Selected Event and coaches and medical professionals participating in the event complete the WADA ADEL education programme specified by the ITA for each event, or are otherwise subject to other education programs. This is not a mandatory requirement.
- ✓ **Any athletes from Category 'A' Member Federations who have not completed the required education program will be automatically INELIGIBLE to compete in the ensuing Selected Event.**

## SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION – 2026 EVENTS

EVENT	DATES	MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENTS			MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		
		Cat. A Member Federations	Cat. B Member Federations	Cat. C Member Federations	Cat. A Member Federations	Cat. B Member Federations	Cat. C Member Federations
IWF World Junior Championships 2026	02/05/26 – 08/05/26	<p><b>2 NADO/RADO tests</b> between 2 November 2025 and 1 May 2026</p> <p>The <b>two OOC tests</b> conducted on each Cat. A weightlifter must be collected <b>at least 14 days apart</b></p>	<p><b>1 NADO/RADO test</b> between 2 November 2025 and 1 May 2026</p>	<p>No mandatory minimum requirement</p>	<p><b>Mandatory</b> completion of these ADEL courses:</p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p> <p>MFs shall upload ADEL certificates for all their athletes, coaches and medical professionals to the IWF e-entry system by <b>3 March 2026</b>. If you experience any issues, please send all ADEL certificates to <a href="mailto:weightlifting.education@ita.sport">weightlifting.education@ita.sport</a></p>	<p><b>Strong recommendation</b> to complete these ADEL courses (no mandatory requirement):</p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p>	<p><b>Strong recommendation</b> to complete these ADEL courses (no mandatory requirement):</p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p>

<p><b>IWF World Championships 2026</b></p>	<p>27/10/26 – 08/11/26</p>	<p><b>2 NADO/RADO tests</b> between 27 April and 26 October 2026</p> <p>The <b>two OOC tests</b> conducted on each Cat. A weightlifter must be collected <b>at least 14 days apart</b></p>	<p><b>1 NADO/RADO test</b> between 27 April and 26 October 2026</p>	<p>No mandatory minimum requirement</p>	<p><b>Mandatory completion of these ADEL courses:</b></p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p> <p>MFs shall upload ADEL certificates for all their athletes, coaches and medical professionals to the IWF e-entry system by 28 August 2026. If you experience any issues, please send all ADEL certificates to <a href="mailto:weightlifting.education@ita.sport">weightlifting.education@ita.sport</a></p>	<p><b>Strong recommendation to complete these ADEL courses (no mandatory requirement):</b></p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p>	<p><b>Strong recommendation to complete these ADEL courses (no mandatory requirement):</b></p> <p>For athletes: <a href="#">ADEL International Level Athletes Program</a></p> <p>For coaches: <a href="#">ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program</a></p> <p>For medical professionals: <a href="#">ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program</a></p>
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