



CLEAN TENNIS - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2023

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an account of the anti-doping activities in British tennis during the year 2023. It fulfils the LTA's commitment to report publicly on an annual basis as part of the UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) Assurance Framework.

2023 was the final year of the LTA anti-doping strategy which contains 3 themes: 'Governance & Regulations', 'Clean Tennis - Education & Communications' and 'Intelligence, Investigations & Testing'. An annual implementation plan was in place to coordinate activities to achieve the strategy objectives.

During the year consultation took place with both internal and external stakeholders including the ITIA and UKAD to develop a new Integrity Plan for the period 2024-26.

THE ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

280 tests on British players | 0 ADRVs
250+ people educated | 16 face-2-face workshops
26 players providing whereabouts 365 days a year

GOVERNANCE & REGULATIONS

The LTA, Tennis Scotland and Tennis Wales were formally confirmed as compliant by UKAD with the UK Anti-Doping Assurance Framework during 2023. The framework contains a range of criteria that cover Organisation & Governance, Legal, Education, Communications, Intelligence and Investigations and Testing. In addition, the LTA aims to meet those areas within the framework where UKAD has identified opportunities for governing bodies to go 'above and beyond'.

CLEAN TENNIS - EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

A key part of the UKAD assurance framework is an effective clean sport education programme. Anti-doping education delivery is tailored to a player in accordance with the national anti-doping curriculum.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

All players within the LTA Men's & Women's Programme (MWP) and Performance Scholarship Programme (PSP) completed a bespoke anti-doping e-learning course during the year, with access also provided to all British players with an ATP or WTA ranking.

Clean Tennis workshops were delivered to players at the LTA National Academies in Loughborough and Stirling, at all Regional Player Development Centres and at a number of university tennis programmes.

OUTREACH EVENTS

LTA branded Clean Sport outreach stands were present at the LTA Junior National Championships. Further activity took place in cooperation with the ITIA at ITF World Tennis Tour events hosted by the LTA. Advice cards were included in player entrance packs, information was placed in programmes and informal education workshops were delivered to players, coaches and parents at the events.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activity focussed on targeted messaging to elite players and those in the performance pathway, ensuring that they received regular and relevant information and updates on topics such as whereabouts, testing procedures, meat contamination risks, the prohibited list and medications. This took the form of direct messaging, emails and an online Pro Players Zone.

Wider communication was sent to the Compete category of LTA Advantage members focusing on practical tips related to supplementation risks, checking medications and general clean sport awareness.

TENNIS WALES

Tennis Wales has maintained accreditation with the UKAD framework, working in partnership with the LTA to:

- Provide UKAD training & awareness to players as part of our National Performance Programme,
- Ensure we maintain a Board lead on anti-doping (Lucy Scott) with Exec team support (Chris Lewis, Head of Performance),
- Regularly communicate with Welsh players in relation to changes to the Prohibited List, and
- Promote UKAD on social media channels, including clean sport week and campaigns that protect the integrity of the game.

TENNIS SCOTLAND

Tennis Scotland continues to be fully compliant with the UK National Anti-Doping policy and aligned to the LTA's anti-doping strategy. There has been consistency with the Tennis Scotland Board representative for anti-doping who has developed strong links with the anti-doping working group. Tennis Scotland has identified a member of the team to attend the Coach Educator training. As well as face to face workshops taking place with the SPDC coaches/players and parents, GBNTA players and coaches, NPP junior players, there was also a workshop delivered to the Stirling University players competing in the BUCS National League. Tennis Scotland continues to reach the wider community through its website and communication to the districts as well as using social channels as part of clean sport week where we used key performance players and coaches to spread positive messaging on the importance of clean sport.

INTELLIGENCE, INVESTIGATIONS & TESTING

INTELLIGENCE & INVESTIGATIONS

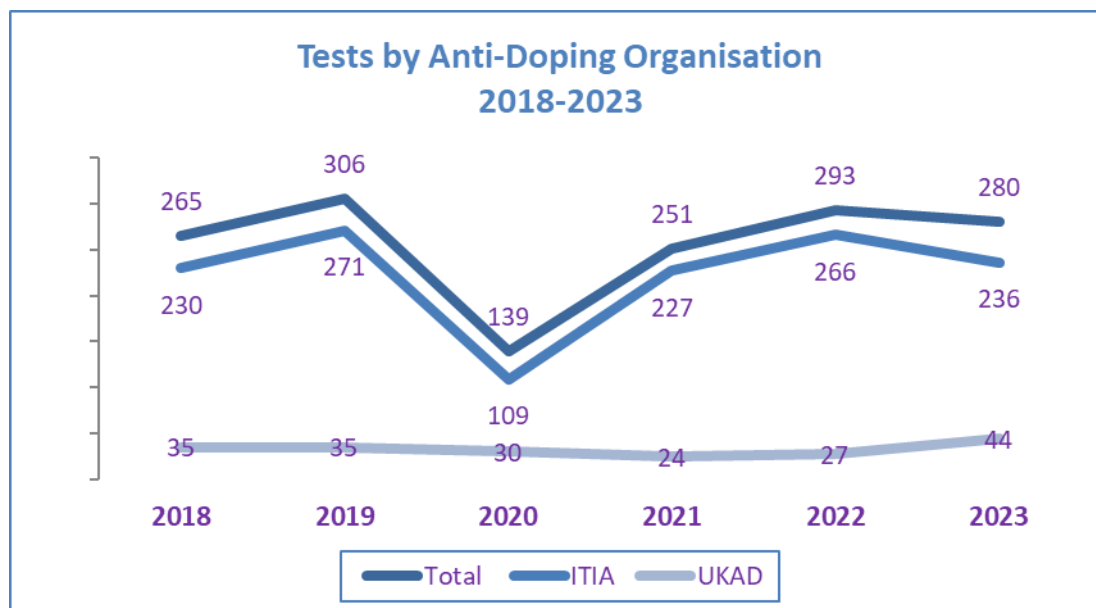
One British player Tara Moore was charged with an anti-doping rule violation by the ITIA following a positive in-competition test in Colombia in April 2022. She was provisionally suspended until the conclusion of her case in December 2023. The independent panel of the ITIA found her to bear no fault of negligence due to the consumption of contaminated meat and imposed no sanction. At the time of writing the case has been appealed by the ITIA to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

TESTING & WHEREABOUTS

British players are routinely tested by various anti-doping organisations including the ITIA, UKAD and other national anti-doping organisations around the world.

During 2023 the LTA committed to boost the number of tests conducted by UKAD through a direct financial contribution for contracted testing, with the specific aim of testing a broader range of players that may otherwise not routinely be tested under the ITIA Tennis Anti-Doping Programme.

As a result the number of tests conducted by UKAD increased, despite the overall tests on British players reducing very slightly. This reduction is due to a reduction in tests on British players by the ITIA. The total is however broadly consistent to previous years, with the exception of those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



WHEREABOUTS

Inclusion in a Testing Pool is primarily based on ranking, with additional flexibility to include players based on a risk analysis at the discretion of the ITF or UKAD.

Registered Testing Pools

Players in a Registered Testing Pool are required to submit whereabouts information for every day of the year. Failure to comply with the requirements on three occasions in a 12-month rolling period can result in a ban from sport of 2 years.

Domestic Testing Pool

To support the additional testing conducted by UKAD the number of players providing some form of whereabouts increased during 2023 as players were added to a domestic testing pool which sits beneath the pre-existing registered testing pools. This domestic pool requires the provision of less information and does not have the same sanctions for non-compliance as the registered testing pools. The LTA provided individual support to these players to comply with their whereabouts requirements.