

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary account of the anti-doping activities in British tennis during the year 2020. The current LTA Anti-Doping Strategy runs for the period 2020-2023 and was developed in consultation with relevant departments across the LTA and with external contributions from UK Anti-Doping (UKAD).

The strategy was approved in May 2020 with the mission to:

*Promote a ‘Clean Tennis’ culture and environment at all levels in British tennis, and to protect the rights of players and their support personnel to play and compete clean.*

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on society, including tennis activity, during 2020 has to be acknowledged. This has inevitably had knock-on implications for the anti-doping programme, particularly on face-to-face education delivery and the testing programme; however significant progress has been made towards achieving the strategy objectives.

## ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS



24 criteria in UKAD Assurance Framework



Online learning modules available to 300 British players



23 British players completed Clean Games education ahead of Tokyo 2020



14 British players in Registered Testing Pools



1 Whereabouts Failure recorded by 3 British players



0 Anti-Doping Rule Violations



139 samples collected



From 35 British players



54% of samples collected out-of-competition

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & REGULATIONS

The focus during 2020, the first year of the LTA anti-doping strategy, was 'Organisational Structure, Governance & Regulations' in order to prioritise full compliance with the UKAD assurance framework for governing bodies. The formal compliance process linked to the framework was understandably delayed due to the effects of COVID-19 and it is expected that this will take place during 2021.

The framework contains criteria covering areas as diverse as organisational structure and governance, player agreements and contracts, education and communications, and testing and investigations. As a result of the work undertaken this year the LTA is well placed to obtain formal confirmation of compliance once this process has been completed by UKAD.

With the launch of the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code, the LTA reviewed its anti-doping regulations blending together the National Anti-Doping Rules and the tennis-specific nature of the ITF Tennis Anti-Doping Programme. Consultation was undertaken with the ITF and UKAD, prior to approval of the regulations by UKAD and the LTA Board in December 2020. The major changes to the WADA Code were communicated directly to all players on the LTA performance pathway from 14U upwards and to those players in anti-doping registered testing pools.

## EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Anti-doping education delivery is tailored to a player in line with the national anti-doping curriculum. A wide range of players are covered by the curriculum from 'competitive' recreational players who only require awareness of limited topics, to high performance players who require detailed knowledge and practical application of a wide range of topics. Topics include players' responsibilities, reporting doping in sport, checking medications, supplement safety, and other practical tools to avoid making mistakes that may lead to an inadvertent doping violation.

The restrictions to tennis activity during 2020 presented challenges to delivering anti-doping education in the traditional face-to-face manner, but has also created opportunities to spread the Clean Tennis message through other channels.

Face-to-face workshops were delivered to all players at the National Academy in Loughborough and to the new players in Stirling by in-house UKAD accredited educators. Those players not in attendance in 2020 completed the online LTA Performance Player Anti-Doping Course.

The existing online e-learning course for elite players was refreshed and updated to incorporate the 2021 Code changes. The Clean Sport module for level 1 Assistant Coaches was also updated to incorporate the 2021 Code changes and to refresh the content.

Workshops were delivered to the 23 long-listed players ahead of the originally scheduled 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games through a series of webinars. Online modules were completed by coaches and other support personnel. These sessions are a requirement of the UKAD Major Games Policy which was agreed with the BOA and BPA.

Communications activity focussed on targeted messaging to elite players and those in the higher levels of the performance pathway during 2020, ensuring that they received relevant information and updates on topics such as whereabouts, changes to testing procedures, the Prohibited List and the major changes to the 2021 Code.

# INTELLIGENCE, INVESTIGATIONS & TESTING

## INTELLIGENCE & INVESTIGATIONS

The LTA supports both UKAD and the ITF with anti-doping intelligence and investigations. There were no anti-doping rule violations committed by British players or support personnel during 2020.

## WHEREABOUTS

There were 14 British players included in the National Registered Testing Pool (run by UKAD) and/or the International Registered Testing Pool (run by the ITF) during 2020. The LTA provides individual support to players ahead of each quarter, and then as required to assist them to comply with the requirements.

Inclusion in the International Registered Testing Pool is primarily based on world ranking, with additional flexibility to include players on a risk analysis at the discretion of the ITF. The National Registered Testing Pool largely mirrors the international pool, with the addition of a small number of high profile British players that fall outside of the ITF criteria.

Inclusion in a registered testing pool requires a player to submit, and then to keep up to date, their whereabouts for every day of the year. This includes their overnight address, competition schedule and a 1hr time period where they must be available for testing. Failure to comply with the requirements on three occasions in a 12-month rolling period can result in a ban from sport.

Three whereabouts failures were recorded during 2020, one by each of three players. Three whereabouts failures by the same player in a 12 month rolling period will constitute an anti-doping violation.

## TESTING

The global coronavirus pandemic created unprecedented challenges for anti-doping testing regimes around the world both in tennis and other sports. Restrictions put in place by governments to minimise the spread of the virus including curfews, travel restrictions, social distancing and the wearing of PPE severely restricted the ability of testing authorities to collect bodily samples whilst also adhering to the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code.

The overall number of samples collected by anti-doping agencies and international federations was significantly reduced when compared to the preceding years. The distribution of tests between in-competition and out-of-competition, and urine and blood sample analysis, remained consistent.

The LTA worked with UKAD during the first national lock-down in Spring/Summer 2020 to put in place protocols that enabled testing to continue at the National Training Centre in a COVID secure environment. The protocols put in place enabled UKAD to test players whilst training and competing at the venue with no advance notice.

## TESTING STATISTICS: 2020

Classification		TOTAL						
		ITF			UKAD			
		Out of Competition	In Competition		Out of Competition	In Competition		
2020	Mens	31	38	69	9	4	13	82
	Womens	14	13	27	3	5	8	35
	Wheelchair Womens Open	0	0	0	3	1	4	4
	Wheelchair Mens Open	6	0	6	1	2	3	9
	Wheelchair Quad	6	1	7	2	0	2	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>139</b>