



IAF Anti-Doping Policy 2020

Introduction

The international sports community is firmly devoted to the anti-doping commitment, as regulated and administered by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The International Aikido Federation (IAF), representing the discipline Aikido - a demonstration sport without having any form of competition, ranking or medaling- also commits itself completely to those objectives and regulations. The IAF will not accept any use or handling of achievement-enhancing drugs or methods defined by WADA as doping. Violations of this will result in sanctions according to the directives of the WADA Code (see <https://www.wada-ama.org/en>). The IAF will also vigorously act on suspicions of such violations, and inform its members of the WADA Code, its implications and considerations in aikido, as well as actions taken by the IAF in relation to it. The IAF will participate emphatically in the struggle against doping in the world of sports. Doping is a violation of the spirit of aikido, as defined by its founder Morihei Ueshiba.

The use of any substance or method listed in the WADA Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods is prohibited also in aikido. The IAF is a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code and will act forcefully to uphold it within the aikido community. The IAF also urgently implores all its member organizations to do the same. Unless a member organization is hindered by national law to do so, it is expected to comply with the WADA Code and the IAF directives regarding doping. The IAF will keep a keen watch over the aikido community in order to quickly and forcefully react to any appearance of doping in aikido. Its member organizations are requested to do the same.

Non-Competition

Due to the nature of most sports, and the present use of doping within them, the World Anti-Doping Code IAF is pleased to realize that there are as of now no doping cases among its practitioners at international level and national level, and that aikido is regarded as a low-risk activity when it comes to doping.

Nonetheless, the IAF is determined to keep a close watch on aikido in regard to doping, so as to be aware of any change or exception to the above. The fact that aikido has been spared of doping habits

in the past is not to be taken as a guarantee for doping not appearing in the future. With a close watch and forceful action, the IAF aims to counter any such tendency, should it appear in the future.

Aikido Events

Although there are no competitions in aikido, the IAF and its members should be aware of three types of events in aikido where practitioners may want to excel, One such event is a Kyu or Dan grading, which is not under the control of the IAF, where the applicant tries to perform aikido with the utmost skill. The second events are seminars, these are Sports-for-all event The third type of events are the Embukai, the Aikido demonstrations in which aikido practitioners show what means Aikido to them. During the Embukai IAF might conduct anti-doping activities (i.e .education and/or Testing. Some of the Practitioners who will take part to the Embukai are considered International Level Athletes as defined by the IAF in the IAF Anti-Doping Regulations.

Although there has not yet been any indication of doping used at events of the abovementioned types, the IAF and its member organizations should keep them under close observation in order to quickly spot any introduction of doping in such cases. the IAF encourages to observe also the dojo practice so to verify that doping practices are kept out of aikido as well as dojo level.

Athletes of multiple sports

Although aikido is at low risk of doping, the IAF and its member organizations should be aware of the possibility that some aikido practitioners who also practice other sports may use doping substances or methods for the purpose of improving their results in those other sports. Certainly, such doping is equally offensive to the IAF. Even in the case where a certain doping substance or method is neither health hazardous nor relevant to aikido, and therefore not a violation according to IAF rules, the IAF respects and supports sanctions against athletes decided by other sports organizations or Anti-Doping Agencies.

Out-of-Competition

The aikido community should be aware of the fact that the World Anti-Doping Code does not foresee only in-competition testing, but also out-of-competition situations, such as regular practice in any sports club, also in seminars and training camps. IAF is currently exempted from conducting out-of-competition testing, however IAF has still the competence and possibility to conduct those Testing, where deemed necessary and in some countries other Anti-Doping Organizations might decide to conduct out-of-competition tests on Practitioners.

Trafficking and Administration of doping

The WADA Code includes regulations about trafficking and administration of doping substances or methods, which are regarded very severely. The IAF agrees completely with the WADA view on such behavior, which is particularly deplorable since it may tempt practitioners to commence doping. If

young practitioners are exposed to such temptations, this is regarded as a particularly deplorable behavior. The IAF and its member nations should take decisive and firm action against any sign of trafficking or administration of doping, as described in the WADA Code.

Doping Lists

WADA keeps an updated list of prohibited substances and methods at its website (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>). The IAF supports the prohibition of those substances and methods.

Sanctions

The WADA Code specifies the sanctions applied, when prohibited substances or methods are used or administered. The standard sanction for an intentionally first-time violation of the rules is four years exclusion from all activities within the sport, if the violation is not intentional the standard is two years. Depending on the violations the sanction can be higher or lower. For repeated offenses, the sanction is eight years to life. The IAF supports the sanction rules of the WADA Code, and the procedures by which to administer them, with the following reservations: Since there is no competition in aikido, athletes may be somewhat unaware that the WADA Code applies also to aikido practitioners.

Decisions as for violations of the doping rules, specified in the IAF Anti-Doping Regulations and WADA Code, during the aikido Embukai organized by the IAF, its Doping Hearing Panel will decide on sanctions and other measures. The IAF member organizations shall honor such decisions, and cooperate to ensure that they are pursued. Regarding the concerns for a fair hearing of the person accused of violating the rules, and regarding possibilities to appeal the decision of the IAF, the rules in the World Anti-Doping Code are to be applied. The IAF cannot decide on any sanction without first giving the accused person opportunity to be heard on the matter.

As for violations of the doping rules during aikido events under the rule of a national member organization of the IAF, the IAF shall be informed of any such decision. As for violations of the doping rules during aikido events under no obvious IAF or member organization supervision or control, the matter may be presented to the IAF for investigation. The IAF will be obliged to find the proper body to handle the case, or to find proper measures where that cannot be decided.

Testing

The IAF has outsourced to administer the limited testing for the IAF Embukai to the International Testing Agency (ITA).

The IAF also encourages its national member organizations to cooperate with local Anti-Doping Agencies, in order to facilitate testing if required of aikido practitioners. At present, the IAF has no indication of doping taking place in aikido at all. The IAF is eager to be informed of tests done on aikido practitioners, and the results thereof, so that the IAF can adjust its policy and actions when needed. The member organizations are requested to inform the IAF promptly of any tests taking place within their organization. The IAF will also promptly inform its member organizations of such

events, especially if there are cases of violation of the WADA prohibited list. Information to ensure doping-free aikido practice all over the world, the IAF recognizes the crucial importance of information. The IAF will produce such information, accurately and promptly, and spread it through the channels at its disposal. It is very important that the member organizations participate in this, to ensure that such information reaches the individual practitioners of aikido. Although the IAF and most of its member organizations have limited means, WADA and the many Anti-Doping Agencies can assist very competently in the effort to keep all aikido practitioners wary of doping, and the terrible damage it does to sports as well as to individual athletes.

Signatory of the WADA Code

The IAF is a committed signatory to the WADA Code since 2009 . The latest revision of the WADA Code 2021 has given the opportunity for the IAF, representing the discipline Aikido, in cooperation with WADA and with the assistance of ITA , to find the right balance for implementing the World Anti-Doping Code for Aikido, a demonstration Sport with its own characteristics and specificity, having no competition.