



***SCOTTISH  
RUGBY***

**ANTI-DOPING REPORT 2024-2025**

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## **1. Foreword**

Scottish Rugby is committed to the fight against doping in sport. Doping is wholly against the integrity of our game and runs counter to Scottish Rugby's core values.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the threat of doping continues to increase, with the prevailing “gym culture” and the increased availability of prohibited substances continuing to provide many challenges.

To counter this threat Scottish Rugby has adopted a three-pronged approach:

- Our Union has adopted clear policies in respect of *Anti-Doping*, the *Use of Supplements* and the taking of *Illicit Substances*. These policies are available on our website and are regularly publicised in our club communication ezine. Additionally, as part of our SCRUMS player registration system, each year players are required to confirm that they are aware of our policies and that they will comply with them.
- Anti-doping education and support is made available to all players and club officials. All professional, semi-professional and representative players receive mandatory anti-doping education. Education is available to clubs at all other levels and via our website. All involved with our game are encouraged to make use of this service.
- Scottish Rugby works hand in hand with UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), World Rugby and other Unions in order to minimise the risk of doping in our game. Scottish Rugby is compliant with the *UKAD Assurance Framework*, under which compliance is assessed annually under the headline areas of Organisation and Governance, Legal, Education, Communication, Intelligence and Investigations and Testing. In addition to the work of dedicated staff members, a nominated Board lead ensures that Anti-Doping is discussed at the highest levels in the organisation. For 2024-25 the Board lead was Hazel Swankie (who has now assumed the role of Vice President) and Hazel has been succeeded in the role by non-Executive Director Cheryl Black. Our thanks go to Hazel for all her work over recent years.

Scottish Rugby recognises the importance of testing to both protect the integrity of our competitions and to act as a deterrent to those tempted to dope. Details of the testing undertaken are provided in this report. One player in Scotland is currently suspended following a positive test.

Finally, whilst doping can affect fair competition, it can also seriously affect the health of those who dope. Intelligence on doping therefore not only protects the integrity of our game but also the health and well-being of those who might be tempted to dope. Scottish Rugby encourages anyone with intelligence as to any potential doping offence to contact UKAD or ourselves, and to work with Scottish Rugby and the relevant authorities to keep rugby clean.

**Graham A Ireland**  
**Head of Regulation**

## 2. Anti-Doping Policy

Scottish Rugby's domestic anti-doping regulation, *SDR 21.1 Anti-Doping*, is built around the dual requirements of the UK Anti-Doping Rules and World Rugby's Anti-Doping Regulation.

Scottish Rugby's Anti-Doping regulation (SDR 21.1) links to the UK Anti-Doping Rules, World Rugby's Anti-Doping Regulation and the WADA Code. Following an open consultation process, SDR 21.1 was amended during April 2025 to incorporate Scottish Rugby's protocol in respect of player's wishing to be regarded as retired from the game for anti-doping purposes. The amended Regulation can be viewed on Scottish Rugby's [website](#).

A variety of anti-doping training materials are also available from the "Regulations" section of the Scottish Rugby website. All involved in rugby are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the relevant rules and regulations.

## 3. Testing Programme

Drug testing in Scottish rugby is carried out on Scottish Rugby's behalf by UKAD, both as part of UKAD's 'public interest' programme and - where appropriate - in accordance with Scottish Rugby's own domestic testing programme. At international and professional level testing is also carried out by World Rugby, including on behalf of the Six Nations and EPCR.

Players at all levels of the game can be tested. Testing can happen at any location and at any time. Increasingly our testing policy has shifted towards an intelligence led basis rather than simple random testing (though we believe that it can be important to achieve a spread of testing across the whole country and across various levels of the game). Testing is routinely conducted after matches, at training and, where appropriate, can take place unannounced at a player's home. Both blood and urine testing is undertaken.

## 4. Test Statistics 2024-25

A total of 254 player tests were undertaken during the period, with 160 of those tests conducted 'out-of-competition' and 94 'in-competition'. During the previous, 2023/24 season, 349 tests were undertaken (with 226 being 'out-of-competition' and 123 'in-competition').

The reduction in testing numbers from the previous year is accounted for mainly being because 2023-24 was a World Cup year (resulting in substantially more World Rugby tests). Historically, the level of testing during 2024-25 was very comparable with the testing undertaken during the 2022-23 season.

The testing undertaken during the period was as follows:

**2024-25 Testing Analysis**

Authority	UKAD		World Rugby		Total	
	2024/25	[2023/24]	2024/25	[2023/24]	2024/25	[2023/24]
Number of tests	164	[177]	90	[172]	254	[349]
Nature of Test:						
<i>In Competition</i>	49	[49]	45	[74]	94	[123]
<i>Out of Comp.</i>	115	[128]	45	[98]	160	[226]
Sample Type:						
<i>Urine</i>	164	[148]	86	[138]	250	[286]
<i>Blood and Urine</i>	0	[29]	4	[34]	4	[63]
Findings: <sup>(Note 1)</sup>						
<i>Adverse</i>	0		0		0	
<i>Atypical</i>	0		0		0	

Note

(1) An “**Adverse**” finding indicates a failed test. An “**Atypical**” finding is not a doping violation but indicates a test result outwith normal parameters, often requiring further medical investigation.

**5. Results Management**

Scottish Rugby has delegated responsibility for results management and the prosecution of charges for Anti-Doping Rule Violations to UKAD. Cases brought by UKAD are heard before the UK *National Anti-Doping Panel* (NADP), the government funded independent tribunal responsible for dealing with Anti-Doping cases.

One player remains suspended in consequence of violations occurring in a previous year. One other player completed a 3 year suspension during 2025. Details of current doping violations are provided in Appendix 1.

**6. Education**

Scottish Rugby recognises the importance of education in establishing an environment which influences doping free behaviour amongst players and minimises the risk of inadvertent doping. Educational resources have been provided on the Scottish Rugby [website](#) to assist players, player support personnel and clubs and to help them make informed choices in compliance with the anti-doping regulations, including:

- Advice on medication, supplements, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, prohibited substances and methods and illicit drugs;
- Advice on rule violations, strict liability and the testing process; and
- Links to World Rugby’s educational resources: [World Rugby – Keep Rugby Clean.](#)

There are also links to all of the relevant regulations, including:

- [World Anti-Doping Code](#)

- [UK Anti-Doping Rules](#)
- [World Rugby Regulation 21 \(Anti-Doping\)](#)
- [Scottish Rugby's Anti-Doping Regulation \(SDR 21.1: Anti-Doping\)](#)
- [Prohibited Substances and Methods 2024](#)

During season 2024/25 Scottish Rugby ran 11 education sessions, with 449 players attending. Anti-doping education sessions were provided across the game as follows:

- **National Squads:** *Clean Sport* education sessions were delivered to all of Scotland's representative squads.
- **Professional Teams:** *Clean Sport* education sessions were delivered to both Scottish professional teams. Players and rugby support staff were also required to complete the World Rugby "*Keep Rugby Clean*" module.
- **Celtic Challenge:** Each Celtic Challenge Team received a *Clean Sport* education session and all Celtic Challenge players and rugby support staff were required to complete the Scottish Rugby "*Clean Sport*" module.
- **Clubs at other levels:** Scottish Rugby requires those involved in the game at Premiership level to complete Scottish Rugby's "*Clean Sport*" module. This is also recommended to all players and support staff competing at all other community league levels. *Clean Sport* messages were sent through the Scottish Rugby's *Club Communications* ezine including during UKAD *Clean Sport Week*.

## 7. Whereabouts

At the present time 25 Scotland senior international players are members of World Rugby's *International Testing Pool*. UKAD operates an additional *Domestic Testing Pool* which currently includes a further 20 players. All of these players are required to provide "whereabouts information" (including the player's home address and club training schedules), in order that they can be available for out-of-competition testing.

World Rugby also operates a Team Testing Pool in respect of Scotland Women and the male and female national Sevens squads.

## 8. Illicit Drugs Policy

Scottish Rugby considers that:

- Illicit Drug use represents a threat to the health and wellbeing of those who participate in rugby;
- through their actions, players and others can influence the lives and behaviours of others; and
- the use of Illicit Drugs can bring the sport into disrepute.

Scottish Rugby operates a specific Illicit Drugs Regulation (*SDR 21.2: Illicit Drugs*) with a view to protecting the health and wellbeing of players and protecting the image of the game. All those under the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby are required to comply with SDR 21.2.

Under this Regulation primary responsibility for the health and wellbeing of each player lies with the individual player. Whilst Anti-Doping offences remain sanctionable under SDR 21.1 (*Anti-Doping*), where

appropriate additional out-of-competition testing may be undertaken in relation to certain Illicit Drugs. Illicit Drug offences will be sanctioned in accordance with SDR 21.2 (*Illicit Drugs*).

## 9. Reporting a Concern

Intelligence is a crucial element in the process of preventing doping in sport. Since 2016, nearly half of all UKAD Anti-Doping Rule Violations and two-thirds of doping violations within Scottish Rugby have been identified as a result of intelligence received.

If you are concerned that doping may be taking place you can share your concerns, in confidence, with UKAD by calling 08000 32 23 32, emailing [pys@reportdoping.com](mailto:pys@reportdoping.com) or by reporting on-line at <https://forms.theiline.co.uk/ukad> . Alternatively, please contact Scottish Rugby's Anti-Doping Officer, Richard McGhee (E: [richard.mcghee@sru.org.uk](mailto:richard.mcghee@sru.org.uk) T: 07764 178961).

## Appendix 1: Anti-Doping Rule Violations

The following Scottish Rugby Union players are currently under suspension in relation to anti-doping offences:

Season	Name	Club	Violation	Sanction
2018/19	Darren Eales	Preston Lodge RFC	Presence of a Prohibited Substance (Stanozolol - steroid). (Second ADRV)	<b>8 years</b> (from 23/02/19 to 22/2/27)

*For full details of the anti-doping offences please refer to the Rule Violation section of the UKAD website.*

## Appendix 2: Useful Contacts

### 1. Scottish Rugby

Position	Name	Email	Telephone
Anti-Doping Officer	Richard McGhee	richard.mcghee@sru.org.uk	07764 178961
Chief Medical Officer	Dr David Pugh	david.pugh@sru.org.uk	0131 346 5152
Anti-Doping Education	Richard Wood	richard.wood@sru.org.uk	0131 346 5019

### 2. UKAD

Report Doping in Sport: Telephone 08000 32 23 32, email [pys@reportdoping.com](mailto:pys@reportdoping.com) or go on-line to <https://forms.theiline.co.uk/ukad>