



Consequences of Doping

Overview

The World Pickleball Federation (WPF) is committed to protecting the integrity of pickleball and promoting fair, clean competition.

Doping undermines the values of sport and can have serious consequences for athletes, coaches, and other members of the pickleball community. These consequences extend beyond competition results and can impact an individual's health, reputation, finances, and ability to participate in sport.

Understanding these risks is an important part of maintaining a clean and ethical sporting environment.

Health Consequences

The use of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) can have significant short-term and long-term impacts on an athlete's physical and mental health.

Depending on the substance, dosage, and duration of use, PEDs may lead to serious medical complications, including:

- Cardiovascular problems
- Hormonal imbalances
- Organ damage
- Reduced immune function
- Long-term neurological effects

Some substances can cause permanent damage to the body even after use has stopped.

In addition to physical risks, research has shown that the use of certain performance-enhancing substances may contribute to mental health concerns, including:

- Anxiety
- Mood disorders
- Aggressive behavior
- Obsessive or compulsive tendencies
- Psychosis in extreme cases

Social and Reputational Consequences

Being associated with doping or an anti-doping rule violation can have a significant impact on an individual's reputation and relationships.

Athletes who violate anti-doping rules may face:

- Damage to their personal and professional reputation
- Loss of trust from fellow athletes, coaches, and fans

- Negative media attention
- Social stigma associated with cheating in sport

Within the pickleball community, which values sportsmanship and integrity, doping violations can permanently affect how an athlete or coach is viewed by peers and organizations.

Financial Consequences

An Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) can have substantial financial implications.

Consequences may include:

- Loss of prize money
- Requirement to return previously awarded earnings
- Termination of sponsorship agreements
- Loss of endorsement opportunities
- Loss of grants, stipends, or financial support
- Legal or administrative costs associated with disciplinary proceedings

These financial impacts can extend well beyond the period of suspension from competition.

Sport Sanctions

An Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) can lead to disciplinary sanctions that affect an individual's ability to participate in pickleball and other sports.

Sanctions may include:

- Official warnings
- Disqualification of results
- Suspension from competition
- Multi-year bans
- Lifetime ineligibility from sport participation

For athletes, this means being unable to train, compete, or participate in sanctioned pickleball events during the period of suspension.

For coaches, instructors, and other Athlete Support Personnel, a ban may prevent them from:

- Coaching or training athletes
- Working at sanctioned competitions
- Holding official roles within pickleball organizations

Cross-Sport Ineligibility

Individuals who receive a suspension for an anti-doping violation are typically prohibited from participating in any sport governed by organizations that follow the World Anti-Doping Code.

This means that a suspension in pickleball may also prevent the individual from:

- Competing in other organized sports

- Coaching athletes in other sports
- Serving in official roles within sports organizations

Prohibited Association

The World Anti-Doping Code also prohibits athletes from working with certain sanctioned Athlete Support Personnel.

Athletes may not associate professionally with coaches, trainers, physicians, or other support personnel who:

- Are currently serving a doping-related suspension
- Have been criminally convicted in relation to doping
- Have been professionally disciplined for doping-related conduct

A list of individuals who are currently prohibited from working with athletes can be found on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited Association List:

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/world-anti-doping-code/prohibited-association-list>

Legal Consequences

In some countries, doping may also be considered a criminal offense.

Depending on national laws and the nature of the violation, individuals involved in doping activities may face:

- Fines
- Legal penalties
- Community service requirements
- Criminal charges

These consequences are separate from sport-related sanctions and may be enforced by government authorities.

WPF Commitment to Clean Sport

The WPF supports a culture of clean sport in pickleball. Athletes, coaches, and members of the pickleball community are encouraged to educate themselves on anti-doping rules and make informed decisions regarding medications, supplements, and health treatments.

By competing clean and following anti-doping regulations, the pickleball community helps protect the **fairness, integrity, and future growth of the sport**.

If you have any questions, please contact the WPF Anti-Doping Department at AntiDoping@WorldPickleballFederation.org