



Commonwealth Games Federation  
**CGF No Needle Policy**  
**XXI Commonwealth Games**  
**Gold Coast 2018**

The Commonwealth Games are “needle-free” for all participating athletes (“**Athletes**”).

Needles **must not** be used except by:

- (i) medically qualified practitioners for the clinically justified treatment of injury, illness or other medical conditions (for which a valid TUE may be required); or
- (ii) those requiring auto-injection therapy for an established medical condition with a valid TUE, e.g. for insulin dependent diabetes.

It is the responsibility of each Athlete, his/her entourage and each Commonwealth Games Association (“CGA”) to ensure compliance with this CGF No Needle Policy. In particular, each CGA must ensure that:

- I. Any needles, and associated clinical materials, intended for use by members of its delegation are stored in a central secured location, access to which is restricted to authorized medical personnel of the CGA delegation. Athletes with a valid TUE for the use of insulin, and non-athletes requiring other forms of auto-injection may keep appropriate materials with them if safely stored and disposed of in accordance with point (ii) below;
- II. all used needles and associated materials (vials, syringes, and swabs) are safely disposed of in an appropriate bio-hazards container (e.g. “sharps bin”). If necessary, these may be procured from the Athlete Village Polyclinic;
- III. whenever an Athlete receives an injection during the period of the XXI Commonwealth Games (i.e. from the date of the opening of the Athlete Village on 25 March 2018 to and including the date of the closing of the Athlete Village on 18 April 2018), the attached “**Injection Declaration Form**” is duly completed and forwarded to the CGF Medical Commission no later than noon the day following such injection. This applies to all injections administered to Athletes whether they occur in the Athlete Village, elsewhere in the Host Country of the Games or in another country;
- IV. Injection Declaration Forms are completed legibly in English and any additional evidence attesting to the need for injection therapy (e.g. imaging, laboratory reports), are attached. The completed Injection Declaration Form may be, e-mailed to [TUE@thecgf.com](mailto:TUE@thecgf.com) or placed in an envelope addressed to the CGF Medical Commission and place into the Injection Declaration Form box in the Main Medical Clinic Reception.

No Injection Declaration Form is required if the injection has been administered by a medically qualified practitioner from the GOLDDOC 2018 Organising Committee and the injection has been recorded. Acupuncture or the use of dry needling techniques is not considered to be a medical injection and thus an Injection Declaration Form is not required for these treatments.

Failure to respect this CGF No Needle Policy, including failure to submit a completed Injection Declaration Form to the CGF Medical Commission, may expose the Athlete(s), the entourage of the Athlete(s), the CGA and members of its delegation as well as the Person(s) having administered the injection to disciplinary action, additional Testing and sanctions, as determined by the CGF Medical Commission.

### **Medical justification of injections:**

There is no justification for any Athlete (except those with an established clinical condition requiring auto-injection and a valid TUE), a coach or any other non-medically qualified Person to administer an injection. Injections are only permitted when there is a clinically justified reason for such an intervention as determined by the CGF Medical Commission. All completed Injection Declaration Forms will be reviewed by the CGF Medical Commission. Any concerns identified as a result will prompt a review of the rationale and justification for the treatment by a panel of physicians convened by the CGF Medical Commission. Ordinarily this review will include a meeting with the practitioner(s) involved in the administration of the injection.

If there is a dispute as to whether the medical justification of the injection is accepted as normal medical practice (as defined above), the issue may be referred to the Federation Court by the Chairman of the CGF Medical Commission.

If the relevant CGF or International Federation also has rules in place regarding the subject matter dealt with herein, the rules of the relevant CGF or International Federation shall also apply. In the event of any conflict between such rules and the present Policy, during the period of the XXI Commonwealth Games, the Federation Court shall resolve the discrepancy.

### **Needle Safety and Discovery of needles in Athlete Accommodation or other facilities**

Where use of needles has been permitted, GOLDOC has in place procedures regarding their safe disposal using a sharps bin. Athletes and CGA officials are reminded to follow the No-Needle Policy and to use these facilities to avoid any danger to others from needle stick injuries, or misunderstanding regarding the purpose of the needles.

Any athlete, support person, CGA official or other personnel who finds any needles or suspect equipment is required to report the finding immediately to the CGF Medical Commission and to the Anti-Doping Project Manager of the Australian Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) on 0448 277 314, who will arrange for the location to be secured. Do not touch or interfere with any item(s). Remain at a safe distance, keeping the items under observation or securely located until an official from the CGF Medical Commission or ASADA arrives to take command of the location. Equipment that may be considered doping paraphernalia includes any equipment, product, substance or material of any kind which is intended, designed or capable of use in processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing a substance into the body.

In support of the CGF No-Needle Policy and Anti-Doping Standard, the CGF Medical Commission will initiate a thorough investigation into the discovery of suspicious equipment including needles during the Games Period.