

POLICY ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS OF MINORS AND PROTECTED PERSONS

1. The Rules

1.1 Article 7.4.1 of the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code (Code) stipulates that an athlete must be provisionally suspended after an Adverse Analytical Finding or Adverse Passport Finding for a Prohibited Substances or Method that is not a Specified Substance or Specified Method.

1.2 The Code goes on to say at Article 14.3.1 that:

After notice has been provided to the Athlete [...], the identity of any Athlete or other Person who is notified of a potential anti-doping rule violation, the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and nature of the violation involved, and whether the Athlete or other Person is subject to a Provisional Suspension may be Publicly Disclosed by the Anti-Doping Organization with Results Management responsibility.

1.3 Article 7.4.1 of the Code is reflected in Article 7.12.1 of the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (TADP) and at Article 7.12.10 of the TADP it states:

Once a Provisional Suspension had come into effect:

- (a) Where the Player who has been Provisionally Suspended is a Minor, Protected Person¹ or Recreational Athlete, the ITIA may publicly announce the Provisional Suspension if it considers it proportionate to the facts and the circumstances of the case to do so.*
- (b) In all other cases, the ITIA will publicly announce the Provisional Suspension*
- (c) In each case where a Provisional Suspension is publicly announced, it will be made public no earlier than 10 days after the Notice (or subsequent correspondence, if applicable) confirming the imposition of a Provisional Suspension is sent.*

¹ The 2021 Code and the TADP the definition of a Minor and Protected Person are as follows:

Minor: A natural Person under the age of 18

Protected Person: A Player or other natural Person who at the time of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation: (i) has not reached the age of 16; or (ii) has not reached the age of 18 and is not included in any Registered Testing Pool and has never competed in any International Event in an open category; or (iii) for reasons other than age has been determined to lack legal capacity under the applicable national law

2. Policy

- 2.1 This Policy sets out the position of the ITIA regarding the public announcement of a Provisional Suspension that is applied to a Minor or Protected Person.

3. Application of the Policy

- 3.1 The TADP affords the ITIA the discretion as to whether to announce the provisional suspension of players who are Minors, Protected Persons or Recreational Athletes (and indeed any other person under the age of 18).
- 3.2 The ITIA has a duty of care to all players but this is magnified when dealing with players who are under the age of 18. Other issues (including safeguarding and welfare) must be considered in this regard.
- 3.3 Where a discretion exists, the ITIA will weigh up the balance between the player's interests and the interests of the TADP and the public. The ITIA shall use the following framework to guide its decision as to whether to publicly disclose a provisional suspension:
- a. Under 16 years of age – No public disclosure
 - b. 16 and 17 years of age - The ITIA will consider whether to announce a Provisional Suspension according to the individual facts and circumstances of the case, which may include, without limitation, (i) a Player's standing in the professional rankings and participation in adult level Covered Events; (ii) a Player's completion of anti-doping education; (iii) the nature of the alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violation; (iv) a Player's welfare and safeguarding; and (v) whether the integrity of tennis would be undermined by not announcing a Provisional Suspension.
 - c. Aged 18 and over – Public disclosure unless the facts and circumstances specific to the player that are exceptional and require a discretion not to publicise to be exercised e.g. a sensitive medical condition.
 - d. Where a player chooses to announce their provisional suspension the ITIA will consider whether to confirm the provisional suspension or given the circumstances of the individual case to neither confirm nor deny the matter.