



International
Paralympic
Committee

IPC Position Statement on the Use of Catheters in Doping Control

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International Paralympic Committee

Adenauerallee 212-214 Tel. +49 228 2097-200
53113 Bonn, Germany Fax +49 228 2097-209

www.paralympic.org
info@paralympic.org



1. The IPC considers the use of a urinary catheter by an athlete with a need for self-catheterization as ‘personal equipment’. There are potential hazards to using different catheters, such as urethral trauma, infection and/or allergic reactions. Athletes who use urinary catheters for urinary sample collection for anti-doping purposes should supply their own catheter. This is the responsibility of the athlete. It is also the athlete’s responsibility to use a catheter in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
2. The IPC is not responsible for the training of doping control personnel, however, for IPC sanctioned events, the IPC requires all doping control personnel to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code International Standard for Testing and Investigations, Annex B – Modifications for Athletes with Impairments.
3. Due to the variety of brands, models and sizes, it cannot be expected that Organising Committees or doping control authorities will supply catheters that meet the individual requirements of each athlete. In some circumstances, e.g. at the Paralympic Games, the doping control stations may be equipped with a small number of different catheters as a service to the athletes. However the use of the athlete’s own catheter is preferable as noted in section 1.
4. Glycerol and catheters – From 1st January 2018 the World Anti-Doping Agency has removed Glycerol from the Prohibited List because the ability of glycerol to influence athlete performance or testing results has been deemed minimal. Glycerol is used as an antiseptic for storage and lubrication of urethral catheters. In the period of time when Glycerol was a prohibited substance, the IPC was aware of exceptional cases of adverse analytical findings (AAFs) caused by the use of glycerol during self-catheterization in doping control. Athletes may now freely use catheters that contain glycerol and may use glycerol as a lubricant.