

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY

POLICY NO:	RLSS004
POLICY:	SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY
ORIGINAL POLICY:	April 2011
LAST REVIEW DATE:	December 2024
REVIEW DATE:	December 2027

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) is the lead organisation for the sport of lifesaving in the Commonwealth and the Event Owner of the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships.

Lifesaving sport and competition has been an integral part of RLSS training throughout its history, and official Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships have been held since 1991.

RLSS uses sport as a drowning prevention and lifesaving development opportunity that ultimately leads to a reduction in drowning death and injury.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the development and promotion of lifesaving as a sport within RLSS, including actions required to ensure compliance with international procedures and standards.

2. SCOPE AND CONTEXT

This policy covers the planning, preparations and delivery of the RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, Lifesaving ISport and Sport for All Projects and may provide guidance to RLSS members participating in RLSS lifesaving sport activities and events and in the development of their own national policies.

This policy also considers the RLSS belief that there is an opportunity to foster drowning prevention and basic rescue development through a range of lifesaving sport activities that are linked to swimming and water safety education techniques and skills.

The scope of this policy includes RLSS Headquarters staff and volunteers and appointed Hosts of the RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships.

The ILS Anti-Doping Rules apply to the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, each RLSS member, each country and each participant in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships.

This policy addresses in-competition testing at the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships. It is not within the jurisdiction of this policy to address out of competition testing. Out of competition testing is the responsibility of RLSS members and the ILS.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- a) other RLSS policies, including the following.



- Membership Criteria– (membership now in regulations and not a separate policy)-
- RLSS006 Equal Opportunity and Diversity Policy
- RLSS007 Grievance Policy
- RLSS008 Safeguarding Policy for Adults and Children at Risk
- RLSS009 Anti-Harassment Policy
- RLSS014 Risk Management Policy
- RLSS016 Volunteer Management Policy
- RLSS017 Development Assistance Principles Policy
- RLSS018 Complaints Handling Policy
- RLSS022 Privacy and Data Protection Policy
- RLSS026 – Social Media Policy

b) the ILS Anti-Doping Rules at <https://www.ilsf.org/lifesaving-sport/rules/anti-doping>

3. DEFINITIONS

ANTI-DOPING

Anti-doping in this context means to promote and administer within the sport of lifesaving the fight against drugs in sport.

Doping refers to an athlete or team management's use of prohibited drugs or methods to improve training and sporting results.

WADA means the World Anti-Doping Authority at the website link <https://www.wada-ama.org/>

ILS means the International Life Saving Federation – <https://www.ilsf.org/>

ILS Anti-Doping Rules can be found at the website link <https://www.ilsf.org/lifesaving-sport/rules/anti-doping>

SPORT IN GENERAL

Competition is the activity or condition of striving to gain or win something by defeating or establishing superiority over others.

Sport means an activity involving physical exertion and skill that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often undertaken competitively.

Under-age means (of a person) too young to engage legally in a particular activity without legal guardian permission. A person under a certain age—usually the age of majority—which legally demarcates childhood from adulthood. The age of majority depends upon jurisdiction and application, but is generally 18 years.

4. POLICY STATEMENTS

4.1 WORLD AUTHORITY ON LIFESAVING SPORT

- a) RLSS recognises the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) as the world authority on, and the governing body of, Lifesaving Sport.
- b) RLSS adopts all current ILS policies for Lifesaving Sport, in accordance with the RLSS Competition Manual, the ILS Competition Rule Book and World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA) standards for all lifesaving sport and competition.



4.2 COMMONWEALTH LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a) The RLSS, as the owner of the RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, schedules a Championships every two years as an important vehicle to;
 - i engage individuals in the work of RLSS and develop their lifesaving skills,
 - ii enhance the sport of lifesaving through engagement and development,
 - iii increase the comradeship and goodwill among athletes, volunteers and other participants,
 - iv provide a forum to share ideas and knowledge relating to lifesaving and drowning prevention throughout the Commonwealth,
 - v enhance the profile and reputation of RLSS and its lifesaving activities.
- b) The Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships will comprise a minimum of the following events.
 - i Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships
 - ii Lifesaving Sport Development programme
- c) The Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships are a biennial event that is hosted by a RLSS member and sanctioned by both the ILS and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).
- d) In order that the ILS records set and/or broken at Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships can be claimed, RLSS undertakes to conduct Championships in accordance with the ILS procedures, regulations and protocols as detailed in the current edition of the ILS Competition Rules and Handbook which is found at www.ilsf.org
- e) RLSS refers all participants in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships to the RLSS Competition Manual found at www.rlsscommonwealth.org and the ILS Competition Rules and policies found at www.ilsf.org

4.3 ANTI-DOPING

- a) RLSS is committed to the eradication of doping from sport and to protecting clean athletes. Doping can be harmful to an athletes' health, damages the integrity of sport, and is morally and ethically wrong.
- b) RLSS adopts the current ILS Anti-Doping policy and protocols in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) standards for all Lifesaving Sport Competition.
- c) The ILS Anti-Doping Rules, like the Competition Rules, are sport rules governing the conditions under which lifesaving sport is played. *Athletes* and other *Persons* accept these rules as a condition of participation and shall be bound by them.
- d) To be eligible for participation in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, a competitor, as part of the event registration process, must sign the approved Anti-Doping Acknowledgement and Agreement Form as set out in **Appendix 1** to this Policy which has been approved by the RLSS Board of Trustees, in accordance with the ILS Anti-Doping Policy. All forms from under-age applicants must be counter-signed by their legal guardians.
- e) RLSS members must guarantee that all relevant competitors accept the Rules of the ILS, including these ILS Anti-Doping Rules prior to participation in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships.
- f) In conjunction with RLSS, the Local Host Organising Committee shall contract the local Anti-Doping Agency (ADA) to implement and conduct in-competition testing in accordance with RLSSA, ILS and WADA rules and Policies.



- g) It is the responsibility of the Local Host Organising Committee in consultation with the Chief Referee to oversight and monitor the contract.
- h) During competition the Chief Referee must investigate any doping violation reported to them using the serious discipline protocols as outlined in the RLSS Commonwealth Competition Handbook
- i) It is the responsibility of the RLSS, the Local Host Organising Committee and RLSS members to investigate and report any anti-doping rule violations in accordance with ILS and WADA protocols and implement sanctions where necessary.

4.4 DEVELOPMENT OF DROWNING PREVENTION THROUGH SPORT

- a) RLSS believes there is an opportunity to foster drowning prevention and basic rescue development through a range of lifesaving sport activities that are linked to swimming and water safety education techniques and skills.
- b) The introduction of basic lifesaving sport can and often does provide a pathway along which someone can further develop, and maintain, their lifesaving skills.
- c) RLSS contends that there should be ‘a lifesaving sport participatory opportunity for all’ irrespective of ability, accessibility,
- d) RLSS will investigate what actions, programmes, consultation and collaborations are necessary to bring to reality ‘a lifesaving sport participatory opportunity for all’ that directly contributes to drowning prevention development.

5. ACCESS TO THE POLICY

This policy will be available for viewing by any person on RLSS’s website or a copy will be sent upon request.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this Policy, please contact:

The Royal Life Saving Society, Commonwealth Headquarters,
Red Hill House, 227 London Rd,
Worcester WR5 2JG,
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: +44 (0) 1905 958 444

Email: commonwealth@rlss.org.uk

Website: <http://www.rlsscommonwealth.org>

Attention: Deputy Commonwealth President



APPENDIX 1

ANTI-DOPING ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

I, _____ as a participant in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships (an ILS recognised and sanctioned event), hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. I have received and had an opportunity to review this RLSS Policy and the ILS Anti-Doping Rules at the web site link - <https://www.ilsf.org/lifesaving-sport/rules/anti-doping>
2. I acknowledge that I am bound by, and confirm that I shall comply with, all of the provisions of the ILS Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time), the World Anti-Doping Code (the "Code") and the International Standards issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency, as amended from time to time, and published on WADA's website.
3. I consent and agree to the creation of my profile in the WADA Doping Control Clearing House ("ADAMS"), as requested under the Code to which ILS is a Signatory, and/or any other authorized National Anti-Doping Organization's similar system for the sharing of information, and to the entry on my Doping Control, Whereabouts and Therapeutic Use Exemptions related data in such systems.
4. I acknowledge and agree that the ILS have jurisdiction to impose sanctions as provided in the ILS Anti-Doping Rules.
5. I also acknowledge and agree that any dispute arising out of a decision made under the ILS Anti-Doping Rules, after exhaustion of the process expressly provided for in the ILS Anti-Doping Rules, may be appealed exclusively as provided in Article 13 of the ILS Anti-Doping Rules to an appellate body for final and binding arbitration, which in the case of International-Level Athletes is the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
6. I acknowledge and agree that the decisions of the arbitral appellate body referenced above shall be final and enforceable, and that I will not bring any claim, arbitration, lawsuit or litigation in any other court or tribunal.
7. I have read and understand this Acknowledgement and Agreement.

Date

Print Name (Last Name, First Name)

Date of Birth
(Day/Month/Year)

Signature (or, if a minor, signature of
legal guardian)

(Name of legal guardian, if required)

Privacy and Data Protection



"I understand that the information I have provided is necessary for the legitimate interests of RLSS and the proper and safe management of this RLSS activity and for the administration of RLSS. The information is collected in accordance with the RLSS Privacy and Data Protection Policy (available on request or at www.rlsscommonwealth.org.uk).

RLSS may share my information with Championships Organisers and Officials and RLSS members in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Policy and with the appropriate authorities (including anti-doping authorities) necessary for the running of the event and my own health and safety.

RLSS may use my information in any Event Programme and in connection with the publication and retention of event results and records.

RLSS may also use my information to notify me of other events, news, and to offer the provision of services, including by third-party providers, to me. I have the right to opt out of such notifications.

I understand that the RLSS Privacy and Data Protection Policy contains information about how I may access, and request correction of my personal information held by RLSS, or to withdraw from receiving RLSS information or to make a complaint about the handling of my personal information and provides information about how a complaint will be dealt with by RLSS. If the information is not provided, I understand my application for entry may be rejected.

I consent to the use of my data as described above and to it being transferred to countries outside the European Union where you consider it necessary.

Privacy and Data Protection concerns should be directed to the RLSS Operations Manager at Commonwealth@rlss.org.uk"

