



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 2020

COVID-19 AND THE CARIBBEAN SPORT COMMUNITY- STRONGER TOGETHER

The Caribbean Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) is monitoring the current COVID-19 pandemic and its immediate effect on the Caribbean sporting community. To date, seven Caribbean RADO member countries have been directly affected. Those countries have implemented measures to contain the spread of the virus.

The well-being of our athletes, athlete-support personnel and doping control teams is paramount as we take stock of how COVID-19 is affecting the sport industry; even as we attempt to continue the fight against anti-doping in the region.

We are aware that some of our athletes are training in countries that have been adversely affected by the virus. As training continues, so must the Caribbean RADO mandate to ensure a level playing field through doping control. With this in mind, we remain dedicated to our mission of a unified region, committed to clean sport. The Caribbean RADO is working in conjunction with other anti-doping organisations including the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), while adhering to the advice of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and other health authorities to maintain the integrity of the doping control process while ensuring the safety and health of the athletes and Doping Control Officers.

Consequently, below you will find guidance for athletes during this period, as well as improvements to the sample collection process that will aid in protecting both the athlete and doping control teams executing missions under the direction of the Caribbean RADO, an International Sport Federation or Testing Agency.

- Athletes should continue to update their whereabouts information, especially if there is a change in schedule due to COVID-19.
- Caribbean RADO member country athletes training overseas should continue to engage the doping control processes, if required to do so under Letter of Authorisation by a Sample Collection Agency, International Federation or other Anti-Doping Organisation with jurisdiction. Where there are concerns, please state them on the doping control form, and reach out to us at the Caribbean RADO for clarification.



- Where an athlete has tested positive for COVID-19, and may have underlying health challenges, please ensure that you, or your support personnel contact your National Olympic Committee (NOC) or the Caribbean RADO should you be required to take any medication that may be on the prohibited list. All necessary arrangements will be made to ensure the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) process is maintained.
- Athlete education will continue via the Caribbean RADO social media platforms. We will, for the month of April, run weekly Facebook Live information sessions to keep athletes and athlete support personnel updated.
- For all athletes subject to doping control, please note that maximum precautions will be implemented to maintain the safety of the athlete and doping control officers. Specifically:
 - Doping Control Officers (DCOs) will use protective gear, where possible, in executing missions
 - Hand sanitizer and wipes will also be used during the sample collection process
 - Reasonable distance is expected during the sample collection process
 - All DCOs will be screened before being assigned to a mission to ensure, as much as possible, no DCOs with symptoms or underlying risks are conducting missions on behalf of the Caribbean RADO.

Ultimately, we pray God's protection on the entire Caribbean community and for your safety during this season. Where necessary, we will continue to update our sporting community via our website: www.caribbeanrado.com; as well as our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

For more information please contact the Caribbean RADO at 1-246-230-9318 or e-mail us at info@caribbeanrado.com

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Editor's Note: As of March 18, 2020, the seven Caribbean RADO member countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 are Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Guyana, St Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.