

IFF Making reasonable testing attempt instructions

An unsuccessful attempt to test an athlete will not lead to a missed test unless the IFF can demonstrate to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing panel that the DCO made a reasonable attempt to locate the athlete for testing during the timeslot specified.

What constitutes a reasonable attempt to test an athlete cannot be fixed in advance and the only truly universal guideline is that the DCO should use his/her common sense.

General guidelines for DCOs

- DCO needs to ensure that if the athlete is present, he/she will know that a DCO is here to collect a Sample from him/her
- DCO should bear in mind the requirement to avoid insofar as possible giving the Athlete advance notice of Testing that might provide an opportunity for tampering or evasion or other improper conduct.
- A degree of advance notice may however be unavoidable. Example: An athlete may live or train at a location where access is controlled by security personnel who will not permit access to anyone without first speaking to the athlete or (for example) a team official. More examples found in the WADA Guidelines for Implementing an Effective Testing Program 9.2.1.
- If the DCO is unable to locate the Athlete during the timeslot, he/she should complete and submit an Unsuccessful Attempt Form to the IFF as soon as possible, and in any event no more than three working days after the attempt.
- The DCO should provide a detailed account in the Unsuccessful Attempt Report of exactly what he/she did during the timeslot to try to find the Athlete. For example, if the attempt was at the Athlete's home, the DCO should note when and how many times he knocked on the door, where he/she waited in between attempts, etc.). The DCO should specify exactly where he/she went, for how long, what he/she did, who he/she spoke to about where the athlete might be (including the names of the people involved, and what was said.