



DOPING CONTROL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

PREAMBLE

VB 2023 will be held from July 22–30.

In order to be eligible for registration at the event all athletes are required to fill out the Google online form “Vertical Blue 2023 pre-registration”. In particular, they must have answered both the following questions in section 2 of the form with “YES”, or their application for registration will be automatically denied.

- ☐ Do you agree to refrain from use of any performance enhancing substances (PEDs) or doping practices currently banned by WADA/VB, both during the event, and in the entire year preceding the event? (Note, if you fail a doping test then you will be removed from the event with no refund of fees paid, and banned from all VB events for life).
- ☐ Do you agree to VB and AIDA policy regarding doping testing (copies available on request)?

VB POLICY REGARDING DOPING TESTING

1. Athletes must supply their current home (residential) address as part of registration to the event.
2. Athletes must comply with reasonable requests for testing by an official WADA doping officer or AIDA judge, when visited at their home address or any address where they are actively practicing freediving related activities, whether training, competition, or instruction. Such visitations may occur at any time during the time between registration for the event and the end of the event (July 30).
3. Doping testing may be conducted for both urine and blood samples. The PED substances to be tested for include:
 - all substances currently banned by WADA
 - thioamides and other prescribed thyroid suppressants
 - Benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, Valium)
 - beta blockers (BBs) and calcium channel blockers (CCBs)
 - any prescription-only substance that enhances performance in apnea/freediving and for which the athlete does not have a current prescription.
4. The doping test shall be conducted immediately on location (home address/freediving site) according to WADA protocols (if executed by a WADA officer), or according to the protocols for doping test controls during AIDA competitions (if executed by an AIDA Judge). Doping test kits will be handled according to protocol, and sent to an accredited WADA laboratory for immediate analysis.
5. If an athlete refuses to conduct a doping test with the presenting WADA doping officer or AIDA Judge, or fails to present for testing within 24 hours of being contacted, then that athlete will be treated as having failed their

doping test. They will then be removed from the event (with no refund of fees paid) and banned from all VB events for life.

6. For clarity in any potential litigation, the doping officer/AIDA judge may record audio of any communications with the athlete upon presenting themselves and during the testing.
7. If the athlete is not present at their home address or known freediving location when the testing officer presents then they will contact the athlete by the email and/or phone number supplied by the athlete during registration, in order to arrange a time for testing within the following 24 hours. Once contacted, it will be the athlete's responsibility to ensure this follow-up testing occurs within 24 hours.
8. Any athlete who tests positive for any PED in the list detailed in (3) will be immediately removed from the event with no refund of any fees paid, and banned from all VB events for life. Unless there is dispute and/or analysis of the B-sample, the athlete's name will also be disclosed publicly and to the AIDA Technical Committee.
9. Additionally, random baggage searches may be conducted upon arrival on Long Island, by either an AIDA judge, WADA official, or by a member of the Royal Bahamas Police Force accompanied by a staff member of VB. If any known PED is discovered in an athlete's luggage (or in the luggage of their traveling companion) for which none of the traveling party holds a current prescription, then that athlete will be considered by VB as having failed a drug test, and treated as such.