

LEN
ACCREDITED
SPORT SCIENCE &
HIGH-PERFORMANCE
CENTRES
REQUIREMENTS

APRIL 2023

Accreditation by LEN of organizations providing sport science & high-performance services

Aim

- Design and set-up the procedures to do the accreditation of organisations offering sport science & high-performance services (from here onwards named as “lab”) to its stakeholders (i.e. its members’ swimmers/athletes).
- Build a network of accredited labs that is offered to LEN members, where they can find a one-stop shop to carry out testing and monitoring of their athletes.
- Set-up the bases to establish the LEN Innovation Hub

Lab entitlements

Accredited Lab is entitled to:

- LEN accreditation badge
- Dissemination of the badge in their communication channels (T&C may apply)
- Dissemination of the badge by LEN in their communication channels (T&C may apply)
- Be part of the LEN Innovation Hub – A Think Tank facilitating the exchange of common interests, challenges and ideas between LEN key stakeholders and actors (athletes committee, coaching education committee, technical committees) that can be addressed by an innovation-driven approach and/or where an evidence-based recommendation can be produced for LEN leadership to make a decision.

Values and Principles

Values and principles are based on the benchmark carried out in other industries and similar fields (e.g., health & medicine labs, IOC, WADA, etc.) for lab certifications.

Organizations are accredited based on the fulfilment of 3 key pillars:

1. Capacity
2. Quality
3. Integrity

Criteria/Requirements

Key pillars are found in the following set of requirements:

Capacity	Staff training: The staff must be adequately trained and qualified to perform their duties. This includes having the necessary education, skills, and experience to perform their jobs effectively.
	Staff dedication: The lab must have HRs with a % of dedication that is enough to fulfil its mission & vision. A large % of staff must be at least at XX% of dedication (exact % to be discussed at a later stage).
	Facilities: The lab must have adequate facilities to carry out the services offered. This includes having appropriate well-maintained facilities and an appropriate safety plan. Safety & quality of services must be officially and universally accepted / accredited.
	Equipment: The lab must have adequate equipment to carry out the tests offered. This includes having appropriate testing equipment and appropriate safety plan. Adequacy of equipment is essential. Centre must prove that error margins are close to zero.
	Aquatic disciplines: to list the aquatic disciplines the lab can provide services to (swimming – including open water and master swim, artistic swim, water polo, diving, high diving)
	Sport science services: to list the services the lab can provide (e.g., starts biomech, turns biomech, swim stroke biomech, physiology, etc)
	Note: we can drilldown to the tests that are offered.

Quality	<p>Quality management system (QMS): The lab must have a quality management system in place that covers all aspects of laboratory operations, including sample collection, handling, processing, analysis, and reporting of results.</p>
	<p>Standard operating procedures (SOPs): The lab must have written SOPs for all laboratory processes, including sample collection, handling, processing, analysis, and reporting of results. These SOPs should be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.</p>
	<p>Quality control and quality assurance: The laboratory must have a comprehensive quality control and quality assurance program in place to ensure that test results are accurate and reliable. Close to zero margin of error!</p>
	<p>Proficiency testing: The laboratory must participate in proficiency testing programs to demonstrate their ability to produce accurate and reliable results.</p> <p>Note: this is a requirement by several accreditation organisations worldwide in other industries. It is understood that it won't be easy to implement it in our case. To re-evaluate every 1 or 2 years (TBD).</p>
	<p>Customer service: The laboratory must provide excellent customer service to its clients, including timely and accurate reporting of test results, clear communication of test requirements, and responsive communication with clients. LEN to receive the customer data in order to conduct separate / own customer satisfaction research.</p>
	<p>Innovation eco-system: The lab must be part of a vibrant innovation ecosystem (under the triple/quadruple/quintuple helix model) empowering the organisation to deliver cutting-edge services underpinned by state-of-the-art knowledge and technology.</p>
	<p>ISO 17025 accreditation: The laboratory must be accredited to ISO 17025, which is the international standard for testing and calibration laboratories.</p> <p>Note: this is a WADA requirement and it is understood that it won't be easy to implement it in our case.</p>

Integrity	<p>Ethics: The lab must adhere to ethical standards and practices, including confidentiality, informed consent, and the use of appropriate methods for sample collection and handling. Additionally, the lab should provide / prove i) “financial health” (to minimize the risk of it stopping to provide services during its “LEN accreditation” tenure) and ii) no relations with proven corrupt entities.</p>
	<p>Records and documentation (Data Management Plan): The lab must maintain accurate and complete records and documentation of all laboratory processes, including sample collection, handling, processing, analysis, and reporting of results. Moreover, must have a plan to storage data in a safely manner. Process of recovering data must be accurate, fast and efficient.</p>
	<p>Inclusiveness: The service offered and delivered is up to standards to any client / nation, regardless of background. If a centre proves their commitment to DEI in terms of operations and servicing, they may receive a higher rank or be considered as an Elite Centre.</p>