

## **Vladimir Putin May Have Consulted On Doping**

According to a new report on the [Russian doping scandal](#), the leader of International Association of Athletics Federations told a lawyer that he had to cut a deal with Russian president [Vladimir Putin](#). The purported deal was to ensure that nine athletes from Russia who were accused of doping would not compete at the 2013 world championships in Moscow.

The report fully highlights the extent of doping cover-ups and blackmailing of athletes by IAAF officials. It also demonstrates that the IAAF was fully aware of doping by Russian and other athletes but decided to stay quiet. It is widely believed by many that details of the 89-page investigation that was expected to be released by the World Anti-Doping Agency on Thursday would shock the world of athletics again. Written by WADA's first president, Dick Pound, the report says the world governing body of athletics must emphasize on restructuring for ensuring corruption cannot go unchecked. The former WADA Chief wrote the corruption cannot be blamed on a small number of miscreants and went on to add that it was embedded in the organization.

The report says the corruption cannot be ignored or dismissed as attributable to the odd renegade acting himself. This report by Pound comes a day after Associated Press released details from six years of internal emails, notes, and reports of the IAAF that revealed a high level of communication between the IAAF and Russian officials about suspicious test results from Russian athletes, including cover-up plans to hide [doping evidence](#).

The report, in addition to the deal-making friendship forged between Vladimir Putin and then-IAAF president Lamine Diack, disclosed a dramatic increase from \$6 million to \$25 million for Russian rights to televise the 2013 worlds provided by a Russian bank. This report also revealed details about a lawyer who was handpicked by Lamine Diack, the former IAAF President, for handling cases of Russian athletes even though he had little experience with anti-doping measures. All this suggests that there was no way that IAAF Council members, which included the present IAAF President Sebastian Coe, could have been unaware of the extent of doping and non-enforcement of the rules in track.

The report by Pound said Diack explained to IAAF lawyer Huw Roberts that he was in a difficult position that could only be resolved by President Putin of Russia with whom he had struck up a friendship. The report said none of the nine athletes eventually competed in Moscow and their cases were not pursued further by the International Association of Athletics Federations and those delays resulted in the resignation of Roberts in January 2014. Roberts had virtually no control over cases involving Russians by then.

Diack turned over responsibility to his personal lawyer, Habib Cisse, in November 2011 for Russian cases involving biological passport blood tests. The lawyer is presently under investigation by French police for corruption along with Papa Massata Diack, the son of Lamine, who has been banned for life by the IAAF. The report also said Papa Massata and another of Diack's sons, Khalil, had IAAF jobs outside the official framework of the IAAF that set them up to execute all the fraud.