

CAS Imposes New Doping Bans For Russian Athletes

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has rejected the selective [doping](#) punishments imposed by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency in six cases.

The CAS ruled that RUSADA was wrong in imposing bans that were timed in such a way that the results of the six athletes were not annulled and they were allowed to keep major titles. The CAS ruled the IAAF challenged what it felt was a "selective" disqualification of results, submitting that all results achieved by the athletes from the date of their first abnormal sample to the date they accepted a provisional suspension should be disqualified.

The verdict by CAS means Russian race walker [Sergey Kirdyapkin](#) would now lose his Olympic gold medal in the 50km walk. The medal would now go to Australia's Jared Tallent and this will be subjected to ratification by track and field's governing body and the International Olympic Committee. Tallent, after the verdict announced, on Twitter that history has been rewritten and he is now the Olympic Champion. Si Tianfeng of China would move up to silver and Ireland's Rob Heffernan would now get the bronze medal.

Reacting to the verdict, Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said a procedure of returning prize money by athletes who were found guilty of doping should be fixed legally. Mutko said he would summon athletes and ask them to return the money even though the return of prize money is usually voluntary. The sports minister said the CAS verdict will create a new legal precedent that may affect all international athletes.

In an interview, Mutko said the CAS in Lausanne created a new legal precedent and added the matter is that all issues concerning biological passports are very complicated. The Russian Sports Minister said an athlete is monitored for two years and during this period the so-called peaks are registered and they should not exceed the permitted levels and also remarked an athlete used to be responsible for each given peak. Mutko added decision of the CAS makes athletes more vulnerable.

The CAS recently upheld an appeal from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) against six [Russian athletes](#) and the Russian Anti-Doping Agency

(RUSADA). The six Russians in the case are titled field and trackers Sergey Kirdyapkin, Sergey Bakulin, Olga Kaniskina, Valery Borchin, Vladimir Kanaikin, and Yulia Zaripova. It was ruled by the CAS that the results of Kirkyapkin from 20 August 2009 to 15 October 2012 were now disqualified and that covers the London Olympics. Olga Kaniskina stands to lose her silver medal in the 20km walk from the London Olympics and China's Qiejang Shenjie would move up to silver.

Yulia Zaripova would lose gold medal in the 3,000m steeplechase from the 2011 world championships in Daegu and Sergei Bakulin in the 50km walk would lose his gold medal. The gold of Zaripova's gold would go to Tunisia's Habiba Ghribi and Bakulin's medal would now go to fellow Russian Denis Nizhegorodov. The Court of Arbitration for Sport also imposed disqualification on walkers Valery Borchin and Vladimir Kanaikin.