

Russia Apologizes For Sochi Olympics Doping Scandal

Russia's Minister of Sport Vitaly Mutko has acknowledged "serious mistakes have been made" by the sports federation management, athletes, and coaches of Russia.

Mutko said we are very sorry that athletes, who tried to deceive us and the world, were not caught sooner. The Russian sport minister added we are very sorry because Russia is committed to upholding the highest standards in sport and is opposed to anything that threatens the Olympic values. However, Mutko did not admit that the government of Russia had any role in helping athletes dope.

Grigory Rodchenkov, the former director of the Moscow lab, recently described a sophisticated doping scheme in which special agents of the Federal Security Service, the equivalent of FBI, assisted athletes and officials to prevent cheating athletes getting caught. Rodchenkov said FSS officers allegedly worked during the Olympics disguised as doping control officers.

Rodchenkov said he provided a cocktail of [anabolic steroids](#) to athletes that would help them recover more quickly.

The world governing body of athletics, the IAAF, suspended Russia, a track and field powerhouse, following a WADA panel report that found state-sponsored cheating.

In a statement on May 10, the World Anti-Doping Agency said it will immediately probe the new Russian doping allegations, related to the [2014 Sochi Olympic Games](#). WADA said the taped conversations between former RUSADA employee Stepanov and the ex-chief of the Moscow anti-doping center, Grigory Rodchenkov, is a serious issue. WADA must immediately begin to probe the accusations made in the documentary on [doping in Russian sports](#) that was aired on May 8 by CBS, said WADA president Craig Reedie. The president of WADA said the claims made in the program offer real cause for concern, as they contain new allegations regarding attempts to subvert the anti-doping process at the Sochi Games.

In a separate report, the World Anti-Doping Agency said independent testing in Russia had decreased by more than two-thirds in the past year. WADA also imposed suspension

on the anti-doping agency of Kenya and remarked a new law passed there to try to combat performance-enhancing drugs was "a complete mess." The WADA ruling means Kenya could be in danger of exclusion from the Rio Olympics. Hassan Wario, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Sport, said he believes the sticking point was the presence of officials from the Attorney General's office and the National Treasury on the board of Kenya's anti-doping agency. Wario said this was a requirement under Kenyan law.

Wario added WADA is pointing at the legal issues and remarked they highlighted some parts of the act and, based on that, they said unless we get it back exactly the way they sent it to us, we will not be declared compliant.

Meanwhile, the IAAF remarked Kenyan athletes were still eligible to compete nationally and internationally. The world governing body of athletics said the action of WADA is a further reflection of the IAAF's concerns about the level of commitment to anti-doping at the national level in Kenya. Since 2012, forty Kenyan runners have been found guilty of doping and 18 are currently suspended according to the IAAF.