

## **IOC Must Redeem Itself After Rio Failure, Says iNADO**

The 59-member global Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations ([iNADO](#)) said in a strongly-worded statement that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) "lost the anti-doping battle" before August's Olympics began.

The iNADO remarked the IOC can redeem itself in time for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games. The International Olympic Committee resisted calls for a blanket ban on Russians competing in the Rio Games because of the doping record of the country. The IOC however decided to leave decision on participation of individual athletes with their sports federations. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), on the other hand, issued a blanket ban on Russian athletes.

In a statement, iNADO said the International Olympic Committee had ignored its "own calls for harmony and independence" as well as recommendation of the World Anti-Doping Agency of a complete ban on Russians from the Olympics. A three-person IOC panel ratified the individual governing bodies' decisions on who was eligible and more than 270 Russians were cleared to compete at the Rio Olympics. The iNADO went on to compare Russians competing in Rio to the disqualification of Canadian sprinter [Ben Johnson](#) for [doping](#) at Seoul in 1988 after breaking the 100m world record in the final. It remarked this year's Games will be remembered for the participation of athletes served by a Russian system that corrupted clean sport just as the 1988 Seoul Olympics are remembered for Ben Johnson's infamy. The iNADO added in the statement that the IOC, equally disappointing in the eyes of many, chose to associate itself with such a system by failing to reject it categorically.

Joseph de Pencier, chief executive of the global Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations, said the IOC must ensure that the reception of Russian athletes in Pyeongchang is very different than the one in Rio.

The 59-member global Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations said the IOC could redeem itself before the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The group said a starting point will be to recognize the findings of the McLaren report, the WADA-commissioned investigation which revealed the state-sponsored doping, were

well-documented and reliable. It also said the IOC members should cease attacks on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that commissioned the report.

The global Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations said the task of convincing Russia, its athletes and the country's sporting leaders of the cultural change needed was "enormous". It further added anti-doping is not "political" and said it is at the heart of true sport and further commented let the IOC help us hear Russian voices acknowledge that and see Russian decision-makers act on it.

The iNADO added whistleblowers should be encouraged and added the independence of WADA should be strengthened, with the agency given the investigative capacity it requires. It was also suggested by iNADO that Olympic sponsors and broadcasters should "contribute meaningfully" to anti-doping, if only to protect their own substantial investments. It was also suggested that governance in sporting organizations needed to be improved to restore confidence, with public oversight of operations and spending.