

Backtrack By Russia On Doping Admissions

Russia has again decided to open its "Pandora" box of lies a day after admitting to institutional conspiracy by [doping](#) its athletes.

Anna Antseliovich, the acting head of the Russian anti-doping agency (RUSADA), recently admitted that Russia was behind state-sponsored doping but emphasized the Russian President and top officials were unaware of it. *The New York Times* asked Russian officials over several days of interviews whether they still disputed credible evidence of an organized Russian doping program centered on the [2014 Winter Games in Sochi](#) for Russian athletes. The acting head of the Russian anti-doping agency said it was an institutional conspiracy.

On Wednesday, the Russian anti-doping agency said Antseliovich was misquoted and that her words were taken out of context.

The RUSADA statement said RUSADA states that its Acting Director General A.A. Antseliovich has been misquoted and her words were taken out of the context in response to the article published in *'The New York Times'* newspaper. The statement further reads that the Acting Director General pointed out during the conversation between A.A. Antseliovich and the journalist Rebecca Ruiz that Richard McLaren in the second part of his report published on December 9, 2016 no longer used the words 'state-sponsored system of doping' and instead referred to 'institutional conspiracy' thereby excluding potential involvement of the top country officials.

The second and final report of McLaren also detailed a vast, state-sponsored doping cover-up that involved 12 medalists from the Sochi Games. The report said the Russian "institutional conspiracy" involved the Sports Ministry, the national anti-doping agency, and the FSB intelligence service.

The RUSADA statement further reads that Ruiz unfortunately by taking the words out of the context, created an impression that RUSADA management admits to the existence of such institutional conspiracy of doping cover-up in Russia. RUSADA added we would like to stress that RUSADA has no authority to admit to or deny any such fact, since the

investigation of the case is handled by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. The Russian anti-doping agency further said we in addition would like to stress that RUSADA firmly believes that every accused athlete has unalienable right to challenge the accusations.

In response to RUSADA's claims, it was tweeted by *New York Times* reporter Rebecca Ruiz that the newspaper stands by its story and that all quotes in our story today are accurate.

Russian officials have vehemently denied in the past that their country was involved in state-backed doping and cover-ups despite McLaren directly implicating the sports ministry of Russia of overseeing a vast doping conspiracy that involved Russian summer and winter sports athletes.

A report by the New York Times previously detailed Gregory Rodchenkov, the former head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory, had tampered with top Russian athletes' urine samples. It was also revealed that athletes received cocktails of [performance enhancing drugs](#) from Rodchenkov and also described manipulation of doping samples by members of the Federal Security Service in Russia and years of cover-ups involving top athletes using banned substances as ordered by a deputy sports minister.