

## **Calls For Russia To Be Stripped Of 2018 FIFA World Cup Grow Stronger**

The damning second report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren has given critics of Russia another shot to hurt pride of the country in their arms.

The United States Anti-Doping Agency chief executive Travis Tygart remarked no international sporting events should be held in Russia until its anti-[doping program](#) is fully code-compliant and all the individuals who participated in the corruption are held accountable. Tygart was putting his message before FIFA, the world governing body of football, to make a decision of stripping Russia of [2018 FIFA World Cup](#).

The tournament could be moved logistically in 18 months with other countries having stadiums, facilities, and transport networks that could take on such a challenge.

Professor McLaren revealed Russia and its officials put a systemic doping program in place that has undeniably corrupted two editions of the Olympic Games. McLaren used the word "unprecedented" to describe a state-sponsored scheme that took in more than 1,000 athletes across 30 sports, including football. McLaren remarked it was a cover-up that evolved from uncontrolled chaos to an institutionalized and disciplined, medal-winning conspiracy.

The report of McLaren disclosed that there was corruption and doping almost everywhere in Russian sports from blind judokas to clay pigeon shooters and female hockey players who showed up as male. The report also disclosed thousands of pages of frantic email exchanges that revealed state-sponsored doping in Russia. McLaren said Russia 'hijacked' events and 'deceived' sports fans for years along with denying hundreds of athletes their destiny.

McLaren remarked the Russian Olympic team corrupted the London Games 2012 on an unprecedented scale. He added the desire to win medals superseded their collective moral and ethical compass and Olympic values of fair play. The Canadian lawyer added an "institutionalized conspiracy" existed between Russian athletes who worked in tandem with Ministry of Sport officials and the Federal Security Service in a 'systematic and centralized cover-up and manipulation' of doping controls.

McLaren revealed this doping program involved more than 1,000 Russian athletes - including "well-known and elite level" competitors - in 30 summer, winter and Paralympic sports, including football between 2011 and 2015. McLaren found evidence that 78 Russian athletes at London 2012, including 15 medalists, had positive tests hidden by the Moscow laboratory. It was further revealed that dirty samples were swapped with clean urine and then altered by adding salt, sediment, water, or coffee granules so they looked like the positive urine samples. It was also disclosed in the report that officials had clear idea of which athletes would be tested on a particular day and they defrosted clean urine and swapped with dirty samples, with the bottles passed through a mouse hole at the Sochi lab.

McLaren termed the Sochi [doping scandal](#) as a comprehensive strategy that was designed to ensure that Russia, as the host country, was able to win as many medals as possible by allowing its athletes to dope up to and in some cases, through the Games.

Dmitry Svishchev, head of Russia's Curling Federation and also chief of the commission of sports at the Russian parliament, said the report had empty allegations against all of us and there is nothing new in them.