

Coach Of Whistleblower Banned For 10 Years

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has banned Vladimir Mokhnev, former athletics coach of Russian whistleblower Yuliya Stepanova, for a period of ten years because of offenses involving banned substances.

Mokhnev was seen continuing training in a series of documentaries on alleged doping abuse in Russian sports aired by German TV Channel ARD in December 2014 though the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) had dismissed him for life.

The CAS also suspended [Anastasiya Bazdyreva](#), an 800 meters runner, in the same ruling for a period of two years for the use or attempted use by an athlete of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method. The results of Bazdyreva between April 23, 2014 and August 24, 2015 had been disqualified and any prizes, medals and appearance money forfeited.

Bazdyreva was one of four Russian runners and four coaches as alleged by ARD and the program claimed to show footage of her talking about taking [anabolic steroids](#). Bazdyreva's coach Vladimir Kazarin, who has also been accused of cheating, previously threatened to take legal action against ARD.

Tatjana Myazina (800m) and Kristina Ugarova (800m) were also named in findings of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Independent Commission. The two athletes competed in the Olympics and were recommended for sanctioning. The report also made allegations against middle-distance runner Anna Alminova, Svetlana Cherkasova (800m) Aleksey Farsonov (1,500m) and Yekaterina Kupina (800m). These athletes were however not recommended for sanctioning and not expected to face an immediate IAAF ban. The report recommended lifetime bans for Dr. Sergey Nikolaevich Portugalov, Chief of the ARAF Medical Commission; Alexey Melnikov, senior coach and head Russian endurance coach; Vladimir Kazarin, Russian national team 800m coach; Vladimir Mokhnev, Russian endurance coach for 1000m – 3000m; and Viktor Chegin, Russian race walking coach.

In its ruling, the CAS said it was acting as the decision-making authority in place of the All Russia Athletics Federation (ARAF) as it was banned by the world governing body of

athletics last year following widespread allegations of corruption and state-sponsored doping.

In a statement, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said Mokhnev was found to have violated the IAAF rules relating to possession, trafficking and administration of banned substances and/or methods. It was remarked Mokhnev coached a number of elite Russian athletes including Stepanova who went on to expose state-backed doping in Russian sport and fled the country. Stepanova provided evidence to an independent World Anti-Doping Agency after serving a ban for blood passport abnormalities in 2013. This evidence resulted in suspension of Russia by the World governing body of athletics. Russia was also barred from the athletics events at this year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In the past, Jenny Meadows, Britain's leading 800m runner over the past decade, has remarked she would be frustrated if Bazdyreva would compete at the world championships in Beijing. Meadows had also expressed suspicion about Russian 800m runner, Mariya Savinova who won 800m gold at the London Olympics in 2012. Last year, a documentary by ARD revealed footage of her appearing to admit to using the banned steroid [Oxandrolone](#).