

## **Argentina Now Compliant With WADA Code**

The World Anti-Doping Agency has declared Argentina compliant again with its global anti-doping code.

The South American nation had been declared non-compliant because of its national anti-doping agency using non-accredited laboratories for doping tests. According to an announcement by WADA, the national anti-doping agency was previously using non-accredited [laboratories for doping tests](#) but the same has been resolved now.

A statement by WADA said it, following a circular vote of its Foundation Board members, announces that it has removed the Secretaría de Deporte de la República Argentina (Argentinian NADO) from the list of signatories previously deemed non-compliant with the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code.

In November last year, Argentina was put on the list of non-compliant countries along with countries like Andorra, Bolivia, Russia, and Ukraine.

The world governing body of athletics had banned Russia from international track and field competitions after it was alleged by a WADA report that vast system of [state-sponsored doping](#) and cover-ups existed in the country. Decision by the WADA to suspend the Russian Anti-Doping Agency followed decision by the IAAF to ban Russia's track and field athletes from competing in international competition. This means the Moscow laboratory that processed blood and urine samples from athletes of its country has been decertified and the country now has no functioning national anti-doping body to test its athletes in any sport.

WADA's spokesman, Ben Nichols, then explained Andorra and Israel were declared non-compliant after it was deemed they did not have sufficient anti-doping rules in place. Argentina, Bolivia and Ukraine were declared non-compliant for using non-accredited laboratories for their urine and blood sample analysis – this is prohibited under world anti-doping rules. On the other hand, WADA gave four months to Belgium, Brazil, France, Greece, Mexico, and Spain to put their houses in order; these countries were put on a

compliance “watch list”. Belgium, Brazil, France, Greece, Mexico, and Spain were given time until March 18 to come into compliance.

Last month, Israel was removed from the list of countries found to be non-compliant with the world anti-doping code. According to the World Anti-Doping Agency, Israel "drafted and adopted anti-doping rules" in line with the global WADA code.

In another development, German journalist and producer of the film on doping in Russian sports Hajo Seppelt has remarked WADA is under heavy influence from international sports organizations. Seppelt said he would not say that WADA is not clean but he would like to highlight that approximately 50 percent of its money comes from sports federations and the president of WADA is also the vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and he does not think this is the best way to fight doping around the world.

Following the broadcast of Seppelt's film [\*The Doping Secret: How Russia Creates Champions\*](#) that disclosed some hard truths by Vitaliy and Yuliya Stepanov – Russian Whistleblowers, an investigation was opened by WADA into use of performance enhancing drugs by Russian athletes. In January this year, a number of athletes were disqualified by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, including Olympic champions Sergei Kirdyapkin, Valery Borchin and Olga Kaniskina, and a world champion Sergei Bakulin.