

Russian Wrestlers Could Miss Rio Olympics

The wrestling team of Russia may not compete at the Rio Olympics this year after it recorded "tens" of positive doping results, according to an announcement by the head of the Russian Wrestling Federation (WFR).

WFR President Mikhail Mamiashvili remarked multiple [positive doping tests](#) by Russian wrestlers were uncovered by an internal investigation. The head of the Russian Wrestling Federation said there are tens of positive tests in the team and everyone is in a bad condition psychologically. Mamiashvili also commented that wrestlers of the country could now possibly join track-and-field athletes of Russia in being barred from competing at the Olympics in August.

Mamiashvili said 2015 World Cup silver medalist Sergei Semenov and 2014 world championship silver medalist Evgeny Saleev had been caught using Meldonium. The drug, which is used for treating low magnesium levels and diabetes, was banned on January 1 this year by the World Anti-Doping Agency after it was linked to enhanced sporting performance. Russia's four-time world swimming champion Yulia Efimova announced on Monday that her doping samples had tested positive for Meldonium. Efimova added she was not notified by anyone of the inclusion of Meldonium into the WADA's list of substances prohibited from January 1, 2016. The Russian athlete, who is the 2012 Olympic bronze medalist in swimming, has already been once under suspension for doping abuse. She received a ban of 16 months in 2014 after testing positive for a [DHEA](#), a banned substance.

R-Sport news agency recently disclosed around 40 athletes from Russia from more than 10 different sports had tested positive for the drug in the first two months of this year.

Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko recently said he was ready to tender his resignation if asked to do so. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Mutko would remain as the sports minister despite the scandal.

The disclosure came a few hours after four athletes from Russia were exposed as having tested positive for Meldonium, the recently-banned drug. This development further

damaged the efforts of Moscow to overturn a suspension in time for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics starting on August 5. Russia athletes were suspended from competing after the Russian Athletics Federation received suspension from the world governing body of athletics after a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report exposed corruption and endemic cheating in Russian athletics.

Since then, at least 18 Russian male and female sports professionals have tested positive for Meldonium despite a notification released by WADA in October.

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) tried to clean its hands by saying all national sports federations were timely informed about the inclusion of [Meldonium](#) (Mildronate) in the WADA list of substances prohibited for use by athletes. Alexander Kravtsov, the head of the Russian national teams' Training Center, remarked the Russian Anti-Doping Agency had officially and timely notified doctors of all sports federations that Meldonium would be on the list of banned substances starting January 1. Kravtsov added the doctors, considering their official status, had to pass on this information to their teams.