

Russia faces ban from 2016 Olympic Games over doping scandal

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Members of [Russia](#)'s secret service intimidated workers at a drug-testing lab to cover up top athletes' positive results. They impersonated lab engineers during the Winter Olympics in Sochi last year. A lab once destroyed more than 1,400 samples.

Athletes adopted false identities to avoid unexpected testing. Some paid to make doping violations disappear. Others bribed the antidoping authorities to ensure favorable results, and top sports officials routinely submitted bogus urine samples for athletes who were doping.

Those allegations were among hundreds contained in a [report](#) by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Across 323 pages, it implicates athletes, coaches, trainers, doctors and various Russian institutions, laying out what is very likely the most extensive state-sponsored doping program since the notorious East German regime of the 1970s.

In addition to providing a granular look at systematic doping, the group that drafted the report made extraordinary recommendations, including a proposal that Russia be suspended from competition by track and field's governing body and barred from track and field events at next summer's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The report also recommended that the World Anti-Doping Agency impose lifetime bans on five Russian coaches and five athletes, including the gold and bronze medalists in the women's 800 meters at the 2012 London Olympics.

"The Olympic Games in London were, in a sense, sabotaged by the admission of athletes who should have not been competing," the report read.

Read full, original post: [Drugs Pervade Sports in Russia, World Anti-Doping Agency Report Finds](#)