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WADA Accuses More Than 1,000 Russian Athletes of Doping

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A man walks past a sign reading doping control, at the Laura biathlon and cross-country ski center, at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. **Lee Jin-man / AP**

An independent investigation by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has revealed that more than a thousand Russian athletes were connected with the use of performance-enhancing drugs or the concealment of positive urine samples,

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The athletes in question span 30 different sports.

The allegations come as part of a report compiled by Richard McLaren, the lawyer who investigated the case.

Investigators also found evidence that 12 Russian athletes who won medals at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi had substituted their drug test samples.

McLaren's report covers the period of 2011-2015, during which, the investigator claims, a massive operation to cover-up positive drug tests was active in Russia.

The first part of McLaren's report was published in July 2016, and accused officials of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and Russian Sports Ministry of concealing positive drug test results and substituting urine samples during the Olympic Games in Sochi.

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The report also said that athletes used alcohol to make the performance-enhancing drugs more difficult to detect in their urine.

Russia's Investigative Committee has opened a criminal case against Grigory Rodchenkov, the ex-head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory who blew the whistle on the state-sponsored doping program. Rodchenkov, who now lives in the United States, is suspected of distributing performance-enhancing drugs and destroying samples.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

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