

Mutko Removed as Chief Organizer of Russia's 2018 World Cup

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Vitaly Mutko / Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency

Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko has been ordered to step down as head of Russia's 2018 World Cup Organizing Committee by a governmental decree published Thursday.

The former sports minister had been under increasing pressure to step down from the committee after receiving a lifetime ban from the Olympics last month for his role in a state-run doping scheme at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi. Prior to his removal, Mutko was a key figure behind preparations for next year's World Cup in Russia.

Related article: [Embattled Football Chief Mutko Steps Down to Fight Doping Ban](#)

The government order for Mutko to be removed was [published](#) Thursday on the official Russian government legal portal.

No official reason was given for the decision.

Late last month, Mutko temporarily [stepped](#) aside from his role as the head of Russia's Football Union. The decision was welcomed by FIFA as a move "taken in the best interest of the World Cup next summer." ❏

Alexei Sorokin was named the new chairman of the Organizing Committee's supervisory board.

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