

FIFA Inspection Fails to Notice Missing Column at Newly Built Russian Stadium, Deputy Claims

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Mikhail Solunin / TASS

A deputy in one of Russia's 2018 FIFA World Cup host cities has claimed that a latest inspection by the world's footballing body has neglected a missing column at a newly built stadium.

Nizhny Novgorod, a city of 1.3 million people on the Volga River, is one of 11 Russian cities preparing to host the football championship this summer. After a FIFA inspection last month, local officials announced that the city's new stadium would be ready to host test matches in mid-April, the RBC business portal [reported](#).

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“If FIFA representatives counted the columns around the perimeter of the stadium, they would see that there is one column less than in the building plan,” the MBKh news website [cited](#) Nizhny Novgorod legislative assembly deputy Vladimir Bulanov as saying Wednesday.

“They started out on the right track, but nobody knows where the column has gone [...] This is simply ridiculous,” Bulanov, a member of the Communist Party, said.

The local lawmaker added that Nizhny Novgorod Stadium “wouldn’t last a month” after federal authorities hand it over to the city after the end of the World Cup.

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