

Inside the games

Six Moroccan athletes - plus ex-Team GB man Abeyie - in IAAF's latest doping sanction list

- By [Mike Rowbottom](#)
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Six Moroccan athletes are included in a list of 19 new doping cases released by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) that also includes former Great Britain sprinter Tim Abeyie.

Abdellah Dacha, bronze medallist in the 2,000 metres steeplechase at the 2007 IAAF World Youth Championships in Ostrava and fourth two years later in the same Championships in Bressanone, was banned for four years after an out-of-competition test.

The 24-year-old set a 3,000m steeplechase personal best of 8min 28.77secs in 2012

Also banned for four years after refusing to submit to a doping control was 32-year-old Jaouad Zain, who has a marathon personal best from 2015 of 2 hours 16min 56sec.

Othmane El Goumri, who competed at the 2013 and 2015 IAAF World Championships and the 2014 IAAF World Indoor Championships, received a two-year ban following analysis of his Athlete Biological Passport.

Last year, the 24-year-old set personal bests of 3:36.21 for 1500m in Rabat, 7:36.71 for 3,000m in London and 27:46.34 for 10,000m in Eugene.



Abdellah Dacha, centre pictured en route to 2,000 steeplechase bronze at the 2007 World Youth Championships, was among six Moroccan athletes on the latest list of those sanctioned for doping offences ©Getty Images

An in-competition test at this year's Marathon Vert d'Agadir resulted in 36-year-old Mohamed Boufdil being given a two-year suspension.

Jamel Chatbi, the 2009 Mediterranean Games champion, earned a ban for two years and eight months for three whereabouts failures within 12 months.

In March the IAAF named Morocco among five nations for whom the anti-doping situation was viewed as being "very critical" - the others being Ethiopia, Kenya, Ukraine and Belarus.

Five Moroccan athletes - Abdelhadi Labali, Hanane Ouhammadou, Mohcine Cheaouri, Adil Annani and Zakaria Rabah - received doping sanctions from the Royal Moroccan Athletics Federation in October.

Abeyie, 34, ran for Britain at the 2006 European Championships and 2004 and 2006 World Indoor Championships before switching allegiance in 2011 to Ghana, whom he represented at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

He received a four-year ban after an in-competition test at the Kaiserslautern meeting on July 4 last year.

The latest IAAF list also includes two Iranian athletes, Amin Lotfollahi and Mehdi Rostami Mogaddam, both banned for four years after in-competition tests.

<http://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1044835/six-moroccan-athletes-plus-ex-team-gb-abeyie-in-iaafs-latest-doping-sanction-list>

www.post-gazette.com

As Others See It: Russia gets caught cheating, big-time

The McLaren report shows that Russian sports were riddled with doping

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Paul Lachine/Newsart

An editorial from The Washington Post

For millennia, rules have been at the core of athletic competition. They've been broken, but the Olympics still stand for the ideal of human striving on a level playing field.

This is why the newly released report of Richard McLaren's investigation into Russian doping of athletes is so disturbing. The report shows that more than 1,000 Russian athletes competing in summer, winter and paralympic sports were involved in or benefited from cover-ups of positive doping tests in what Mr. McLaren calls a "conspiracy" between 2011 and 2015.

Doping to gain unfair advantage has been a longstanding and serious problem in sport. But the Russians' wholesale and systemic breaking of rules is on a plane of its own.

While his previous report this past summer detailed a clandestine system of covering up doping at the Sochi Olympics in early 2014, the new document shows that state-run doping and cover-up poisoned the London 2012 Summer Olympics, the 2013 Universiade Games, the world track and field championships in 2013, and the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Sochi.

According to the report, 10 medalists in London already have had their prizes stripped; samples of four track-and-field athletes in 2013 were swapped; two female ice hockey players' samples at Sochi appear to have been switched; two athletes who won four Sochi Olympic golds and a female silver-medal winner had samples with "physiologically impossible salt readings"; 12 medal-winning athletes at Sochi had scratches and marks on the inside of urine test bottles, indicating tampering; six winners of 21 Paralympic medals had urine samples tampered with at Sochi.

What's astounding is not only the quantity of rule-breaking but also the system. According to Mr. McLaren, "the summer and winter sports athletes were not acting individually but within an organized infrastructure" that was overseen by the Russian state, including the Ministry of Sport and the Federal Security Service, successor to the Soviet KGB.

The brazen scheme at Sochi that Mr. McLaren exposed this past summer, with a "mousehole" through which dirty urine samples were swapped for clean, was part of what became a "well-oiled systemic cheating scheme." In effect, if any athletes who used drugs to cheat were not protected by various field mechanisms Russia had put in place, they would be shielded from discovery by a "final, fail-safe mechanism" that would transform a positive sample into a negative one. Mr. McLaren reports that more than 500 samples that showed evidence of doping were simply entered into the anti-doping system as negative; well-known and elite athletes had their results "automatically falsified."

The fallout from the McLaren report is not yet complete; more investigations are underway. But the findings underscore that President Vladimir Putin's style is to break rules, whether persecuting dissidents at home or making mischief in Ukraine. Mr. Putin had to know that his own security services were fixing the Olympics. Mr. McLaren has exposed him.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2016/12/15/Russia-gets-caught-cheating-big-time/stories/201612150088>

Deadspin.com

Cycling Mastermind Refuses To Reveal Contents Of Mystery Bag

Patrick Redford



Photo credit: Dan Mullan/[Getty Images](#)

David Brailsford is the general manager and coach of Team Sky, the British giant that is currently as dominant as the Lance Armstrong-era USPS teams were a decade ago, and he's got some explaining to do. Team Sky has taken four of the last five Tours de France, all while maintaining a [militant anti-doping posture](#). However, leaked records from cycling's governing body (the UCI) this summer showed that their two winners, Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome, each received a series of therapeutic use exemptions that allowed them (primarily Wiggins) to legally use drugs that are normally banned. The practice is not outright illegal, but it's discordant with Sky's anti-doping posturing, and it's led to larger questions about the pharmacological legitimacy of Bradley Wiggins's time with the team.

It's been 11 years since Lance Armstrong won his last Tour de France. In the intervening years,... [Read more](#) [Read more](#)

On the final day of the 2011 Criterium du Dauphine, an assistant with British Cycling, Simon Cope, flew from BC headquarters to Geneva to deliver a manilla envelope (in British parlance, a "jiffy bag") to a Team Sky doctor. Cope [claims that he did not know](#) what was in the envelope, despite having to pass through French and British customs. Additionally, Cope and Brailsford then claimed that Cope was headed to France to deliver something to British rider Emma Pooley, not Wiggins. Problem is, [Pooley was off in Spain at the time](#).

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Both Cope and Brailsford insist that the contents of Cope's package were innocent, but the United Kingdom Anti-Doping Agency has opened an investigation. [British parliament has even asked](#) British Cycling about the package, and UCI chief Brian Cookson also called on Team Sky to practice the transparency they ask for and disclose what was in the envelope. [Cycling News reported](#) that the package did not contain the drug that Wiggins had recently obtained a TUE for:

British Cycling sources say that it was not triamcinolone, the corticosteroid given to [Wiggins](#) under a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) to treat hay fever a few weeks later, before the start of the Tour de France. Key witnesses in the case have always claimed they cannot reveal the contents of the Jiffy bag due to the on-going UKAD investigation.

Brailsford has said that he [regrets intensifying the scrutiny](#) around his team this offseason, but the solution here is easy: Tell everyone what was in the bag. If it was nothing, tell the public. Your team doesn't need to have its credentials fished over and over again in the public eye if you simply come clean. Cycling's doping rules are overly restrictive and arcane, but this climate of fear only gets worse when the team that purports to be the purest won't defend themselves.

<http://deadspin.com/cycling-mastermind-refuses-to-reveal-contents-of-myster-1790120244>

Cuarta edición de "Vive Sin Trampas" formará a profesores de Educación Física

15 Diciembre, 2016 17:26

Agencias

Madrid, 15 dic (EFE).- La Agencia Española de Protección de la Salud en el Deporte (AEPSAD) presentó la cuarta edición del proyecto educativo 'Vive Sin Trampas', iniciativa que financiará la UNESCO dentro de su programa de fondos para la eliminación del dopaje y se centrará en la formación de profesores de educación física.

El proyecto, dirigido a fomentar un estilo de vida saludable y prevenir el dopaje entre jóvenes de entre 12 y 18 años, se llevará a cabo en centros educativos del País Vasco, Galicia, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha, Canarias, Andalucía, Comunidad Valenciana, Baleares, Cataluña, Aragón y La Rioja.

Según informó la AEPSAD, 'Vive Sin Trampas 2017' formará en los aspectos básicos de la normativa antidopaje a 720 profesores de centros de educación secundaria de las once comunidades autónomas entre febrero y junio del año próximo. Un profesor de esta asignatura forma a una media de 200 alumnos por año.

Los profesores deberán realizar un curso a distancia que incluye dos módulos, uno de conceptos básicos de dopaje y otro sobre aspectos psicológicos en la prevención de éste, y asistir a una jornada en la que un formador de la AEPSAD se desplazará a cada una de las once regiones participantes en el proyecto.

La duración total del curso serán 20 horas -16 online y 4 presenciales- y los profesores obtendrán los créditos correspondientes en formación, reconocidos por su comunidad.

La UNESCO volverá a financiar la iniciativa, igual que su tres ediciones anteriores, dentro del fondo destinado a apoyar a los estados que forman parte de la Convención Internacional contra el dopaje en el deporte en la elaboración y aplicación de programas antidopaje.

Enmarcado en el compromiso de la AEPSAD con la educación, la investigación y la formación, 'Vive sin trampas' se dirigió en sus dos primeras ediciones a los alumnos de educación secundaria -4.098 estudiantes- y a los técnicos superiores en animación de actividades físicas y deportivas en la tercera -1.500 estudiantes-.

Esta iniciativa se une a otros proyectos internacionales en los que participa la AEPSAD, como el Seminario Educativo Antidopaje de Centroamérica, también financiado por la UNESCO, o el proyecto internacional para formar a entrenadores aprobado por la Unión Europea a través del Programa de Educación, Juventud y Deporte ERASMUS +.

<http://www.diariovasco.com/agencias/201612/15/cuarta-edicion-vive-trampas-846910.html>

ViewPoint

NEIL WILSON: Ending doping is in the hands of the athletes



THE NEIL WILSON COLUMN / An exclusive, authoritative series from Sports Features Communications

(SFC) When Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the United Nations, in an emotional attack on Russia this week asked "is there nothing you will not lie about and justify", she was speaking of their Syrian involvement. She might just as well have been reacting to McLaren II.

The Canadian law professor's report of his investigation into doping in Russia and at the Sochi Winter Olympics concluded that there was "immutable and conclusive evidence" of state-organised doping. The immediate reaction of that country was what dopers have been told since time began - deny, deny, deny. Or lie, lie, lie.

Vitaly Mutko, the man at the top of Russian sport who has been promoted since the scandal unfolded to deputy prime minister, dismissed it outright. "It would simply not be realistic to do what they are accusing us of," he said.

The Russians will not show regret or remorse because they will not admit they were remiss. The attitude is that anything they were doing others were as well.

And to be sure there is not a major sporting nation that has not had some of its athletes suspended for doping. The difference is that those doped by personal choice; they were not aided, encouraged and protected by their state.

As Andrey Dmitriev, a middle-distance runner who has returned to Russia after four years at a US college, blogged this month: "Those (Russians) who say they are not doping are laughed at."

Those who decline to dope are not invited to state and national teams, he explained. He estimated that at the top level those not doping were no more than 5% of the athletes.

What is to do? My belief is that this is in the hands of athletes. Forget the IOC, the international federations and WADA. Each is conflicted. The resolution of the problem belongs to those who compete, the athletes the IOC likes to claim are always at the forefront of its actions.

The first steps have begun. Athletes forced national federations and finally an international federation to move bob and skeleton's world championships from Sochi this week. Olympic champion Lizzie Yarnold began it by saying she was considering not going. Americans Lolo Jones and Lauryn Williams supported and, decisively, so did Latvia's defending world champion Martin Dukars.

Williams put it best, perhaps, when she blogged that "I wouldn't compete at a crime scene either."

If athletes would not compete in countries not WADA-compliant or against athletes who have served lengthy sentences for doping, they would very rapidly clean out the sporting stables.

I doubt we could persuade too many to stand aside from the Olympic Games but it would be in their own interests to do it at every other level. Ultimately the message would get through, to the IOC, their international federations, sponsors and, most importantly, those nations which encourage doping for reasons of national prestige.

It would not matter how much athletes doped if nobody would give them a race.

**** NEIL WILSON reported his first Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. He has since covered another nine summer and nine winter Olympics for various newspapers, including The Independent and the Daily Mail with whom he has worked for the last 19 years as Athletics and Olympic correspondent. He was Britain's Sports Journalist of the Year in 1984 and is the author of seven books.**

******The views expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the views of Sports Features Communications.**

<http://www.sportsfeatures.com/olympicsnews/story/52470/neil-wilson-ending-doping-is-in-the-hands-of-the-athletes>

BBC.com

Sochi: Russia 'could claim compensation' after championships switch



14 dic 2016

Russia won 33 medals at Sochi 2014, 13 of which were gold

Russia could claim compensation after the 2017 bobsleigh and skeleton World Championships were moved from Sochi.

The International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) **decided not to hold the February event** in Russia after more details emerged of alleged state-sponsored doping in the country.

Senior Russian politician Valentina Matviyenko says Sochi may have a claim for "material and moral damages".

"We could file a lawsuit on reimbursement of expenses," she added.

Matviyenko, who is speaker in the upper chamber in Russia's parliament, also echoed the Kremlin's claim that the decision was based on politics, rather than sport.

Dr Richard McLaren's report was commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency

"One cannot agree with such a decision on the basis of any rules, norms of law. These are dirty political games against Russia," she said in comments reported by **the Interfax news agency**.

The **IBSF said** that it made the decision to move the event so to focus "on sport rather than the accusations and discussion - whether justified or not."

Russia is accused of running a doping programme that implicated more than **1,000 athletes** at major international competitions between 2011 and 2015.

The claims are contained in a report by Canadian law professor and sports lawyer Dr Richard McLaren, which adds detail to his **initial findings** that were published in July. According to McLaren, London 2012 was "corrupted on an unprecedented scale."

It is understood a number of German venues have offered to host the event, along with the Swiss town of St Moritz.

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/winter-sports/38319767>