



[La AMA identifica a 298 deportistas rusos sospechosos.](#) **AS**

[Ministro de Deporte: Rusia cumple con todos sus compromisos y coopera con la WADA.](#)

SPUTNIK MUNDO

[El dopaje reescribe los Juegos.](#) **EL PERIÓDICO DE ARAGÓN**

[WADA provides International Federations with first batch of cases in Russia investigation.](#)

WADA

[British athletes may have escaped punishment for alleged doping offences, according to report.](#) **THE TELEGRPAH**

[Kenyan marathon runner facing life ban after suspended by AIU for second positive test.](#)

INSIDE THE GAMES

[Jonathan Vaughters: 'They were laughing at the guys that weren't doping'](#) **CYCLIST**

AS

02/07/2019

La AMA identifica a 298 deportistas rusos sospechosos

La AMA asegura que ha remitido 43 casos a las correspondientes federaciones internacionales. Ahora serán ellas las que empiecen a evaluar caso por caso.



AFP

Un total de 298 deportistas rusos han sido identificados como sospechosos de dopaje tras el análisis de miles de muestras recuperadas del laboratorio de Moscú, anunció este martes la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (AMA). En su informe, la AMA precisa que ha remitido 43 casos a las correspondientes federaciones internacionales, aunque no ha revelado ni sus nombres ni las disciplinas en las que compiten.

Las federaciones internacionales interesadas ya han comenzado a evaluar las pruebas a fin de identificar las infracciones en materia de dopaje y en el caso de que decidieran archivarlos, la AMA se reserva el derecho a elevar los casos al Tribunal de Arbitraje Deportivo (TAS).

https://as.com/masdeporte/2019/07/02/polideportivo/1562087055_406214.html

SPUTNIK MUNDO

03/07/2019

Ministro de Deporte: Rusia cumple con todos sus compromisos y coopera con la WADA



[CC BY 2.0](#) / [The Department for Culture, Media and Sport](#) / [Olympic rings](#)

RUSIA

MOSCÚ (Sputnik) — Rusia cumple con todos sus compromisos y colabora estrechamente con la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (WADA), declaró el ministro ruso de Deporte, Pável Kolobkov, en un comunicado.

"La parte rusa cumple con todos sus compromisos", dijo Kolobkov, "colaboramos estrechamente con la WADA y seguiremos prestando apoyo a los expertos".

Respecto a 298 atletas rusos sospechosos de dopaje, recomendó "esperar los resultados de la investigación y no sacar conclusiones prematuras".

El ministro indicó que una vez finalizada la investigación, las federaciones deportivas internacionales decidirán sobre si son suficientes las pruebas.

"Si un deportista violó las reglas de antidopaje será descalificado, Rusia aboga por el deporte limpio", recalcó.

El 2 de julio la WADA [anunció](#) que sospecha a 298 deportistas rusos de haber violado las reglas antidopaje, basándose en los datos del laboratorio de Moscú.

Por el momento la agencia envió los datos sobre 43 atletas, con 150 muestras, a las federaciones deportivas correspondientes para que investiguen las pruebas.

La Agencia Rusa Antidopaje (Rusada) que actúa en cooperación con el departamento de investigaciones de la WADA ya informó a los atletas sobre su posible violación de las reglas antidopaje.

La semana pasada, el presidente de la WADA, Craig Reedie, advirtió que se considera iniciar más de 100 causas como resultado de la primera etapa del estudio de los datos del laboratorio de Moscú.

En noviembre de 2015, la WADA acusó a Rusia de numerosas infracciones de las reglas antidopaje y suspendió la Rusada.

En diciembre de 2017, el Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI) prohibió a la selección rusa participar en los Juegos Olímpicos de 2018 en Pyeongchang bajo la bandera nacional, pese a no haber encontrado pruebas del llamado "dopaje institucional", del que se acusó a Rusia.

Moscú negó en repetidas ocasiones cualquier vínculo del Gobierno ruso y los organismos públicos con los casos de dopaje entre los deportistas y aseguró que no solo luchó en el pasado contra este mal, sino que así lo seguiría haciendo en el futuro.

El pasado 20 de septiembre, el Comité Ejecutivo de la WADA [decidió restablecer](#) como miembro a la Rusada, con la condición de que proporcionara antes de fin de 2018 pleno acceso a su laboratorio antidopaje en Moscú.

El 17 de enero de este año, la WADA [informó](#) haber conseguido más datos sobre la actividad de ese organismo.

Posteriormente fue anunciado que la conformidad de la Rusada con el Código Mundial Antidopaje se mantuvo

<https://mundo.sputniknews.com/rusia/201907031087862525-dopaje-deporte-rusia-agencia-mundial-antidopaje/>

EL PERIÓDICO DE ARAGÓN

03/07/2019

El dopaje reescribe los Juegos

Un total de 93 medallas han sido anuladas por los reanálisis realizados de las muestras de las últimas tres citas olímpicas H Pekín 2018 va a la cabeza con nueveoros, 21 platas y 20 bronce retirados a posteriori por las trampas de los ganadores

*fund by LINICOM*

Sete Benavides 8 Será bronce en Londres. - FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE PIRAGÜISMO



Ruth Beitia 8 Recibió un bronce en Londres 2012. - REUTERS / Toby Melville

SERGI LÓPEZ-EGEA

03/07/2019

El dopaje ha reescrito la historia del olimpismo en la última década, donde ha habido que esperar meses y hasta años para confirmar la composición de los podios y asignar las medallas definitivamente a los atletas en los puestos de honor. Después de los últimos movimientos producidos este pasado mes de junio, hasta 93 medallas han sido asignadas a otros deportistas tras reanalizar las muestras de los supuestos campeones que subieron al podio. La orina se guardaba en los laboratorios acreditados por el Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI) y los

nuevos exámenes confirmaron el uso de sustancias prohibidas que eran indetectables cuando se realizaron los Juegos.

Los podios de los Juegos de Pekín del 2008 y de Londres 2012 no tienen nada que ver con los nombres que figuran ahora, en una lucha contra el dopaje que no cesa, todavía con casos y con sorpresas que pueden afectar, sobre todo, a los Juegos de Río de Janeiro en 2016, celebrados hace tres años y donde, en menor medida y ya con métodos antidopajes más sofisticados, solo se han retirado cinco medallas por el momento.

A tenor de estos resultados se ha podido determinar que buena parte de los deportistas que acudieron a los Juegos celebrados en Pekín apostaron por métodos y sustancias prohibidos convencidos de que nunca iban a ser cazados. Qué equivocados estaban. Hasta ahora se han retirado 51 medallas de la cita asiática olímpica que correspondían a un total de nueveoros, 21 platas y 20 bronce. «Hay un caso particular -recuerda el periodista Juan Manuel Surroca, uno de los grandes especialistas españoles en olimpismo- que no tiene nada que ver con el dopaje y que corresponde a un luchador sueco que arrojó una medalla al suelo descontento por el arbitraje recibido y que le privó de disputar la final». En efecto, se trata de Ara Abrahamian, quien fue descalificado por despreciar a los jueces en plena competición.

En Londres, donde en solo cuatro años los laboratorios ya habían afinado mejor sus máquinas, y no por el hecho de la conciencia antidopaje de algunas estrellas deportivas, que todavía tiene que pulirse de manera profunda, ha habido hasta ahora 37 movimientos en los podios. 12 campeones olímpicos han perdido el oro, a los que hay que sumar 13 medallas de plata y 10 de bronce.

145 cambios desde 1896

Estos datos ponen en evidencia, por lo tanto, que desde el 2008 y hasta ahora se han retirado el 64,1% de las medallas que el COI decidió cambiar por prácticas dopantes, al margen de alguna sanción por indisciplina, desde la celebración en Atenas 1896 de los primeros Juegos de la era moderna. Desde entonces, 145 atletas o equipos han perdido sus medallas: 46 de oro, 49 de plata y 50 de bronce.

En estos datos solo se incluyen los Juegos de verano, ya que la cifra todavía es más escandalosa si se añade la cita olímpica invernal. En Sochi 2014 se retiraron 22 medallas (8 de oro, 13 de plata y 1 de bronce). El 85% de los afectados fueron atletas rusos, en lo que ha sido uno de los grandes escándalos hasta la actualidad. Precisamente los representantes rusos, sobre todo en atletismo, han sido los actores más sobresalientes en los casos por dopaje. Y, por supuesto, la retirada de los tres oros que Johann Mühlegg, representando a España, logró en los Juegos de Salt Lake City 2002.

En los Juegos de verano solo hay un representante español afectado por los reanálisis, aunque no fue medallista. Fue el caso de Josephine Onyia cuyas muestras de Pekín se reanalizaron en el 2016 y dieron positivo. Sin embargo, y por el otro lado, Lydia Valentín, en halterofilia, ha logrado un oro de Pekín (acabó cuarta y todo el podio fue descalificado) y una plata de Londres; Ruth Beitia, un bronce de salto también en Londres y el mismo metal Sete Benavides, en piragüismo, en la misma cita londinense.

https://www.elperiodicodearagon.com/noticias/deportes/dopaje-reescribe-juegos_1372307.html

WADA

02/07/2019

WADA provides International Federations with first batch of cases in Russia investigation

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) announces today that it has provided a first batch of cases to International Federations (IFs) with respect to its Russian investigation. This achievement was made possible by the WADA Executive Committee's (ExCo's) [September 2018](#) decision, which reinstated the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) as compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) under strict conditions, including that RUSADA and the Russian Ministry of Sport provide WADA with required samples by a 30 June deadline, which was met.

Since WADA Intelligence and Investigations' (I&I's) successful missions to Russia in [January](#) and [April](#) to retrieve a copy of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), associated raw data and samples from the former Moscow Laboratory, WADA I&I has continued validating the data and has begun compiling strong evidence against those who are believed to have cheated.

The raw data are the result of sample analysis and indicate whether a substance or metabolite was detected. In an anti-doping case, raw data provide the most compelling evidence and are superior in that regard to LIMS data*. This is why WADA's ExCo placed such importance on accessing the raw data, making sure that was a critical condition of its [September 2018](#) decision.

From the data, WADA I&I has identified a target pool of 298 athletes (representing 578 samples) with the most suspicious data.

WADA confirms that the relevant IFs' results management process has begun. To date, of those 298 athletes identified by WADA I&I, the data of 43 athletes (150 samples) have been reviewed and evidentiary packages compiled. These packages have now been sent to the relevant IFs, which have commenced assessment of the evidence with a view to identifying those cases to take forward as Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs). Assessment will include review of the raw data by laboratory experts, which will take some time. In the near future, WADA aims to provide more packages to the relevant IFs. It is estimated that by the end of 2019, all priority cases will have been investigated by WADA.

Director of WADA I&I Gunter Younger said: "WADA I&I continues to make good progress on this long-running and complex case. The fact that we have moved to the results management phase means we are another step closer to bringing to justice those who cheated. This is an excellent development for clean sport and athletes around the world.

"There is still a lot of work left to do but we wish to acknowledge the ongoing cooperation with IFs as well as RUSADA. None of this progress would be possible without WADA's ExCo decision of September 2018."

In cases where an IF chooses not to act, WADA will review and discuss the facts with the IF. WADA reserves the right to bring cases forward to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as appropriate, and will also monitor the decisions rendered by the respective IFs and CAS to adjust its strategy.

In addition to and separate from the evidentiary packages, WADA I&I has commenced a targeted re-analysis program of samples removed from Moscow. Already, three Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) have been identified and reported. In collaboration with WADA I&I, RUSADA has notified the athletes and progressed ADRVs. The commitment and assistance of RUSADA throughout this process has been invaluable.

Furthermore, on 18 June 2019, WADA I&I met with the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) of the IAAF and provided it with the LIMS and raw data for relevant athletes, including those who are part of WADA I&I's target pool. An estimated 500 gigabytes of data were provided to the AIU. Following a formal handover from WADA I&I, the AIU will now take the lead and review this information with a view to identifying ADRVs.

While much has been achieved since the data and samples were retrieved, a lot of highly technical and protracted work remains in collaboration with leading experts in digital forensics. This includes examining some differences identified between the LIMS database provided by a whistleblower in [October 2017](#) and the version WADA I&I removed from the laboratory in January 2019, and any impact that these may have on bringing cases forward.

* Raw data are produced by an analytical procedure and are the evidence considered by a laboratory expert when reporting an AAF.

Background

WADA's ExCo decision of [September 2018](#) endorsed the recommendation of the independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) that RUSADA be reinstated as compliant with the Code subject to the following post-reinstatement conditions:

- RUSADA and the Russian Ministry of Sport must procure that the authentic LIMS data and underlying analytical data of the former Moscow Laboratory are received by WADA by no later than 31 December 2018.
- RUSADA and the Russian Ministry of Sport must procure that any re-analysis of samples required by WADA following review of such data is completed by no later than 30 June 2019.

In addition, as per the RUSADA Roadmap to Compliance, a successful audit of RUSADA would be carried out within four months to ensure RUSADA continues to meet compliance standards. This audit was successfully carried out in December 2018.

On [10 January](#) 2019 the Moscow Laboratory was accessed by a WADA I&I expert team and the data [i.e. a copy of the LIMS data and underlying analytical data (raw data)] from the file server and 19 analytical instrument computers was retrieved.

On [22 January](#) 2019, the ExCo unanimously agreed via teleconference to approve the CRC's recommendation to continue applying the decision of 20 September.

Since then, a rigorous process of authentication was undertaken by two separate expert teams, a WADA team in Canada, and an independent team in Switzerland.

In [late April](#) 2019, another expert team from WADA returned to Russia and retrieved 2,262 samples from the Moscow Laboratory, fulfilling the second of the two conditions outlined above. The samples in the Laboratory, which had initially been sealed by Russian authorities as part of a federal investigation, were taken to a WADA-accredited laboratory outside Russia.

The CRC determined that this satisfied the second post-reinstatement condition highlighted above as, by supplying all samples, the Russian authorities have given WADA full control over their re-analysis.

As it relates to RUSADA, WADA remains encouraged by the significant progress achieved by RUSADA under its new management with the support of WADA and others.

Further information: WADA has produced a [flowchart](#) that summarizes the three phases of the RUSADA Compliance Process and has compiled a document that summarizes the '[Progress of the Anti-Doping System in Light of the Russian Doping Crisis](#)'.

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/media/news/2019-07/wada-provides-international-federations-with-first-batch-of-cases-in-russia>

THE TELEGRAPH

01/07/2019

British athletes may have escaped punishment for alleged doping offences, according to report



Former IAAF president Lamine Diack has been under investigation for four years CREDIT: AFP

- [Ben Bloom](#), athletics correspondent

A number of British athletes may have escaped punishment for alleged doping offences, according to allegations published in a report by French prosecutors.

The former IAAF president Lamine Diack and his son Papa Massata have been under investigation for four years, with prosecutors looking into accusations of bribery and corruption at the highest level of athletics.

Both men are due to face trial in France later this year after being charged with corruption and money laundering related to bribing athletes who had doped out of millions of pounds. They deny the charges.

The prosecutors' 90-page indictment, seen by German website ARD, also contains allegations that suggest British athletes may have avoided punishment for doping offences.

According to ARD, the document contains an email sent by Valentin Balakhnichev, former IAAF treasurer and Russian athletics chief, to Diack's former legal advisor Habib Cisse in July 2014.

The email allegedly contains a list of athletes whose blood passports showed clear signs of doping violations.

"We were amazed to find on this list certain athletes from Great Britain," Balakhnichev allegedly wrote. "The question we ask ourselves is why the IAAF has not urged British athletics to sanction those athletes."

The email did not contain names of specific athletes involved.

Diack, who led the IAAF from 1999 to 2015, is accused of being part of a conspiracy to bury positive tests by Russian athletes in return for money. He remains under house arrest in Paris, while Papa Massata is the subject of an international arrest warrant after fleeing to his home country Senegal.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/athletics/2019/07/01/british-athletes-may-have-escaped-punishment-alleged-doping/>

INSIDE THE GAMES

01/07/2019

Kenyan marathon runner facing life ban after suspended by AIU for second positive test

- By [Michael Pavitt](#)



Salome Jerono Biwott has become the latest Kenyan athlete to be charged with an alleged doping offence by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

Biwott is facing a second doping ban of her career after testing positive for the banned substance norandrosterone.

Norandrosterone is a metabolite of the anabolic steroid nandrolone and bolandione, with the substance appearing on the World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited list.

The AIU have confirmed a charge has been issued against the Kenyan distance runner due to the presence of a prohibited substance.

The provisional suspension dates back to June 5.

Biwott had previously served a two-year doping ban from January 2013 to 2015 and could now be banned for life.

Her previous positive test was also for norandrosterone, which came after she had won the Nairobi Marathon in 2012.

Upon her return to the sport, Biwott achieved a personal best time of 2 hours 30min 47sec at the Hamburg Marathon in 2016.

The suspension of the 36-year-old Biwott, who had finished second at the São Paulo Marathon in April, is the latest blow to Kenyan athletics, with five athletes from the country now serving provisional suspensions.

A further 42 Kenyans are listed by the AIU as serving bans for doping offences, including two sanctions against athlete support personnel.

Among the other Kenyans suspended for anti-doping violations are World Championships 800 metres bronze medallist Kipyegon Bett, three-time Boston Marathon champion Rita Jeptoo and Rio 2016 marathon champion Jemima Sumgong.

Three-time world champion and Beijing 2008 Olympic 1,500 metres gold medallist Asbel Kiprop was handed a four-year ban earlier this year.

World half-marathon record holder Abraham Kiptum received a provisional suspension in April after being charged with an athlete biological passport violation.

This came two days before he was due to compete at the London Marathon.

In addition, Bahrain's Kenyan-born Olympic marathon silver medallist Eunice Kirwa was last month banned for four years after testing positive for erythropoietin.

In 2016, Kenya introduced an anti-doping act to make doping an offence which could be punished by imprisonment.

The country's recent doping woes prompted WADA to investigate with a report outlining several concerns over the structures in place.

WADA claimed, however, that there had been no evidence of institutionalised doping.

The report instead claimed the doping practices of athletes from the country were "unsophisticated, opportunistic and uncoordinated".

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1081462/kenyan-marathon-runner-facing-life-ban-after-suspended-by-aiu-for-second-positive-test>

CYCLIST

02/07/2019

Jonathan Vaughters: 'They were laughing at the guys that weren't doping'

**JOSEPH DELVES**

Jonathan Vaughters has got a new book out so we caught up with him to talk cycling - past and present. Photo: Education First

Jonathan Vaughters - manager of WorldTour team [Education First](#), former pro and sometime teammate of [Lance Armstrong](#) - has a new book out. We caught up with him to talk alternative racing, social media, small-team finances, [doping](#) culture and whether you can ever replace Armstrong.

Cyclist: Are there any revelations in your book you think followers of cycling will be shocked by?

Jonathan Vaughters: There's no big reveal. The scandalous stuff is all already out there. Instead, it puts into context the thirty years I've been involved in bike racing. I think it pulls together a lot of things.

Cyc: What was the most difficult bit to write?

JV: The stuff to do with my personal life was difficult. The [doping](#) stuff was hard only in the sense I've talked about it so much over the past years that it's almost tedious having to go through it all again.

Cyc: How much mental pre-editing did you do, or is absolutely everything in there?

JV: It's a very detailed and transparent book. I sent a sample chapter to the journalist Paul Kimmage, and he wrote back saying 'it's too polished, just tell it as the story happened'. I tried to live by that advice. Hopefully, I'll meet his standard.

Cyc: You rode through doping's peak era and now manage a team. How can you be sure that cycling is cleaner now?

JV: There's a lot of evidence, but it's all evidence that can also be shot down. Over the past decade, from a behind-closed-doors perspective, I've witnessed riders that were absolutely clean win some of the biggest races. These are riders where I've had complete transparency regarding their medical records, and I've known about their personal lives. In 1996 I was behind the scenes, and I saw that to win clean was totally impossible.

That's not to say it's perfect now, but it is possible to win the biggest races clean. With regards to anti-doping, out in the social media sphere, people want blood, they want names, they want people taken down. It's understandable, but that's not the fundamental purpose of anti-doping. Its purpose is to protect the rights of clean athletes and protect the health of all athletes.

From that perspective, I think anti-doping is working. Can you still dope and not get caught by the biological passport? Yes. Can you still dope enough that it makes a large enough biological difference to impact the race profoundly and not get caught? I think the answer to that is no. It's pulling in the net tighter.

Also, I've seen riders who are now 10 years into their careers and have never encountered doping. It's not that they've chosen not to dope, it's that it's never been presented to them.

Cyc: There's a quote from [Lance Armstrong](#) on the back of your book. When do you think he'll stop being the public's idea of the archetypal cyclist? And what will it take to replace him?

JV: Quite a bit. Because it was never about Lance the cyclist. It was about Lance the cancer patient. That story made him relatable. Most people somewhere among their family or friends will have encountered someone affected by cancer. It impacts everyone in some way or another.

Lance's story was about conquering a disease and then living out his dream to win the [Tour de France](#). To replicate that, I don't want to say it's impossible, but it's very very difficult. So the answer to your question is I have no idea.

Cyc: Given all the tricks you got up to, can you be 100% certain that your own team is clean?

JV: First off, it wasn't just me doing those tricks. There was the doctor hired by the team showing me how. It was an all-encompassing effort, including the riders, the doctors, the soigneurs, the managers. That's what it takes if you want to truly evade testing. You can't do it entirely by yourself.

Sure, one of my riders could be off in a corner doping. It's entirely possible. I can only say I don't think that's the case. Why? It's based on a myriad of things. I can dig through their medical records and see what their blood values look like. But even more importantly in the 1990s doping was encouraged. Not just by managers or doctors, but among the riders themselves.

They were laughing at the guys that weren't doing it. Riders on other teams would say to me 'you're getting your ass kicked. Come on man, get with the programme'. And you think why are they encouraging this? If I start doping, surely then I might beat them. It makes no sense.

I think fundamentally those doping were encouraging everyone else so they didn't have to feel bad about themselves. Now the culture is the total opposite. Riders realise someone doping could potentially end the team or their career. The consequences are so grave, the riders have become self-policing.

Cyc: How do you stop teams with the biggest budgets dominating the sport?

JV: There has to be some sort of agreement on a budget limit. You could then buy a bunch of expensive riders and cut all the other costs. Or invest in an expensive sports science team and buy less expensive riders. Or buy one expensive rider, or whatever. That's gamesmanship.

Then all of a sudden we'd be playing on a level field. It's like in chess; you don't play with one side having four rooks and three queens. Of course, the person with three queens is going to win. We need to get back to cycling being a sport and not a financial race.

Cyc: At Garmin, you had a potential GC winner in the form of [Bradley Wiggins](#). Is it ever possible for smaller teams to hold onto their stars?

JV: Not really. EU law is pretty clear. You can't prevent someone from earning what the market determines they're worth. Regardless of contract, it is what it is.

Cyc: What does a result like Alberto Bettiol's win at the [Tour of Flanders](#) mean for a mid-sized team like EF in terms of its finances?

JV: We're in the best place we've been in financially for quite some time thanks to a very stable sponsor. They're not going to spend Ineos-type money, but they support us in ways we've never been supported before.

Bettiol winning was great, but Flanders is a race for cycling fans. It's the coolest race of the year. But from a standpoint of attracting sponsors, it's really all about the [Tour de France](#).

Cyc: How do you go about attracting riders? For instance, Hugh Carthy has spoken about always wanting to ride for you.

JV: For us, it's about looking for the Bettioles and the Carthys. The not-so-obvious talents and bringing them along. [Deceuninck-QuickStep](#) is also good at this. Finding underappreciated talent and then pulling it to the front. That's the key to running a team that doesn't have the budget of Ineos.

But eventually, you have to be able to follow them. Both Bettiol and Carthy are going to be more expensive riders next year. So you have to bring the budget up too. If you're just discovering talent, but you can't follow them through their career, then they'll just go off to another team.

Cyc: With Ineos getting involved in the sport, is it important to have an ethical headline sponsor?

JV: That's a broader question for the sport. It's not just Ineos. Bahrain doesn't have a great human rights record. Where cycling is today, it's not really a mainstream enough sport, and it's still digging itself out of some crappy image issues. That's holding back more global and ethically responsible companies from coming in.

What's coming in instead are brands that are a little bit scrappier, that are maybe not viewed so positively. Bahrain being an example, it's those that are trying to rebuild or change their image. For the next few years, it'll be brands looking to polish themselves and not necessarily the companies we might all want to see.

Cyc: [Lachlan Morton has been hacking across Britain in EF colours](#), sleeping in ditches. What is the thinking behind the 'alternative calendar'?

JV: The first experiment was with Joe Dombrowski racing the Leadville 100 in 2016. I'd seen the Ironman Triathlon sell to Wanda for \$650 million. I thought there's no bike race in the world that would sell for that, what are we doing wrong here? As an event Ironman doesn't have huge crowds or TV coverage. But what they do have is all these people who've signed up and can say I've done an Ironman, and it's the same Ironman that was raced by the greatest Ironman athletes in the world.

It hit home when I was having dinner with my former brother-in-law and his father. He'd just done one, and his dad said 'I'm really proud, my son over here's done an Ironman, and my son-in-law has ridden the Tour de France'. I was like; 'hold up. That's not the same, he did a fourteen-hour Ironman, I was ranked top-20 in the world! It's not at all the same thing'.

But to my father-in-law, it was the same thing, as it is to 98% of the population. The way Ironman creates its value is the same way the London Marathon does. That the people running a four-hour marathon are competing with the same people who run it in two hours. There are no amateurs finishing the [Tour de France](#). It's like saying, 'this is pro cycling, everyone else, get the hell away'. The idea was to start doing races that are accessible to the public.

Cyc: What do the riders think of it? Do they volunteer or are they selected to do these events? Do you say 'if you don't make the time cut on today's stage, you'll be riding Land's End to John o'Groats next week'?

JV: No, the riders want to do them. Before we signed the contract for Lachlan to come back to the team, it was mentioned as something he wanted. The same with Alex Howes and the Dirty Kanza. The riders doing the alternative calendar, that's their option.

<https://www.cyclist.co.uk/news/6639/jonathan-vaughters-they-were-laughing-at-the-guys-that-weren-t-doping>