

The independent report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency reported in December 2016 that:

- The Russian Ministry of Sport was involved in a conspiracy to manipulate the doping testing system and avoid positive results. The scheme became more elaborate and efficient over time, reaching its “apex” at the Sochi Winter Games.
- The doping violations of athletes were ordered to “disappear” by the deputy sports minister over numerous years. The urine samples of athletes who were doping were swapped out for clean samples. This practice, previously reported to have taken place at the Sochi Winter Games in 2014, began a year before those Games and continued afterward. The swapping in Sochi allowed athletes to dope throughout the Games without worrying about testing positive.
- Athletes who benefited from the manipulation of doping results included more than 1,000 Summer and Winter Olympians and Paralympians
- The names of more than 500 athletes on whom firm evidence of doping exists have been turned over to their relevant sports organisations (at the time and including swimmers).
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- Drug testing samples supposedly from two female ice hockey players showed male DNA.
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- Salt levels in some samples were at impossibly high levels, showing that they had been tampered with.
- Many sample bottles had scratches and marks on the inside of the caps, also indicating tampering.
- When Russian athletes tested positive despite attempts to conceal, the tests were simply reported as negative - and that happened on more than 500 occasions.
- Agents from Russia’s FSB security services helped the anti-doping experts to switch clean urine samples for drug-tainted samples to fool testers, having found a way to break into bottles designed to be tamper-proof.
- Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, the director of Russia’s anti-doping lab in Moscow, worked on discovering better methods of doping detection and used that knowledge to create a drug cocktail known as Duchess. That cocktail, of osandrolone, methenolone and trenbolone, had a shorter detection window because it included liquor. Duchess was regularly used by Russian athletes.

In response to the McLaren report, an IOC disciplinary commission, headed by former Switzerland President and Federal Council member Samuel Schmid, concluded in 2017:

- The Russian authorities developed a system that allowed a Moscow laboratory to routinely change positive test results to negative, as well as to tamper with samples during the Sochi Games in 2014.
- The “unprecedented nature of the cheating scheme” had caused “exceptional damage to the integrity of the IOC, the Olympic Games and the entire Olympic Movement.”
- Thirty-four Russian athletes tested positive in re-analysis of samples from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, confirming “a widespread culture of doping in Russia, affecting numerous sports for a long period of time.”
- “Some similarities” with the doping situation in the former East Germany but “considers that the system in the former GDR was different from the one described.”
- Some individuals had served as suppliers and received payments to conceal positive doping tests.
- Up to 2011-12, athletes were obliged to purchase doping products, pay to cover up their individual test results or both; that covered costs of manipulating doping tests.
- The system included “deceit on the reporting system”, “the creation of false biological profiles” and “the tampering of samples”.
- The “then Russian Minister had the ultimate administrative responsibility for the acts perpetrated at the time within the Russian Ministry or the entities under its responsibility.
- The “Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) must be held legally responsible for the breach of its legal and contractual obligations.”