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In these challenging times, international sport and the Olympic movement are increasingly being held hostage to dirty political games and information wars. Abuses of power and the manipulation of international organisations, as well as discrimination against entire sports teams and national federations have become levers used to achieve geopolitical goals. Arbitrarily ruined sports careers and the fates suffered by honest athletes serve to intimidate and collectively punish not only athletes but their fans back home as well.

This became clear after the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the 2018 Olympic Games in Pyeongchang during the “doping scandal” ginned up as part of the West’s global information war against Russia. This Russophobic hysteria started long before the neo-Nazi coup in Kiev and the ensuing reunification of Crimea and Sevastopol with Russia. In the wake of these events, which showed the world the Russian people’s abiding goodwill, Western Russophobia became overt, arrogant and all-consuming. The only comfort in this situation is knowing that our avowed enemies have nothing but ineffective psychological pressure to use against our newly reborn nation.

Our country agrees that there is a need for regular, independent doping control for athletes, since the use of prohibited substances not only harms the health of athletes, but also undermines the ideological foundations of international sport.

At the initiative of the Russian Olympic Committee, and in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency and other international organisations, a set of measures is implemented in our country with a view to combating doping in sport and eliminating the shortcomings identified in the national anti-doping system. This major effort led to the creation of an effective anti-doping system.

Russian parliamentarians have repeatedly made statements on the inadmissibility of political interference in sport, believing that sport must be based exclusively on the principles of fair play. Guided by the Olympic Charter principle of opposing all forms of discrimination, the State Duma Committee on Physical Culture, Sport, Tourism and Youth Affairs prepared tough but balanced draft statements on two separate occasions. Following approval by the State Duma, these statements were sent to the International Olympic Committee, WADA, UNESCO, Russia's Olympic Committee and the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA).

In recent years, Russian athletes participating in international competitions have been under a multi-tier regiment of total doping control by WADA. Numerous checks have shown the absence of doping by Russian athletes in the overwhelming majority of cases. Hence, Russian athletes' victories have nothing to do with the use of prohibited substances.

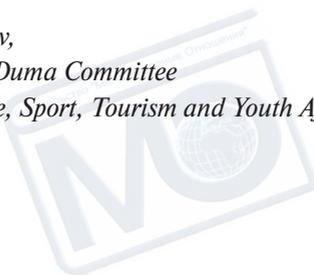
Double standards and unsubstantiated accusations, as well as the banning of Russian athletes from international competitions, inflict enormous damage on sport as a means of supporting the moral, cultural and physical education of young people, promoting peace, and bringing nations closer together.

The modern Olympic movement should focus on creating a solid legal framework based on effective and systematic interaction between countries, free from politicisation or discrimination, with the broad involvement of civil society.

In particular, we believe that, relying solely on horizontal interaction between Russian and foreign sport, youth and volunteer organisations, we can offer a serious rebuke to the politicised information attacks on the Olympic movement, including Russian sport.

The topics covered in the report compiled by the Foundation for the Study of Democracy entitled “The Western Practice of Doping and Discrimination Against Russian Sport” are more relevant than ever. The analytical materials, facts and findings contained in the report should be made available to the general public and the media both in Russia and abroad.

*Mikhail Degtyaryov,
Chair of the State Duma Committee
on Physical Culture, Sport, Tourism and Youth Affairs*



Recent years have seen a sweeping campaign aimed at discrediting Russian sport. For the first time in the history of the International Olympic Committee, the entire Russian team was banned from the Olympic Games in Pyeongchang based on the dubious findings of the McLaren Report on doping, which has not been corroborated by any substantial evidence. Many leading athletes received a lifetime ban as a result.

Later, the data provided by Richard McLaren were questioned by the international Court of Arbitration for Sport, many findings of the “doping report” were deemed untenable, and the key witness dropped a number of claims. As a result, 28 Russian athletes had their rights restored. Material that later came to light showed that several Western countries and private companies — contractors of these countries’ intelligence agencies — were behind the campaign of discrimination against Russian sport.

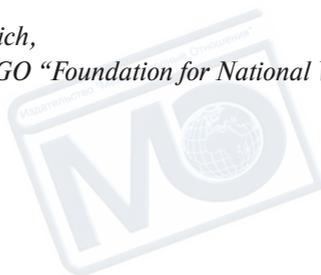
These issues cannot stay below the radar and they are being thoroughly reviewed by the Foundation for National Values Protection. The Foundation has released the evidence of widespread doping by athletes across the West.

In a bid to discredit the Russian sport, Western countries turn a blind eye to the blatant doping rule violations by their athletes. Such double standards and political interference do not correspond to the belief that sport must be based exclusively on the fair play principles.

Concerning this, the Foundation for National Values Protection will keep fighting for equal rights of athletes and the impermissibility of discrimination based on nationality.

We hope this report will receive widespread attention among domestic and foreign audiences.

*Alexander Malkevich,
President of the NGO “Foundation for National Values
Protection”*



Anti-Russian forces led by the United States are conducting a massive propaganda campaign against Russia. Under the guise of fighting doping, they have managed to enlist in this campaign a portion of the international Olympic movement and federations of various sports. However, the real goal of this hysteria is to damage the image of Russian sport and Russia itself.

In our study, we offer readers an actual picture of the current state of the international war on doping. We have analysed in detail the widespread practice of issuing doping exemptions employed by anti-doping agencies in the United States and other countries. Entire sports teams in Western countries are allegedly made up of asthmatics or athletes suffering from attention deficit disorder. Gymnast Simone Biles, tennis players Venus and Serena Williams, basketball player Elena Delle Donne, cross-country skiers Marit Bjoergen and Martin Sundby as well as many other Western athletes regularly use doping agents with the permission of their anti-doping agencies. In our study, we present these striking statistics on doping by athletes in the United States, Britain and France. For example, in 2016, Russian athletes received only 15 exemptions, which is 26 times fewer than American athletes.

We have analysed in detail the well-known reports by Richard McLaren. None of these reports, which were used to justify the decision to discriminate against the Russian team, as well as individual decisions to disqualify specific athletes, contain any direct evidence of doping by Russian athletes. The ruling of the Court of Arbitration for Sport says that “Professor McLaren was unable to explain inconsistencies in his testimony or the fact that he used extracts from logs whose authenticity has not been validated, and the full text of the logs has never been checked.” The main “evidence” came from the testimony of one person, Grigory Rodchenkov, who was fired for facilitating doping, as well as files and documents allegedly obtained from him, some of which Richard McLaren hasn’t even seen, and some of which he refuses to submit even to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The first McLaren report says: “An independent commission found out that Director Rodchenkov was at the heart of concealing positive doping results. He not only accepted, but demanded money for concealing positive doping results.” The report contains numerous examples of

Mr Rodchenkov repeatedly changing his own testimony, including the composition of the Duchess cocktail which he allegedly invented. At a session of the Court of Arbitration for Sport he essentially disavowed the claim that he invented or was in any way involved in creating the Duchess cocktail and stated that he had never witnessed any of the athletes use it. Past decisions to disqualify Russian athletes were based on his statements about them using this doping.

As soon as he accused Russia of creating a doping system, Mr Rodchenkov unexpectedly joined the ranks of “credible witnesses” and his statements became “reliable evidence.” The change in the way McLaren began to treat Rodchenkov can be seen from the fact that he goes from “Director Rodchenkov” in the first report to “Dr Rodchenkov” in the second.

Importantly, there were attempts to bribe Russian witnesses by Grigory Rodchenkov and former head of the Doping Control Department Timofei Sobolevsky from the United States, and also on behalf of Richard McLaren, including offers of US or Canadian citizenship, which implies the involvement of the governments of these states. The likelihood that US and UK intelligence agencies were behind McLaren’s actions grows even stronger if we look at the people on the “McLaren team.” Many of them come from companies that are private contractors working with US intelligence agencies, while others are former US intelligence officers, or special operations officers from the US Navy, Army, etc.

An entire chapter of this study is devoted to cases of double standards where Western athletes received minor punishments or went completely unpunished, while Russian athletes were disqualified for similar violations dating as far back as a decade ago.

We use specific examples to show the biased and inconsistent nature of the evidence used against Russian athletes. So far, a number of them have been acquitted by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but major clarifications, in the spirit of this study, have to be made if we want to protect Russian sport and reclaim its reputation.

*Grigory Karamalak,
Vice-President of the Russian Wrestling Federation,
President of the International Foundation for Former
Athletes and Athletes with Disabilities*

Part I

ANTI-DOPING AGENCIES IN THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES: THE WIDESPREAD PRACTICE OF THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

Calls to rid sports of doping have been gaining traction in the international media and among sports organisation in recent years. In the real world, however, doping has substantially increased rather than declined over the past decade.

According to data from a 2016 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report¹, the highest number of identified Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) was committed by athletes from Italy (147), followed by France (86) and the US (76).

The US is the de-facto trendsetter in terms of doping and performance-enhancing drugs use. For many years the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) has been issuing hundreds of therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) to American athletes, enabling them to use substances prohibited by WADA. For example, data² that became available to journalists in 2015 show that various organisations in the US granted 589 exemptions to US athletes enabling them to use stimulants that improve reaction time, decrease the need for sleep and reduce fatigue; anabolic agents that accelerate the growth and renewal of structural elements within cells, tissue and muscles; beta agonists that

¹ https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2016_adrvs_report_web_release_april_2018_0.pdf

² <https://fancybear.net/docs/usada/m.fedoruk/1.eml>

improve physical performance; hormone and metabolic modulators that can help increase muscle mass; peptide hormones that increase haemoglobin levels and oxygen delivery to muscles, improving endurance, etc. For the sake of comparison it has to be noted that Russian athletes obtained just 15 exemptions in 2016, which is 26 times fewer than the US.

The US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) is the main organisation in charge of authorising US athletes to take prohibited substances. In 2015, it issued 469 exemptions, and approved 80 percent of applications from US athletes in 2016, available data show.

A considerable share of US champions regularly use prohibited substances: Ryan Lochte (Olympic champion in swimming), Serena and Venus Williams (tennis), Michael Phelps (23 times Olympic champion in swimming), Bethanie Mattek-Sands (tennis), Michelle Carter (Olympic champion in shot put), Simone Biles (Olympic champion in gymnastics), Elena Delle Donne (basketball), Brittney Yvette Griner (basketball) and others. Members of the US Paralympic team are also involved in doping, including Jennifer Polst and Abigail Dunkin (basketball), Seth Jahn (association football), Will Waller, Matt Lesperance (basketball) and many others.

The widespread practice in the US of granting exemptions undermines clean sport, forcing other countries to do the same. As of 2016, apart from the US the list of countries with the most therapeutic use exemptions included Italy, France, Australia, the Netherlands, Canada and Germany, while Russian athletes were far behind with just 78 applications (6.3 times less compared to the US).

US sports organisations are the most lax about permitting the use of prohibited substances, approving 80 percent of applications filed by US athletes for a total of 398. At the same time, Russian anti-doping agencies adopted a much tougher stance, approving only 19 percent of applications in 2016 with the total number of TUEs 26 times lower compared to the US.