

## Russia faces athletics suspension

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A new and damning report from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has turned the athletics world upside down. The report focuses on Russia and claims that doping is

prevalent throughout Russian athletics. The country could be suspended from all international competitions if it does not acknowledge the claims made in the report and take drastic actions to address them. The report goes so far to say that doping in Russian athletics was state-sponsored. Senior figures in the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will recommend that Russia be suspended from competitions. WADA also called for lifetime bans for 10 Russian athletes.

Russian officials have hit back at the findings of the WADA report and called them "groundless". Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko commented on the possibility of Russia being banned from taking part in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. He said it was inconceivable that this could happen. He stated: "I would not like to consider such option. We have young sportsmen, for whom it will be their first Olympics." He added that "Clean sportsmen should not suffer. They achieve their results by hard work. We must protect them." A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "As long as there is no evidence, it is difficult to consider the accusations, which appear rather unfounded."

Sources: *The Guardian* / *ctv News* / *Russia Today*

## Writing

Athletes who take drugs should be banned for life. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*report / athletics / upside down / suspended / drastic actions / sponsored / competition / officials / findings / possibility / option / sportsmen / results / hard work / accusations*

## True / False

- The world of athletics has been turned upside down. T / F
- Russia has been suspended from all international athletics competitions. T / F
- A report says that the Russian state knew about the doping. T / F
- An organization called WADA wants 10 athletes suspended. T / F
- Russia has said there is no truth in the claims in the report. T / F
- The Russian Sports Minister said Russia could pull out of Brazil 2016. T / F
- The Minister said all Russian athletes have previous Olympic experience. T / F
- Russian President has not yet commented on the report. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. damning      | a. serious       |
| 2. prevalent    | b. likelihood    |
| 3. suspended    | c. barred        |
| 4. drastic      | d. damaging      |
| 5. findings     | e. charges       |
| 6. possibility  | f. conclusions   |
| 7. banned       | g. widespread    |
| 8. taking part  | h. proof         |
| 9. evidence     | i. participating |
| 10. accusations | j. excluded      |

## Discussion – Student A

- Are the right people leading sports organisations?
- How important is Russia to the 2016 Olympics?
- Should athletes be allowed to take performance-enhancing drugs?
- Do you think the 2016 Olympics will be hit by more scandals?
- How unfair would a ban on clean Russian athletes be?
- How does this scandal compare to the FIFA scandal?
- What advice would you give to the head of the IAAF?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of the IAAF?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. A new and damning                          | a. Russian athletics        |
| 2. turned the athletics world upside          | b. could happen             |
| 3. claims that doping is prevalent throughout | c. down                     |
| 4. take drastic                               | d. back at the findings     |
| 5. lifetime                                   | e. consider the accusations |
| 6. Russian officials have hit                 | f. report                   |
| 7. banned from taking                         | g. evidence                 |
| 8. it was inconceivable that this             | h. actions                  |
| 9. there is no                                | i. bans                     |
| 10. it is difficult to                        | j. part                     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How serious is this scandal?
- How many other countries do you think take part in doping?
- How serious is this report for Russian athletics?
- Why are there so many scandals in sport?
- How can sport clean up its act?
- Why did this report only focus on Russia?
- What can the Russian athletes do if they are banned?

## Spelling

- A new and mngdnia report
- venprtael throughout Russian athletics
- The country could be npsedsedu
- aegdnockew the claims
- take crsitda actions
- state sordseonp
- called them rgdlneouss
- Mutko tncemeodm on the possibility
- He said it was enaoclcibvne
- there is no ceivnede
- consider the iscutnaacos
- appear rather ddofnueu

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. g | 3. j | 4. a | 5. f  |
| 6. b | 7. c | 8. i | 9. h | 10. e |

## Role Play

### Role A – Athletics

You think athletics is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): golf, basketball or soccer.

### Role B – Golf

You think golf is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): athletics, basketball or soccer.

### Role C – Basketball

You think basketball is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): golf, athletics or soccer.

### Role D – Football (soccer)

You think soccer is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): golf, basketball or athletics.

## Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| • athletics | • rugby   |
| • football  | • skiing  |
| • tennis    | • golf    |
| • Formula 1 | • sailing |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.