2016 Was A Year of Controversy For The World's Efforts To Control Doping in Sports

In response to a German-produced documentary released in 2014 — which disclosed numerous members of the Russian track and field team of using performance enhancing drugs — the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appointed three members of an independent commission to investigate the allegations. This “independent commission” then recommended that WADA drop the Russian track and field team from the Rio Olympics. The commission’s report was released in late November 2016.

McLaren reported that this enormous scale of bribery and extortion was prompted through the Russian state’s creation of an elaborate network of state-funded -and -state-sponsored doping programs. The McLaren Report recommended that WADA should implement a system of independent anti-doping agencies in Russia. The report also states that all Russian athletes should be considered guilty of doping until proven innocent.

Lauren Banning, a former hormone and endocrine specialist at the University of Michigan, in a report stating that Russia had been involved in doping for years. Banning revealed how the Russian Ministry of Sport and the Russian Intelligence Service colluded in the doping programs, which were orchestrated through a network of state-sponsored organizations and private companies. McLaren’s report also confirmed that the Russian Ministry of Sport was involved in the doping programs. However, McLaren did not address whether Russia was considered a rogue state by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is an independent organization that sets the international standards for anti-doping. WADA requires member countries to implement and enforce these standards. If a country fails to comply with the standards, WADA can impose sanctions.

In 2016, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) announced that Russia had been banned from the 2016 Rio Olympics. The ban was due to the country’s involvement in the McLaren Report, which revealed evidence of state-sponsored doping in Russia. The ban was lifted in 2018, but the country’s athletes were subject to additional testing and scrutiny for compliance.

Former WADA Chief Investigator Jack Robertson (recipient of the Taylor Hooten Foundation’s 2017 Legacy Award) said, “WADA’s President and Director General have prioritized perception over substance and politics over principle. This leadership pays attention to opinion polls and valuates one stock in the tactic of the ‘doping problem’ to that of the ‘doping solution.’”

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Our 19th Annual All-Star Gala is right around the corner. Join us on February 23. This event is our largest fundraiser for the Taylor Hooten Foundation. It’s an evening filled with friends and wine tastings, live entertainment, raffles, door prizes, and more. All proceeds benefit the Taylor Hooten Foundation. Purchase your tickets here.