

FIFA's anti-doping programme

Frequently asked questions

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What anti-doping programme is in place for the 2018 FIFA World Cup? How can you ensure there will be no manipulation?

For the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, every participating player will be tested in unannounced controls ahead of the competition and further systematic tests will be performed during the competition.

In addition, FIFA uses WADA's ADAMS system and the Athlete Biological Passport program within ADAMS. This allows FIFA to have access to test results from confederations and national anti-doping agencies collected at the main international football events as well as national competitions. All results are gathered in the athlete's passport in ADAMS, which includes a haematological module (through blood) and a steroidal module (through urine). FIFA's Athlete Passport Management Unit, composed of independent experts, reviews the data of players to detect potential deviations that may indicate an abuse of performance-enhancing drugs. This applies to all participating players at the FIFA World Cup.

No Russians will be involved in the implementation of the anti-doping programme for the 2018 FIFA World Cup and all analysis of doping samples will be conducted at WADA laboratories outside Russia. A similar protocol was in place at the FIFA Confederations Cup held in Russia in 2017 and all results were negative.

Can FIFA confirm that football players were identified in the McLaren report?

As mentioned on many occasions, following the publication of part II of the McLaren report in December 2016, WADA informed FIFA that 34 football samples identified in the report might potentially have benefitted from manipulation. WADA clearly set out the procedure for the handling of evidence contained in the report by the respective sports federations following a meeting in February 2017. At that time, WADA acknowledged in its [press release](#) that: "there simply may not be sufficient evidence required to sanction, with potential anti-doping rule violations, some of the individual athletes identified in the report". In addition to the material included in the McLaren report, WADA seized approximately 3,000 samples (across all sports) from the Moscow laboratory in December 2014, including 154 from football players. These samples, seized randomly, did not constitute, per se, evidence of anti-doping rule violations, but they were stored by WADA at the Lausanne laboratory and were made available for re-testing, which FIFA requested.

Can FIFA confirm that the Russian squad at the 2014 FIFA World Cup was identified in the McLaren report and has been under investigation?

In accordance with our Anti-Doping Regulations and the World Anti-Doping Code, we cannot identify athletes who are potentially under investigation.

Nevertheless, we can confirm that all 23 players of the Russian 2014 World Cup squad were tested by FIFA through unannounced out-of-competition controls shortly prior to the start of the World Cup and that two players per match were tested (as for any other team) in-competition. The test analyses were done at the WADA-accredited laboratory in Lausanne and all results were negative. The same in- and out-of-competition procedure applied to the 23 players of the Russian 2017 Confederations Cup squad, and again all results were negative.

Furthermore, we can also confirm that the players of the Russian EURO 2016 squad were tested by UEFA through in- and out-of-competition controls and that, once again, all results were negative. In addition, UEFA has also recently conducted re-analysis on samples collected from Russian players during EURO 2012

played in Poland and Ukraine, using the latest detection method available at WADA laboratories. All results were negative.

How many players of the Russian squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup have been under investigation?

In the course of its investigations, FIFA prioritised high-level players against whom a suspicion had been raised, in particular those who might participate in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ in Russia. FIFA can confirm that the investigations concerning Russian players named in the provisional squad for the FIFA World Cup™ in Russia have been completed, with the result that insufficient evidence was found to assert an anti-doping rule violation. FIFA has informed the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) of its conclusions, and WADA in turn has agreed with FIFA's decision to close the cases. We cannot confirm how many players were investigated.

What action did FIFA undertake after the publication of the McLaren report to investigate potential doping cases in football?

FIFA undertook comprehensive action after the publication of the McLaren report, including the following:

- An assessment of all information and evidence contained in the McLaren report, with the support of scientific and legal experts.
- Contact was made with Professor McLaren to obtain further details from him and discuss the approach that FIFA should take.
- Samples taken by FIFA and the confederations that had been stored at WADA-accredited laboratories of all players mentioned in the McLaren reports and high-level players were re-analysed for prohibited substances.
- Samples seized by WADA from the Moscow laboratory and stored at the Lausanne laboratory were re-analysed for prohibited substances in collaboration with WADA.
- Samples seized by WADA from the Moscow laboratory and stored at the Lausanne laboratory were subjected to forensic analysis (for scratches/marks and abnormal salt levels). For this process, FIFA applied the methodology recommended by WADA and used by the International Olympic Committee. None of the samples analysed showed marks that were typical of tampering and the urine did not show any suspect salt values.
- FIFA submitted a list of 59 specific questions to Dr Grigory Rodchenkov and his answers were assessed with the support of scientific and legal experts.
- The Laboratory Information Management System data of the Moscow laboratory provided by WADA was assessed with the support of scientific and legal experts.
- Target tests of players: FIFA performed several unannounced targeted doping controls in the process of the investigations, and the Russian squad has been one of the most tested teams prior to the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.

Who conducted the investigation?

FIFA's Anti-Doping Unit is in charge of the investigation, with the support of external experts, and in accordance with instructions from WADA, who has been informed of every step we have undertaken so far.

Why didn't FIFA appoint an independent investigator?

Throughout our investigation into this matter, we have been working in close collaboration with WADA. They have been informed of every action we have undertaken so far and have agreed to our approach. FIFA is following the requirements set by WADA and, in this regard, is fully transparent and open.

How can you explain that you have not sanctioned anyone despite the evidence available, while other international federations have?

Sanctions cannot be imposed based on mere suspicions or limited facts. Of all the football players mentioned in the McLaren report, two U-20 female players had already been sanctioned by the Russian

authorities before the publication of the McLaren report. FIFA has conducted wide-ranging investigations in close collaboration with WADA and, so far, it has not been possible to demonstrate any other anti-doping rule violation. WADA has assessed FIFA's decision to close a number of cases and agreed with it. As recent CAS jurisprudence shows, special care and attention has to be given to the investigation to ensure that if sanctions are taken, these are solid and fully substantiated. However, our investigations remain open and should we find enough evidence to demonstrate an anti-doping rule violation by any player, FIFA will impose the appropriate sanction.