

**Answers from Travis T. Tygart, USADA CEO to Additional Questions for the Record  
The Honorable Kat Cammack**

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) stated this in a letter to the Committee dated June 18, 2024: “following years of investigations and prosecutions that cost millions, in 2019, WADA successfully prosecuted a non-compliance case against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (“RUSADA”) in connection with institutionalized doping, which resulted in wide-ranging consequences being imposed against Russian sport and public authorities.”

ONDCP wrote to Congress in 2020 that WADA received tips as early as 2010 on Russian authorities’ misconduct related to the Russian doping scandal QUOTE “[t]he Russia doping scandal, which has been lingering for more than a decade since Russian whistleblowers brought evidence of state sponsored doping to WADA in 2010, still remains unresolved.” ONDCP concluded to Congress: “The Russian doping scandal thus continues to demonstrate inadequacies in WADA’s independence and capacity to firmly, effectively, and in a timely manner enforce compliance with the [World Anti-Doping] Code, hold major countries accountable under the rules, and uphold the expectations of clean athletes.”

1. Should WADA be celebrating cleaning up the Russian doping scandal?

With pressure from the international anti-doping community, sport organizations and governments, WADA investigated the Russia doping scandal, at a level that was below par and continued to allow many Russian athletes and sports administrators access to competition. Justice was not fully served, as there are still athletes from the 2014 Sochi Olympics who were cheated out of medals that have not received retroactive medals. Russian athletes continued to compete in international competition even after WADA finally acknowledged the problem, and their weak approach to investigation and resolution of this scandal can only be seen as the bare minimum. Those who should be celebrated are the whistleblowers that stepped forward and put their lives on the line for the integrity of sport. WADA failed to succeed at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in achieving meaningful sanctions for the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) and WADA has failed to implement meaningful oversight of the agency as it still remains non-compliant. Yet, RUSADA is still permitted to run anti-doping operations like testing and results management.

2. Did WADA satisfactorily investigate and prosecute the Russian doping scandal? What should they have done differently if not?

We know now that WADA and the IOC had compelling evidence, from whistleblowers, about systematic Russian cheating for several years prior to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Yet, action to protect clean athletes only happened after the whistleblowers – frustrated by inaction – took their story to the media. Even then, however, it took persistent lobbying by clean sport advocates including some within WADA’s own internal staff to finally convince its leaders to open up the initial Russian investigation.

Even then, WADA’s investigation of the Russian doping scandal was cloaked in secrecy and many National Anti-Doping Agencies (NADOs) urged WADA for transparency and clarification on the progress and gave strong recommendations for prosecution efforts. These recommendations were based on the Code, standards that every other country is held to, and demands from athletes for Russia to be

barred from competing alongside them until they were subjected to the same testing and standards as the rest of the world. WADA, backed by the IOC, cleared a path for Russia to compete at the Rio Olympics.

3. What agencies or individuals should be credited for shining a light on the Russian doping scandal?

Without whistleblowers who bravely spoke up, such as Vitaly and Yulia Stepanov and Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, the world may not have known about Russia's doping regime with as much detail as it does. The media brought international attention to the issue, but organizations like the 37 Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) that were vocal in their call for justice and reform, and the International Paralympic Committee, World Aquatics (FINA at the time) and World Athletics (IAAF at the time) in banning Russian athletes from their sanctioned events took a stand when others would not. These groups not only showed athletes that they cared, but that they were strong enough to do something about it, even when others would not.

Importantly, Congress through the 2017 House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearings exposed the failings of WADA in dealing with Russian state-sponsored doping. Congressional action through the hearing, letters to WADA and the IOC, as well as legislation including the passage of the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Fraud Act did wonders to attempt to hold WADA accountable.