

Putin apologises to Russian athletes for failing to protect them during doping scandal

Sports

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President Vladimir Putin, centre, apologised to Russia athletes for not protecting them more from the doping scandal when he met some of them due to compete under the OAR banner at Pyeongchang 2018 ©Getty Images

By [Thomas Giles](#) for Inside the Games website, Jan 31, 2018 In a meeting with Olympic athletes set to participate at Pyeongchang 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin apologised for "failing to protect" them during the doping scandal. "We know how difficult it is to achieve victory in sport," he said according to official state news agency *RIA Novosti*. "It is twice as difficult when sport is mixed with certain events and phenomena that are unfamiliar. "Forgive us for not being unable to protect you from this. "But you and all lovers of sport should have no doubt that Russia has supported and supports the idea of clean sport." Russia banned from taking part at Pyeongchang 2018 under their own flag and will compete as the Olympic Athletes from Russia - or OAR. The President, however, also questioned the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to ban certain athletes from the Olympics. [⋮] [https://www.insidethegames.biz/article ... hem-during-doping-scandal](https://www.insidethegames.biz/article...hem-during-doping-scandal)