

Olympic Gymnast Suspended Over Doping In London Olympics

The International Olympic Committee said on Sunday that an artistic **gymnast from Uzbekistan has been handed over a provisional suspension after she tested positive for a banned substance**. The 20-year-old Luiza Galiulina was found to have taken a diuretic, which is used for masking the presence of prohibited drugs, the IOC said. She was tested July 25, four days before the start of the women's gymnastics competition.

In the second doping case during the ongoing London Olympics after a ban on Albanian weightlifter Hysen Pulaku for a banned steroid, stanozolol, the female gymnast from Uzbekistan was found testing positive for the banned diuretic furosemide in a pre-games urine control in London on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old athlete was suspended pending the testing of her backup "B sample Sunday afternoon after she attended a hearing on Saturday night. Galiulina – a lesser-known name with no medal hopes – had been due to compete in women's qualifying on Sunday. The 20-year-old was scheduled to compete in artistic gymnastics on Sunday; she appeared at an IOC hearing along with the team coach, personal coach, and two Uzbek officials.

At the 2010 Asian Games, Galiulina won bronze on balance beam and this was her second Olympics after finishing 60th in 2008. Galiulina contended she did not take furosemide and claimed she was been treated by her mother last month and used some medications for a heart condition in July besides using "numerous other products and natural herbs" to help her sleep and relax.

The International Olympic Committee said it found "no corroborating evidence" to support her claims that Galiulina had not intended to improve her performance or mask the use of a banned substance. "Once the results of the B sample have been received, a definitive decision will be announced by the disciplinary commission," said the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee announced: 'The athlete, Mrs Luiza Galiulina, Uzbekistan, Artistic Gymnastics, is provisionally suspended from competing in the Games of the XXX Olympiad, with immediate effect.' The IOC also announced: 'The athlete declared she did not take furosemide, but that she knew what it was and its effects.' If her "B" sample also test positive, the 20-year-old Galiulina would be barred from competing in London and may face a maximum ban of two years as a first-time doping offender.

In another doping case, two more athletes were caught doping at the London Olympics. On Sunday, St Kitts and Nevis sprinter Tameka Williams admitted using a banned substance.

"In discussion with team management, Ms Williams volunteered information to the effect that she has been using a substance which the SKNOC considers to fall outside the internationally accepted medical code," the country's Olympic Committee said. The committee, however, didn't offer any details on the drug in question or the circumstances under which Tameka Williams took it.

The IOC has said it expects to carry out some 5,000 tests - 3,800 urine and 1,200 blood over the course of the London Olympics and said all medalists would be tested.

