

Second Latvian Hockey Player Failed Anti-Doping Test

The Latvian men's hockey team, which reached the quarterfinals before falling 2-1 to Canada during the Sochi Games, has been embarrassed again. This was after the [International Olympic Committee](#) (IOC) reported that Latvia's Ralfs Freibergs, a defenseman who played in five games, had his A and B samples test positive for an anabolic androgenic steroid.

Freibergs was tested immediately after the elimination of Latvia by Canada on February 19. It was determined by an IOC hearing on April 4 that he should be punished. Freibergs, who plays collegiately at Bowling Green, will have his eighth place diploma withdrawn according to the IOC ruling. Freibergs may face a ban of two years for first-time offenders and is considered "excluded" from the [Sochi Games](#).

Freibergs was requested on 20 February 2014, at around 00:15 a.m. immediately after the completion of his participation in the Men's Play-offs Quarterfinals – Canada versus Latvia match, to provide a urine sample for a doping control. Dr. Richard Budgett (the "IOC Medical Director"), as representative of the Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, pursuant to Article 6.2.1 of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules Applicable to the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, in 2014 (the "Rules"), was informed on 22 February 2014 by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, of an adverse analytical finding on the A sample of the above-noted urine.

The analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the A sample, issued by the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, dated 22 February 2014, indicated the presence of dehydrochloromethyl-[testosterone](#) metabolite 18-nor-17b-hydroxymethyl-17a-methyl-4-chloro-5b-androst-13-en-3a-ol (a prohibited substance that belongs to the category of non-specified exogenous Anabolic Androgenic Steroid, in Class S1). The analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the B sample, prepared by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone metabolite 18-nor-17b-hydroxymethyl-17a-methyl-4-chloro-5b-androst-13-en-3a-ol in the B sample.

This is the second instance of a Latvian hockey team member failing anti-doping tests. On February 22, the IOC announced that Vitalijs Pavlovs had tested positive for the stimulant Methylhexanamine. The hockey player claimed the stimulant was in food supplements recommended by the doctor of his KHL team, Dinamo Riga. His defense was not accepted by the IOC and the International Olympic Committee outlined the list of sanctions against Pavlovs. He was immediately disqualified from the quarterfinal match versus Canada.

The 24-year-old Pavlovs tested positive for Methylhexanamine (dimethylpentylamine). It was announced by the IOC Disciplinary Commission that the Athlete shall be excluded from the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi in 2014, and shall have his Olympic identity and accreditation card immediately cancelled. The analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the A sample, issued by the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, dated 21 February 2014, indicated the presence of Methylhexanamine (dimethylpentylamine). The Athlete requested the analysis of the B sample, which occurred on Saturday 22 February 2014 at 4:00 p.m., at the WADA

Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, in the presence of the Athlete's representative, Ms. Liga Cirule. The analytical report of the laboratory analysis of the B sample, prepared by the Head of the WADA Accredited Laboratory in Sochi, was communicated to the IOC. Such report confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance Methylhexanamine (dimethylpentylamine) in the B sample.