

## **Russian Sculls Team Banned From Rio Olympics**

World rowing's ruling body has announced on Thursday that the quadruple sculls team of Russia has been disqualified from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics for a doping violation. The team will now be replaced at the games by [New Zealand](#).

The 36-year-old is the 2004 Athens Olympic Games gold medalist and two-time European champion.

The World Rowing Federation revealed [Trimetazidine](#), a banned substance, was found in a urine sample given by rower Sergey Fedorovtsev in an out-of-competition test on May 17. Sergey competed a week later at the final Olympic qualifying regatta in Switzerland, where Russia finished first to qualify for Rio. The World Rowing Federation, FISA, remarked the B sample was opened on 30 June 2016 in the presence of the rower and the subsequent analysis confirmed the result and therefore it is considered that an anti-doping rule violation has taken place.

The federation said the results of all competitions in which the rower participated after 17 May 2016 are therefore automatically disqualified as Fedorovtsev, who won a gold medal in quadruple sculls at the 2004 Athens Olympics, had provided a positive [doping test](#).

New Zealand that finished third behind Russia and Canada in the qualifying event will replace the Russian crew in Rio. Canada also qualified by finishing second and will join the top eight crews who secured their Olympic places at the 2015 world championships, held in France.

In another development, about 10 Russian field and track athletes sent their individual applications on Tuesday to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) requesting the right to take part in the 2016 Olympics, said Mikhail Butov, the secretary general of the All-Russia Athletics Federation (ARAF). Russian woman pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, winner of two Olympic gold medals, was one of those to file an application at the International Association of Athletic Federations for participation in the 2016 Olympics in Brazil

A few days back, Alexandra Brilliantova, the head of the legal department of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC), remarked the interests of the Russian field and track athletes would be represented by the Russian Olympic Committee at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland's Lausanne.

The Russian Olympic Committee has employed the services of British firm Morgan Sports Law to represent them at CAS. The ROC hope to have the suspension by the world governing body of athletics overturned in time for Russian athletes to be able to compete at Rio 2016. The London-based company has recently represented a number of clients at CAS against the IAAF. It recently successfully led an appeal to CAS from Tatyana Andrianova against the All-Russia Athletic Federation and the IAAF against a decision to strip her of the bronze medal she won in the 800 meters at the 2005 World Championships following a re-analysis of her urine sample that had shown traces of banned performance-enhancing drugs. Morgan Sports Law also successfully appealed to CAS on behalf of Belarus' Olympic hammer silver medalist Vadim Devyatovskiy to have a lifetime ban imposed by the athletics' world governing body from the sport lifted, despite Vadim been involved in several doping scandals during his career.