

## Fresh Doping Blow For Russia

The International Olympic Committee has announced Russia is stripped of another athletics medal from the 2008 [Beijing Olympics](#). This was after three Russian athletes were retroactively caught in drug tests.

The IOC said Anastasia Kapachinskaya tested positive for the steroids Stanozolol and Turinabol in a reanalysis of her doping samples that resulted in Russia losing its silver medal in the women's 4 x 400 meters relay. This is the second 2008 relay medal stripped this week from Russia because of doping. The IOC took away the gold medal of Russia in the 4 x 100 meters after Yulia Chermoshanskaya tested positive for the same two steroids. An entire relay team loses its medals if one of the runners tests positive under international rules.

The Jamaican team would now receive the silver medal and Belarus would get the bronze medal while USA has the gold medal.

On Friday, Alexander Pogorelov and Ivan Yushkov were the other two Russian athletes disqualified from the 2008 Games. Yushkov, who placed 10th in the shot put, tested positive for [Stanozolol](#), Oxandrolone, and [Turinabol](#). Pogorelov, who placed fourth in the decathlon, tested positive for Turinabol. The IOC earlier this week stripped Ukrainian javelin thrower Oleksandr Pyatnytsya of his silver medal from the 2012 London Games. The International Olympic Committee also disqualified three other athletes — weightlifters Nurcan Taylan of Turkey, Hripsime Khurshudyan of Armenia, and Pavel Kryvitski of Belarus — for doping violations at the last two Olympics.

In another development, Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva - who was part of a doping-tainted track and field team - has been elected to the International Olympic Committee. Yelena was voted into an eight-year term as an athletes' representative. The women's pole vault world record-holder remarked her selection demonstrates her fellow athletes still trust her despite the scandal. Isinbayeva has never failed a drug test but was one of 67 Russian track and field athletes who were barred from the Rio Games.

The 34-year-old was one of four candidates who beat 19 others to be elected to the IOC athletes' commission. The three other athletes elected to the IOC were Britta Heidemann of Germany, Ryu Seung-min of South Korea, and Daniel Gyurta of Hungary. Isinbayeva said in the Olympic Village she is very thankful to all athletes who voted for her here in Rio and remarked she will protect the rights of clean athletes all over the world. Isinbayeva announced her retirement to focus on a new career in sports politics and considers an offer to lead Russian track and field. A day after being among the four winning candidates, Yelena Isinbayeva decided she doesn't want to compete anymore.

Yelena remarked one of her priorities would be to campaign for Russia's IAAF suspension to be lifted so fellow clean athletes can resume their professional careers. Isinbayeva also termed investigations by the World Anti-Doping Agency as "unfair" and remarked all of the accusations that have leveled have been built upon assumptions, there are no facts, no proof but for some reason investigator Richard McLaren's assumptions were sufficient to raise the question of banning the entire Russian team from the Olympics.