

Yuliya Efimova Blasts Lilly King

Russian swimmer [Yuliya Efimova](#), who was booed by crowds at the Rio Olympics, has taken a parting shot at rival Lilly King on Saturday night. Yuliya insisted the American 19-year-old was immature and had turned the event into “a war.”

Efimova remarked the escalated bad blood between the American and Russian camps was a personal “nightmare” for her. Yuliya claimed the West was using sport to fight a new cold war. Efimova said he understands the people who didn’t congratulate her because the media was full of fake stories about her and added she on the other hand does not really understand the foreign competitors. Yuliya remarked all athletes should be above politics, but they just watch TV and believe everything they read.

King had repeatedly asserted that the Russian swimmer should not have been allowed to compete as she had previously been banned for doping. Yuliya, the four-time World Champion and a three-time Olympian, failed a drug test in 2013 and was suspended from competition for 16 months. Efimova, who won bronze at the London Games in 2012, was banned between October 2013 and February 2015 after testing positive for traces of the [anabolic steroid](#) DHEA. She was given a provisional ban earlier this year after testing positive for Meldonium, but the International Swimming Federation lifted the suspension after advice from the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Her name also figured in a World Anti-Doping Agency report into Russian state-sponsored doping. The Russian swimmer was excluded from the Games until gaining a late reprieve. Yuliya was quietly reinstated and no explanation for the decision was provided by the International Swimming Federation or the International Olympic Committee.

Efimova has been living and training in Southern California for the past five years but may reconsider her decision with the reaction she received from the American swimming public. She was booed on several occasions during the schedule as she entered the pool deck. Efimova once shook her finger as she was loudly booed before and after her semifinal race at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium. Spectators were not happy with the IOC

decision to let Efimova and her fellow Russian swimmers compete and the Russian swimming team, especially Yuliya was subjected to boos and jeers at the Aquatic Center.

Lilly did not hide her feelings about the disgraced Russian swimmer and said Yuliya is a drug cheat and should not be allowed to compete. The American swimmer said bringing Yuliya was decision of the IOC and she is going to respect that decision even though it is not something that she agrees with.

The US star defeated Yulia Efimova to win gold in the 100 meters breaststroke. The 19-year-old bagged the gold in one of the most anticipated [swimming events](#) of the tournament -- by just under a second as she finished in 1 minute 4.93 seconds, more than a half-second ahead of Efimova. After her win, Lilly remarked her win just proves that you can compete clean and still come out on top with all the work you put in.