

European Athlete Of The Year Prize May Be All Lost For Russian Athlete

Mariya Sergeyevna Savinova, the Russian former athlete who specialized in the 800 meters, is likely to be stripped of her 2011 European Athlete of the Year award after a doping ban of four years was imposed on her.

Svein Arne Hansen, the President of [European Athletics](#), confirmed that the female athlete of the year award of Savinova could be removed. Vladimir Kazarin, her coach, may also lose his coach of the year prize from the same year. The European Athletics Council is likely to review the case of Savinova at its meeting in Paris between April 28 and 30.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) sanctioned Savinova and declared her results between July 26, 2010 and August 19, 2013 void. She will be unable to return to competition until August 2019 at the earliest. This means the Russian 800 meters runner was stripped of her Olympic gold medal from London 2012 and her world title from Daegu in 2011.

In a statement, the CAS said the 31-year-old Savinova was found to have been engaged in using doping with her ban backdated to begin from August 2015. A CAS statement read Mariya Savinova-Farnosova on the basis of clear evidence, including the evidence derived from her biological passport (ABP) is found to have been engaged in using doping from 26 July 2010 (the eve of the European Championship in Barcelona) through to 19 August 2013 (the day after the World Championship in Moscow) and accordingly to have violated Article 32.2(b) of the IAAF Competition Rules (the IAAF Rules) which concerns "Use or Attempted Use by an Athlete of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method.

The CAS statement further reads that a four-year period of ineligibility, beginning on 24 August 2015, has been imposed on Mariya Savinova-Farnosova and all results achieved by her between 26 July 2010 and 19 August 2013, are disqualified and any prizes, medals, prize and appearance money forfeited. Savinova was also stripped of her 2010 European title from Barcelona.

Savinova was named as one of five Russian athletes implicated in the first WADA Independent Commission report. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) initially called for Savinova to be banned for life.

Whistleblower Yuliya Stepanova filmed Savinova in undercover footage back in 2014. In the footage, Savinova was caught admitting to injecting banned substance [Testosterone](#) and using [Oxandrolone](#). Savinova said on the recording that is our system and in Russia that only works with doping. Savinova also claimed in the video that her husband, Russian 1,500m runner Aleksey Farsonov, had very good contacts to the doping control laboratory in Moscow. This prompted the World Anti-Doping Agency to launch an investigation that culminated in the Russian Athletics Federation being banned from international competition in November 2015.

The 800m specialist also had ties to two coaches suspected of involvement in a state-sponsored doping scheme in her native country. Vladimir Kazarin remains suspended pending the results of an

investigation and Alexei Melnikov, a long-distance running and race walking coach, was banned for life last year.