

## **Russia Bans Four Athletes For Doping**

The Athletics Federation of Russia has announced suspensions of four years have been imposed on Russian runners whose samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics tested positive for a banned steroid.

Last year, Long-distance runner Inga Abitova and 400-metre specialists [Anastasia Kapachinskaya](#) and Denis Alekseyev were disqualified by the International Olympic Committee after their samples from Beijing were found to contain banned substances in retesting, including the steroid [Turinabol](#).

The results of Alekseyev between August 2008 and June 2013 are annulled, according to the Russian athletics federation. Alekseyev won bronze in Beijing as part of the Russian men's 4x400-metre relay team but the International Olympic Committee ordered that he and his teammates be stripped of their medals. The Russian athletics federation also announced the results of Kapachinskaya starting from August 2008 are annulled. The athlete and her 4x400-metre relay teammates were also stripped of their silver medals from Beijing. Kapachinskaya also tested positive for Stanazolol and her retested sample from the 2011 World Athletics Championships in Daegu also showed up as positive.

American Francena McCorory will now inherit the 400 bronze of Kapachinskaya from the 2011 world championships. Alekseyev took bronze in the men's 4x400m and Kapachinskaya claimed silver in the women's 4x400m relay. Their medals had already been reallocated by the International Olympic Committee and Great Britain is set to receive bronze in both events.

Christine Ohuruogu, Kelly Sotherton, Marilyn Okoro and Nicola Sanders - the GB women's quartet - finished fifth but now have moved to the third place as a result of both third-placed Russia and fourth-placed Belarus being disqualified because of subsequent failed tests. Andrew Steele, Robert Tobin, Michael Bingham and Martyn Rooney - the men's four - moved from fourth to third when the International Olympic Committee stripped third-placed Russia of their medal in September.

The Athletics Federation of Russia said the suspensions handed out to Alekseyev and Abitova will end next year because the suspension terms already include two-year bans they had previously served for doping offences. European silver medalist Irina Maracheva was also suspended.

Abitova, the 2006 European Champion in the 10,000 meters reached the final at the 2008 Summer Olympics, and specializes in the 10,000 meters and the marathon. The Russian athlete received a doping ban of two years for abnormal hemoglobin profile in her biological passport. In 2006, Abitova had become European champion over the 10,000 meters at the 2006 European Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Alekseyev tested positive for the anabolic steroid Dehydrochloromethyltestosterone (Oral Turinabol) in an out-of-competition control 27 June 2013. Alekseyev was one of 14 Russian athletes and nine medalists who were implicated following the retesting of urine from the 2008 Olympic Games.

Kapachinskaya was disqualified from competitions in 2004 and 2008 because of doping offences. The sprint athlete was initially awarded gold in the 200 m event at the 2004 IAAF World Indoor Championships in Budapest but she was later stripped of the title after testing positive for [Stanozolol](#),

the banned anabolic steroid. Kapachinskaya face a lifetime ban from the sport as this would be a second doping offence.