

Russian Weightlifter Loses Olympic Silver In Doping Case

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced Russian weightlifter [Apti Aukhadov](#) has been stripped of a London 2012 silver medal after it was confirmed he had tested positive following the re-analysis of samples.

Aukhadov, who is from the Chechnya region, is the latest athlete to be officially sanctioned by the IOC following retesting of more than 1,000 [doping samples](#) from the London Olympics and 2008 Beijing Games.

The 23-year-old has been ordered to return his medal, which he won as a 19-year-old in the British capital. Aukhadov, the under-85 kilograms lifter, failed retests for anabolic steroids [Turinabol and Drostanolone](#). The weightlifter also faces the risk of losing the World and European titles he won in 2013 as well as his world bronze medal won in 2015. Aukhadov becomes the tenth weightlifter to have been formally confirmed as failing a Beijing 2008 or London 2012 retest by the IOC. The Russian weightlifter lifted a total of 385kg to narrowly miss out on first place in London behind Adrian Zielinski of Poland, who managed the same total but had a higher clean and jerk mark. The weightlifter from Poland was barred from Rio 2016 after failing a drug test ahead of the Games.

It was revealed by an IOC disciplinary commission report that Aukhadov initially replied that he was "shocked" by the retest result and did not accept the anti-doping violation finding. The report added Aukhadov did not attend the opening and retesting of the backup "B" sample and also did not attend the hearing, or put up any further defense. The three-man panel said the athlete beyond alleging to be shocked does not bring forth any explanation in respect of the fact that two different anabolic steroids were found in his sample.

The IOC ordered the International Weightlifting Federation to adjust the London weightlifting results. The IWF has also been asked by the IOC to consider any further sanctions against Aukhadov, who could face a ban of at least two years. His gold medals from the 2013 world championships and European championships could also be annulled by the IWF.

Iranian Kianoush Rostami now stands to be promoted to silver after a total haul of 380kg and Tarek Yehia of Egypt should rise from fourth to the bronze medal position after managing 375kg.

The IOC also announced Ukrainian pole vaulter Maksym Mazuryk is also disqualified after finishing 18th in qualifying at London 2012. The pole valuter also tested positive for Turinabol after his sample was tested with the most up to date methods. Mazuryk, a world junior champion in 2002, had earlier claimed a silver medal at the 2010 European Championships and set a personal best of 5.88 metres indoors in 2011. A graduate of the Bubka Sports Club, Mazuryk was tested in Kyiv in July 2012 before the games. He accepted the positive finding and did not request a retesting of the "B" sample.

In another development, American weightlifter Norik Vardanian has tested positive for a banned substance in a sample he provided while competing for Armenia at the London 2012 Olympic Games. The IWF said he produced a positive test for the anabolic steroid Dehydrochlormethyltestosterone.