



15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva tested positive for the banned drug trimetazidine before the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games; however, tests found the result after she helped Team Russia win the team figure skating competition.

The Russian **anti-doping agency** temporarily suspended Valieva and then **reinstated** her on February 9. The Court of Arbitration for Sport will determine if Valieva can continue to compete in Beijing in other events. A lab took the sample on December 25 last year and then reported the results on February 8. Doctors typically use the drug to treat chest pain and dizziness; however, according to the International Testing Agency, it can boost **endurance** and blood flow.

Valieva is the current world record holder, and she's set nine world records in her career. The Olympic medal ceremony will wait until the court resolves the case.

Difficult words: **anti-doping agency** (an organization that monitors banned drugs in sports), **reinstate** (to return someone in a job or position), **endurance** (the ability to do something for a long time).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *anti-doping agency, reinstate and endurance*
2. Which country was Kamila Valieva representing in the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games?
3. Why was Valieva temporarily suspended?
4. When did the lab take the sample from Kamila Valieva? And why was she allowed to play although she tested positive for the banned drug trimetazidine?
5. What is the drug trimetazidine used for?
6. When will Kamila Valieva receive her Olympic gold medal?
7. How many world records has Valieva set in her career?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Have any athletes from your country been banned from playing in international competitions after they tested positive for using illegal drugs?
2. Are you for or against the use of illegal drugs for medicinal purposes? Why or why not?