



Kamila Valieva is a 15-year-old Russian figure skater who is competing at the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

In December last year, a **lab** took a **sample** of her blood to check if Valieva used illegal drugs. On February 8, the results came that Valieva used trimetazidine. Doctors normally give this drug to patients with heart problems. Since 2014, athletes can't use this drug because it is possible to train harder and longer.

Valieva and her team already won a gold medal at the Olympics, but officials postponed the **medal ceremony**. A court will decide if Valieva will be in other Olympic events.

Difficult words: **lab** (a place where scientists work), **sample** (a small piece of something), **medal ceremony** (when the best athletes get medals at the end of a game or competition).

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

1. Define the following words: *lab*, *sample* and *medal ceremony*
2. Which sport is Kamila Valieva competing for at the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China?
3. What illegal drug was found in Kamila Valieva's blood sample?
4. Why may patients be given this kind of drug?
5. Why aren't athletes allowed to use trimetazidine?
6. Did officials award Kamila of the gold medal she won at the Olympics?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Have any athletes from your country been banned or stopped from playing because of using illegal drug?
2. If you were Kamila Valieva, how would you feel if the court decided you couldn't play in other Olympic events?
3. Are you for or against the use of illegal drugs for medicinal purposes?