

Charge Softened Against Boxer in Street Brawl Death

By The Moscow Times

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Investigators have softened a charge against a boxer who caused the death of a man in a street brawl outside a Urals nightclub in October.

Junior boxing champion Valery Tretaykov, 22, will face a maximum prison sentence of two years in prison instead of a potential 15-year term after medical expert ruled he was not directly responsible for the man's death, Sverdlovsk region investigators said in a <u>statement</u> Wednesday.

Investigators have determined that the 28-year-old man died after being punched twice in the head by Tretayakov during an argument outside a nightclub.

Medical experts said the fatal blow was caused by the man cracking his head on the sidewalk after he was felled by Tretyakov's second punch. They ruled that his death had no direct connection with the punch.

As a result, an initial charge of intentionally causing grave bodily injuries resulting in manslaughter has been replaces with the less serious charge of ordinary manslaughter, Sverdlovsk region investigators said in a separate <u>statement</u>.

The conclusion of investigators in regard to Tretaykov mirrors last year's conclusion by a Moscow court in regard to mixed martial arts champion Rasul Mirzayev, who punched a student in the head in a brawl outside a Moscow nightclub in August 2011. A Moscow court later concluded that 19-year-old student Ivan Agafonov died not because of Mirzayev's punch but because of hitting his head on the asphalt when he fell after Mirzayev's punch.

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