

32 Russian Athletes File Appeals for Last-Minute Olympics Spots

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Thirty-two Russian athletes are appealing bans imposed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the hopes of getting last-minute spots at the upcoming Winter Games in South Korea.

The IOC barred the Russian Olympic team from competing in the 2018 Games opening this week over an investigation into a state-run doping program. A week after overturning bans against 28 Russian athletes, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) [announced](#) that it had opened a procedure against the IOC decision based on the appeals of 32 more Russian athletes.

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“The applicants challenge the IOC decision refusing to invite them to participate in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games,” the sports court said in a statement Tuesday.

The athletes lodging the appeal include six-time speed skating gold medalist Viktor Ahn and cross-country skiing world champion Sergei Ustyugov, as well as three hockey players, the Associated Press [reported](#).

The Swiss-based CAS said the hearing will likely take place on Wednesday, two days ahead of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

The IOC [confirmed](#) last month that nearly 170 individual athletes who passed its anti-doping panel will be allowed to participate in the games in neutral uniforms as “Olympic Athletes from Russia.”

The committee [declined](#) to invite 13 of the 28 Russian athletes and two coaches whose Olympic bans were overturned by the CAS last week.

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