

Two-Time Olympic Biathlon Champion and State Duma Lawmaker Sergei Tchepikov Dies at 59

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Sergei Tchepikov. **Video grab**

Two-time Olympic biathlon champion and State Duma lawmaker Sergei Tchepikov has died at age 59, the Russian Biathlon Union [said](#) Thursday.

The cause of Tchepikov's death was not disclosed, but unverified reporting by a Telegram channel with links to Russian law enforcement [claimed](#) he died of cancer at the hospital.

During his international career spanning two decades and six Winter Olympic Games, Tchepikov [won](#) a gold medal in the biathlon relay in 1988 and another in the sprint in 1994.

Tchepikov was also a two-time World Champion, taking gold in the team event in 1989 and the mixed relay in 2006, with a less successful career in cross-country skiing in between.

In 2006, he joined the ruling United Russia party, which is backed by President Vladimir Putin, and was elected to the Sverdlovsk region's legislative assembly in 2011. He has served in

the Duma since 2016.

The United States, the EU and other Western countries sanctioned Tchepikov in 2022 for voting in support of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

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