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## China bans speedskater for failed drug test

DOPING

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**BEIJING:** China has banned speedskater Xiaoxuan Shi from the national team for two years after failing a drug test, removing her from their squad for next month's 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, the China Skating Association said in a statement.

Shi tested positive for the banned substance clenbuterol on Dec 14, the governing body said in a release posted on China's General Administra-

tion of Sports.

Clenbuterol is a performance-enhancing substance sometimes found in weight-loss pills and is on the World Anti-Doping Agency banned list.

The penalty is a "wake-up call" for Chinese athletes preparing for the Winter Olympics, which will take place in South Korea from Feb 9-25, the Association said.

"There are loopholes in our ed-

ucation campaign against doping.

"We will take more measures and responsibility to prevent this from happening again," the organisation added.

The positive test is a blow for China, which will host the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Shi, 21, won a gold medal for the 500-metre sprint at the Junior Speedskating World Cup in 2016.

**Reuters**