

# Yogurt Spat Throws Off Routines of U.S. Olympians

KARL RITTER, Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — U.S. Olympians will have to make do without the team's official yogurt — depriving them of a source of protein and potentially disturbing their daily routines as they prepare for the biggest competition of their lives.

Some 5,000 cups of [Greek yogurt from Team USA sponsor Chobani](#) [1] isn't getting to Sochi because of a customs dispute with Russia.

U.S. halfpipe skier Aaron Blunck said Friday that to traveling athletes, getting food from home is part of feeling fit and healthy. "And having the yogurt there, that helps you, gives you protein, gives you nutrition," he said.

But teammate Lyman Currier said part of being an elite athlete is dealing with the unexpected.

"We all have different routines before competing but I think that part of the sport is adapting," he said. "So whether we have our yogurt or not, we'll be able to adapt."

The U.S. Ski Team is not staying in the athletes' village in Krasnaya Polyana in the mountains above Sochi. The Americans have their own place, with their own food and private chefs.

U.S. Alpine skiers Steven Nyman and Marco Sullivan said they were fine without yogurt.

"Our setup's pretty good. I can get my [Greek yogurt](#) [2] when I get back home," Nyman said.

Sullivan noted that oatmeal was also missing from the breakfast menu; there was rice pudding instead. "I don't really care about it, but I noticed it," he said.

Russian authorities say the U.S. Department of Agriculture has refused to provide a certificate that is required for dairy products under its customs rules.

"American officials know what the requirements are, and I do not understand why they stood to the side and waited until the situation reached this point," said Alexei Alexeyenko, an official at the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance. "This question can be resolved very quickly."

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer this week implored the Russians to let the shipment through and said export trade rules should have nothing to do with it, since the [yogurt](#) [3] isn't for sale and is to be eaten only by U.S. citizens in Sochi.

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U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul said Friday the trade dispute goes back four years and that he's been working on it ever since he arrived as ambassador in 2012.

"Unfortunately, with this particular shipment, it came to an impasse," he said. "We are still working it, we would like our athletes to be able to have the American yogurt."

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Associated Press writers Graham Dunbar in Sochi, Howard Fendrich in Krasnaya Polyana, Laura Mills in Moscow and Mary Esch in Albany, N.Y., contributed to this report.

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