

THE COMPETITION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE «LEARN TO WIN»

# *MY SPORTS IDOL*

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# ALINA ZAGITOVA





❖ Alina Ilnazovna Zagitova is a Russian figure skater. She is the 2018 Olympic champion, the 2018 European champion, 2017–18 Grand Prix Final champion, and the 2018 Russian national champion. Zagitova also won a silver medal in the team event at the 2018 Winter Olympics, representing the OAR team. Earlier in her career, she won gold at the 2017 World Junior Championships and at the 2016–17 Junior Grand Prix Final.

# BIOGRAPHY OF Alina Zagitova

❖ ZAGITOVA WAS BORN ON 18 MAY 2002 IN IZHEVSK, UDMURTIA. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF LEYSAN ZAGITOVA AND ILNAZ ZAGITOV, AN ICE HOCKEY COACH FROM TATARSTAN. SHE HAS A SISTER, SABINA, WHO IS SEVEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN HER. SHE WAS NAMELESS FOR A YEAR UNTIL HER PARENTS DECIDED TO NAME HER "ALINA" AFTER WATCHING RUSSIAN RHYTHMIC GYMNAST ALINA KABAEVA. SHE MOVED TO MOSCOW AT AGE 13 ALONGSIDE HER GRANDMOTHER, AND CONTINUES TO LIVE WITH HER. THROUGHOUT CHILDHOOD, HER HOBBY WAS DRAWING. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RITA MAMUN IN KOREA, ZAGITOVA INDICATED THAT SHE IS APPARENTLY A LOVER OF PET ANIMALS KEEPING TWO EXOTIC CHINCHILLAS AT HER HOME IN MOSCOW, ALONG WITH A DOG AND A CAT.



# Career

❖ Zagitova met the well-known coach during the competitions in Moscow. According to Alina, she did not perform very well then. Being late for the train the girl persuaded her mother to go to Eteri Tutberidze. The coach after a brief conversation told the athlete to come after the celebration of New Year. Zagitova is in the group with the outstanding figure skater Evgenia Medvedeva - the winner of world records and the world champion of 2016.



# INTERESTING FACTS

- ◆ Parents up to one year could not name their daughter. One day, while watching TV, they saw Alina Kabaeva's performance. And the parents decided to call their daughter Alina.
- ◆ Alina began her trainings with Eteri Tutberidze not once. Three months after the start of training, Eteri Georgievna expelled Zagitova. The coach admitted that she made this decision, because the figure skater did not understand the training system.
- ◆ During the trip to Marseille, the sportswoman lost her phone. Alina searched everywhere, but could not find the phone. Later, she found it unexpectedly.







## SHE WAS NAMED AFTER THE FAMED OLYMPIC GYMNAST ALINA KABAEVA

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**Alina** is named after another famous Alina. “Her parents chose her name, Alina, after watching the performance of Russian rhythmic gymnast **Alina Kabaeva**,” reports [PyeongChang2018.com](http://PyeongChang2018.com), quoting her saying, “I was named in her honour. When I was born, they did not give me a name until I was one year old. Once my parents watched gymnastics. Alina Kabaeva was competing, they looked at each other and decided to call me this name – Alina.”

