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## Chinese Olympic champion gymnasts cleared over age

LONDON, Oct. 1 (Xinhua) -- Chinese female gymnasts suspected of being underage at the Beijing Olympics have been cleared by the International Gymnastic Federation (FIG) but the women's team that won the bronze medal in the Sydney Games in 2000 will face further investigation.

The FIG said on Wednesday in a statement that the documentation provided confirms that all Chinese women Olympians were old enough after a five-week investigation.

"Originals of official documents received from the Chinese Gymnastics Association, specifically passports, identity cards and family booklets or Household Registers, confirm the ages of the athletes," said FIG.

The investigation into the Chinese 2008 Olympic team was launched just before the end of the Beijing Olympics on 24 August when questions were raised during this summer's Games.

Gymnasts must turn 16 during the Olympic year to compete but some claimed He Kexin, who won gold in both team and individual uneven bars events, was just 14.

There were also allegations that four other Chinese female gymnasts, Yang Yilin, Jiang Yuyuan, Deng Linlin, and Li Shanshan were too young.

The FIG said that they considered that the case was now concluded.

"The FIG has shared its conclusions with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which originally requested the inquiry," it added.

However, the federation is still looking at the ages of Dong Fangxiao and Yang Yun in the Chinese 2000 squad.

"The FIG does not consider the explanations and evidence provided to date in regards to these athletes as satisfactory," it said.

Some suggested that Dong and Yang, who also clinched a bronze medal on the uneven bars in 2000, were only 14 in Sydney.