



# On the Verge of Death:

## IRINA SKVORTSOVA

# Presentation plan

- ▶ General information about Irina Skvortsova
- ▶ A fatal error
- ▶ Irina's recovery
- ▶ The Unbreakable

# General information

- ▶ Born on July 17, 1988 (29 y.o.)
- ▶ Professional bobsledder from Russia
- ▶ TV presenter
- ▶ Graduated from MSU
- ▶ Known for recovery from catastrophic bobsleigh accident



# A fatal error

- ▶ November 23, 2009
- ▶ European Cup training session
- ▶ Judge's error led to two bobs colliding
- ▶ Irina was severely injured
- ▶ 11 months in hospital
- ▶ "Injuries incompatible with life"
- ▶ 1 chance in a 100, yet she survived...



# Irina's recovery



- ▶ Main difficulty – accepting the need to give up sport
- ▶ Physical suffering which painkillers could not alleviate
- ▶ Friends' support cheered Irina up
- ▶ Doing sport became impossible
- ▶ A new goal – getting out the wheelchair



# The Unbreakable

- ▶ Walked on crutches
- ▶ Went to Prague after rehab
- ▶ Learnt to drive a car
- ▶ Graduated from Pedagogical Institute of Physical Education
- ▶ Works as a TV journalist
- ▶ Torchbearer at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Torch Relay
- ▶ Irina's story impressed Vladimir Putin greatly
- ▶ They stood together during the Sochi Winter Olympics opening ceremony





“Nothing is impossible!”