

Press release

08 February 2018

XXIII Olympic Winter Games Three favorites and outsider chances: Preview Olympic Team event

The Figure Skating competition at the XXIII Olympic Winter Games will kick off on February 9 just before the Opening Ceremony, with the exciting team event. In each team, one Lady, one Man, one Pair Skating and one Ice Dance Couple compete in the Short and/or Free Skating. Teams can exchange up to two entries between the Short and Free Skating Program in the team event provided they have more than one entry qualified for the individual competition. It is expected that most teams will switch the Pairs if they have a second couple as the Pairs continue with their individual competition right after the team event.

All ten teams will compete in the Short Programs/Short Dance but only the top five teams after the Short Programs will advance to the Free Skating/Free Dance. The line-up for the teams will be announced following the team leaders' meeting on February 6 and the competitors participating in the respective event have to be confirmed the day before.

Sochi 2014 hosted the inaugural Olympic team event when Russia won the gold medal followed by Canada and the USA. These three ISU Members are again the top medal contenders in PyeongChang 2018. Although Japan won the ISU World Team Trophy in 2016, the Olympic format is slightly different with only one entry per discipline.

Canada took a narrow lead over the Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) in the qualifying for the team event and USA ranked third, with the difference in points to OAR being bigger than the difference to Japan in fourth place.

Canada has top contenders in all disciplines, and their team most likely will include three-time World Champion [Patrick Chan](#), reigning World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#) and bronze medalist [Gabrielle Daleman](#), three-time Olympic Ice Dance medalists [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) and two-time World Pairs Champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#).

Russia that will compete under the name Olympic Athletes from Russia, it can count on two-time World Champion [Evgenia Medvedeva](#), newly minted European Champion [Alina Zagitova](#), on two-time European Pairs Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#), multiple European Ice Dance medalists [Ekaterina Borbova/Dmitri Soloviev](#) as well as ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist [Mikhail Kolyada](#) and European silver medalist [Dmitri Aliev](#). The question is rather who has to be left off the team.

Team USA can rely on ISU Grand Prix Final Champion [Nathan Chen](#), ISU Grand Prix Finalist [Adam Rippon](#), but will have to make a tough choice between their dance teams that all three are top contenders: ISU Grand Prix Finalists [Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani](#), two-time World medalists [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) and new U.S. Champions [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#). The USA has only one pair entered for the Olympic Games, [Alexa Scimeca Knierim/Chris Knierim](#).

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AVENUE JUSTE-OLIVIER 17 - CH 1006 LAUSANNE - SWITZERLAND
PHONE (+41) 21 612 66 66 FAX (+41) 21 612 66 7 E-MAIL media@isu.ch

Japan is expected to challenge for a medal led by their strong single skaters 2015 World silver medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) and 2018 Four Continents Champion [Kaori Sakamoto](#) as well as 2017 World silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#). However, reigning Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) will focus on the individual event and does not take part. Following their bronze medal finish at the ISU Four Continents Championships last month, Ice Dancers [Kana Muramoto/Chris Reed](#) head confidently into the team competition as well.

China is not far behind Japan in the standings and aims at scoring highly especially in the Pairs event with reigning World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) and in the Men's event possibly with 2018 Four Continents Champion [Boyang Jin](#).

Team Italy features 2012 World Champion [Carolina Kostner](#) and 2014 World Ice Dance Champions [Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte](#) while two-time World Ice Dance Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/ Guillaume Cizeron](#) and Pair skaters [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) are expected to lead team France.

The other qualified teams are Germany (with ISU Grand Prix Final Champions [Aljona Savchenko/ Bruno Massot](#)), Israel and Korea. Spain originally was qualified, but not eligible since they qualified skaters for the individual events only in two disciplines. In order to participate in the Olympic team event, a country needs to have qualified skaters in at least three disciplines. Korea replaced Spain.

In each team, one Lady, one Man, one Pair Skating and one Ice Dance Couple compete in the Short and/or Free Skating. Teams can exchange up to two entries between Short and Free Program in the team event provided they have more than one entry qualified for the individual competition. Most teams will switch the Pairs if they have a second couple as the Pairs continue with their individual competition right after the team event.

All ten teams will compete in the Short Programs/Short Dance and the top five teams after the Short Programs will advance to the Free Skating/Free Dance. The line-up for the teams will be announced following the team leaders' meeting on February 6 and the competitors participating in the respective event have to be confirmed the day before.

The schedule of the Olympic team event is as follows:

Friday, February 9: Men's and Pairs Short Program

Sunday, February 11: Short Dance, Ladies Short Program, Pairs Free Skating

Monday, February 12: Men's and Ladies Free Skating, Free Dance

For more information, schedules, full entries and results please refer to the [ISU website](#) and the [official website](#) of the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.