



ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final®
Vancouver, Canada
December 6-9, 2018

Media Information



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Skate Canada looks forward to hosting media attending the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final® in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The event will be held at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre from December 6-9, 2018. This information will assist you in planning your trip to Vancouver and to apply for media accreditation to cover the event. Every effort will be made to ensure journalists have all the appropriate facilities necessary to work at the event.

The press centre and press tribune will be open and operational for the first practice/training session on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 8:00 ET.

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If you require further information or have any questions, please contact:

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Media Accreditation

All media must apply for media accreditation through the ISU Online Media Accreditation System (OMAS) on the International Skating Union (ISU) website (www.isu.org) under «[Media Accreditation](#)».

Accreditation will be granted to professional journalists and photographers only.

Writing press, photographers, non-right holding media and freelancers

- **Writing Press** (newspaper, magazine, internet, agencies and ISU Member Federations): maximum two professionals per organization
- **Photographer:** maximum one professional per organization (agencies and major newspapers: maximum two professionals)
- **Television non-right holder:** maximum three professionals per organization
- **Radio non-right holder:** maximum one professional per organization
- **Freelancer:** A freelance journalist or photographer is a full-time professional editor or photographer, who is not employed by an agency or newspaper – a self-employed professional. A freelance editor or photographer must provide written evidence that he/she operates on behalf of a clearly identified media. A freelance editor or photographer operating under his/her own account will not be accepted.

The total number of accredited media representatives will be subject to capacity. The Organizing Committee (OC) and ISU reserve the right to refuse any accreditation should the number of applications exceed given space or if any requested information / documentation has not been provided in due time.

The deadline to apply for media accreditation is **Monday, November 19, 2018**. All media must provide the following documentation when applying for media accreditation and further information can be requested:

1. Copy of current professional media or journalist card
2. ID photo in .jpg.
3. *If not in possession of a professional media card, a comment must be added to the note box provided and a letter from your editor confirming your assignment must be uploaded to your application.*

Rights holding TV and radio

All right holding media must also apply for accreditation via OMAS. Access to the Right Holders area is restricted, therefore Right Holders are invited to contact the ISU Media Team media@isu.ch in order to obtain a username and password. To book any broadcasting services or facilities please contact the host Broadcaster:

Jeff Pearlman
Executive Producer, CBC Sports
phone: 416-200-8217
jeff.pearlman@cbc.ca

Vanessa Campion
Unit Manager, CBC Sports
Phone: 647-641-3285
Vanessa.campion@cbc.ca

Mike Tanaka
Technical Producer, CBC Sports
Phone: 604-219-6277
Mike.Takana@cbc.ca

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Accreditation Confirmation

If the accreditation request is accepted, an automatic email of confirmation will be issued. You may be asked to present a copy of the email of confirmation to receive your accreditation badge.

You will also be notified if your accreditation request is denied. Please note that the ISU and OC reserve the right to refuse accreditation with or without justification.

Media will pick up their accreditation at the Media Entrance located by the side door of the Protrans Community Rink, located on Thunderbird Blvd. Registration will open on Wednesday, December 5 and specific hours will be provided closer to the event.

Visa Application

The Government of Canada requires that all travelers carry a valid passport as the only universally-accepted travel and identification document for the purposes of international travel. People who live in countries where a visa is needed to enter Canada must obtain one from a Canadian embassy abroad before coming to Canada.

Canada does not have a [visa office](#) in every country so it is important that delegates visit the website of the Canadian visa office responsible for processing their visa application. Information is available on the website on how to submit a visa application and the documentation required.

Media representatives requiring an official invitation letter in order to apply for a visa must contact the Organizing Committee. Please note that an official invitation letter will only be provided to approved media representatives. Please email 2018gpf@skatecanada.ca to request a visa letter.

Media Facilities at the venue

- The media centre is located at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre on the ProTrans Community Arena. This media centre will provide a working area for media with fully equipped internet (wireless and hardline), printing stations and a small catering station. The press conference area will also be located in the media centre.

MEDIA CENTRE HOURS *(subject to change)*

- Wed, Dec 5 8:00-18:00
- Thurs, Dec 6 7:00-24:00
- Fri, Dec 7 7:30-24:30
- Sat, Dec 8 8:00-23:30
- Sun, Dec 9 9:00-18:00

Media Tribune and TV Commentator positions

- The media tribune and commentator positions are located at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre and will provide a working area for media with fully equipped internet (wireless and hardline), printing stations and a small catering station. The media tribune overlooks the ice on the Upper Concourse.

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Mixed Zone

The Mixed Zone provides an opportunity for media to interview athletes immediately after competition.

The Mixed Zone is split into five main sections and follows a pre-determined priority order:

- Quick Quotes available through the ISU website
- Rights holders TV and radio broadcasters who have pre-booked positions
- ENG crews
- Written press
- Non-rights holders

A mixed zone has been created at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre. Skaters will access this zone on the way to their dressing rooms from the Kiss & Cry exit. The Mixed Zone will be located at ice level and media will be able to access this area by taking the stairs that are located by the Media Tribune.

Material Available

- Press Conference: All press conferences will be held at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre in the press conference area. Following the conclusion of the short program/dance for all senior men's, ladies, pair, and ice dance there will be a brief press conference for the skaters who place first, second, and third. Following the free program/dance for men's, ladies, pair and ice dance, the gold, silver and bronze medalists will participate in a post-event press conference. For the junior events a press conference will only be held after the free programs with the gold, silver and bronze medalists.
- [Flash quotes](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Media Guide](#)
- [Image Gallery](#)
- Social Media: [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Snapchat](#) / [YouTube](#)
- Hashtags: #GPFigure #GPFVancouver

Media Accommodation

The OC has designated two official media hotels. Shuttle transportation will be arranged from the host hotel (Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre - 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2R9) to the main venue and the practice arena. **Media must walk a short distance from the media hotels to the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre in order to catch the shuttle.**

Shuttle schedules will be provided on site. Please be advised that the transportation service will only be available from the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre.

Every individual media person is responsible for booking their own accommodation and bearing any cancellation fees.

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Media Hotels

Residence Inn by Marriot Vancouver Downtown

Phone: +1 (604) 688-1234

Address: 1234 Hornby Street, Vancouver, British Columbia

Rate: \$199.00 – Studio Suite with Kitchenette or Studio Suite with Kitchenette-Queen Or King With Pull Out Sofa (Rate based on double occ. (triple-\$ 219.00) (quad-\$239))

*includes breakfast

Sutton Place Hotel

Phone: +1 (604) 682-5511

Address: 845 Burrard St, Vancouver, British Columbia

Rate: \$225.00 – Single Room (King Bed Only)

Link to book:

<https://secure.htgsports.com/hrms.nsf/StdMarathonVisitor?OpenForm&eventid=C96CE6700D730019852582D50062EE94>

Deadline to book: October 31, 2018

Transportation & Telecommunications

Transportation

- The City of Vancouver works with TransLink, who plans and manages public transit services for the Metro Vancouver area. More information on public transit: <https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/visitors-guide-to-public-transit.aspx>
- Shuttle transportation will be arranged from the host hotel (Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre - 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2R9) to the main venue and the practice arena. Media must walk a short distance from the media hotels to the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre in order to catch the shuttle. The shuttle will be available starting on Wednesday, December 5 until the conclusion of the event.

Telecommunications

Media looking to book additional internet lines or other telecommunications services are asked to email media@skatecanada.ca for further details and rates.

Useful Information

Language

English is the predominant language of Vancouver; however, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Punjabi are also commonly spoken. English and French are the official languages in Canada, and most government services are available in these languages.

Financial Services and Banking Hours

Regular banking hours are Monday to Friday from 9:30 until 16:00 with extended hours including weekends at many locations. Some banks are open on Saturdays for a brief amount of time, but most are also closed on Sundays and holidays.

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Major credit cards are honoured in most business establishments. Automated teller machines (ATMs) marked with a Plus or Interac symbol will accept automated banking cards from outside Canada. Banks charge a fee of approximately \$2 for international transactions. The visitors' bank sets the exchange rate.

For currency conversions refer to: <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/exchange/daily-converter/>

Taxes

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a five percent (5%) tax that is applied to most supplies of goods and services made in Canada. The Province of British Columbia also has a Provincial Sales Tax (PST) of seven percent (7%). Almost all services and products are subject to a 5% GST, but many items have a 12% tax added to the initial price of an item. Most prices posted in stores do not include taxes. Visitors to Canada may be eligible for tax rebates. Rebate forms are available at the airport or Tourism Office. There is no rebate on consumable items such as meals, liquor, tobacco, transportation costs and gasoline.

Currency

The currency is the Canadian dollar (CAD). For denominations under five dollars, Canadians use coins, including what are affectionately known as the "Loonie" (one-dollar coin) and "Toonie" (two-dollar coin). Daily currency exchange rates appear in newspapers, are posted online, and are posted at banks and currency exchange businesses.

Tipping

While tipping is not mandatory in Canada, it is customary in many circumstances for good service, especially in sit-down restaurants, which offer table service. If you're happy with the service you receive, a 15-20% tip on the pre-tax bill is a standard expression of appreciation. It is also customary to tip bellhops, luggage handlers and taxi drivers at your discretion.

Electricity

Electricity sockets are 120V plug type A. Visitors with appliances of different voltages should bring adapters.

Tobacco and Alcohol

The legal drinking age in British Columbia is 19; a driver's license is considered a valid form of identification. You must be at least 19 years of age to purchase cigarettes. Smoking is banned in all public spaces and workspaces in British Columbia, including restaurants, bars and private clubs. The ban extends to outdoor public areas such as playgrounds, sport fields and spectator areas.

Shopping Centres

CF Pacific Centre - <http://www.cornwallcentre.ca/>

Robson Street (outdoor shopping near CF Pacific Centre) - <https://www.robsonstreet.ca/>

Oakridge Centre - <https://www.oakridgecentre.com/>

CF Richmond Centre - <https://www.cfshops.com/richmond-centre.html>

Metrotown - <https://metropolisatmetrotown.com/>

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Business Hours

In general, stores are open from 09:00 until 17:00 from Monday to Saturday, Sunday from 11:00 until 18:00. Some shopping malls are open 10:00 until 21:00. Some large pharmacies, grocery stores and bookstores stay open late all week, and some smaller boutiques may open their doors later in the morning.

Time Zone

Pacific Standard Time (PST) is 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Climate

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/weather/british-columbia/vancouver>

Emergency Services

The emergency number for all health, safety, police and crime emergencies is 9-1-1.

Taxis

Black Top & Checker Cabs+1.604.731.1111 / 1.800.494.1111

Bonny's Taxi+1.604.451.1111

Maclure's Cabs+1.604.831.1111

North Shore Taxi+1.604.987.7171 / +1.604.922.2222

Richmond Taxi+1.604.272.1111

Sunshine Cabs+1.604.988.8888

Vancouver Taxi+1.604.871.1111

Yellow Cab+1.604.681.1111

***Note:** Uber is not currently in operation in the Province of British Columbia

Competition information

Schedule:

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Official Practices (All Day)

Thursday, December 6, 2018

14:05 JUNIOR ICE DANCE - Rhythm Dance

15:20 JUNIOR MEN - Short Program

16:25 JUNIOR PAIRS - Short Program

17:40 JUNIOR LADIES - Short Program

19:00 Opening Ceremony

19:45 SENIOR MEN - Short Program

21:00 SENIOR LADIES - Short Program

Friday, December 7, 2018

15:45 JUNIOR ICE DANCE - Free Dance

17:05 JUNIOR MEN - Free Skating

Victory Ceremonies Junior Men and Junior Ice Dance

19:05 SENIOR ICE DANCE - Rhythm Dance

20:20 SENIOR PAIRS - Short Program

21:35 SENIOR MEN - Free Skating

Victory Ceremonies Senior Men

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Saturday, December 8, 2018

13:55 SENIOR LADIES – Free Skating

15:15 JUNIOR LADIES – Free Skating

16:30 JUNIOR PAIRS – Free Skating

Victory Ceremonies Junior Pairs, Senior Ladies and Junior Ladies

19:00 SENIOR ICE DANCE – Free Dance

20:20 SENIOR PAIRS – Free Skating

Victory Ceremonies Senior Pairs and Senior Ice Dance

Sunday, December 9, 2018

14:00 Exhibition Gala

Please note: This schedule is subject to changes

Entry List/Results Senior: <http://www.isureresults.com/events/fsevent03111639.htm>

Entry List/Results Junior: <http://www.isureresults.com/events/fsevent03111640.htm>

Rankings: <https://www.isu.org/figure-skating/figure-skating-events/grand-prix-of-figure-skating>

For any additional questions or information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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[Skate Canada event page](#)

[ISU event page](#)

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