



FIRST INFORMATION

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final®

and

ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

2018/19



**INTERNATIONAL
SKATING UNION**

December 5-9, 2018

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre

Vancouver

Location

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada is proud to be the host of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2018/19®.

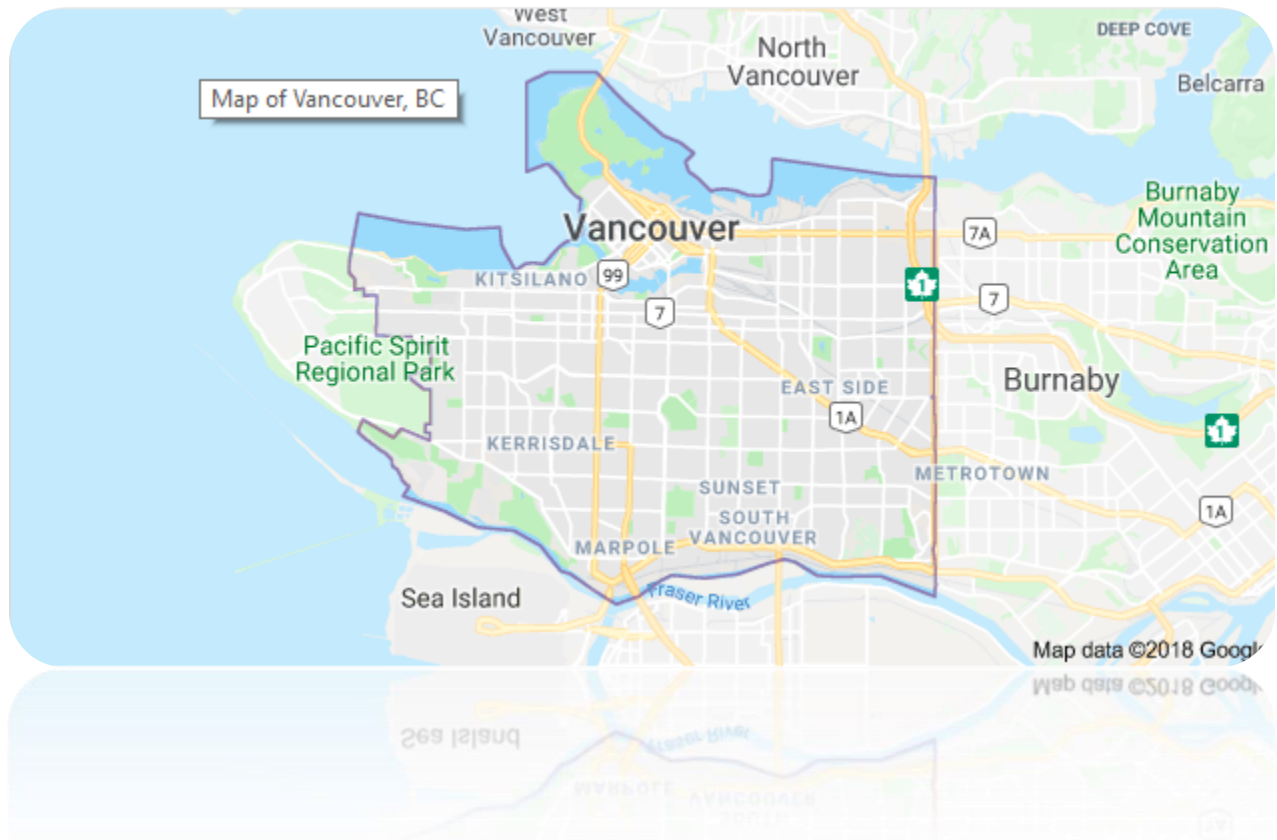
Climate

The Province of British Columbia has a climate that varies significantly from region to region, however, the Vancouver-area is largely influenced by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and various mountain ranges. Vancouver, being in British Columbia's South Coast region, experiences a mild climate year-round, and enjoys warm summers where the temperatures average around 20 degrees Celsius, and some of the mildest winters in Canada with temperatures rarely going below 0 degrees Celsius. Vancouver also gets lots of rain which is a common occurrence, particularly during the fall and winter.

Industry and Commerce

Vancouver has one of the healthiest economies in Canada and is home to the "Pacific Rim" gateway which connects it to other countries along the rim of the Pacific Ocean, as well as various economic sectors as tourism, film, agriculture, technology, and natural resources. Due to its location, Vancouver is also accessible by various methods of transportation via ground, air, and sea.

Visit Tourism Vancouver for additional information.



Venue Information

Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre

6066 Thunderbird Boulevard
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6T 1Z3
Telephone: 604.822.6121

Rink Dimensions: 60 x 26m

<http://sportfacilities.ubc.ca/dmc/>

*See Appendix 1 for a Venue Map



Venue

The Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre was the University of British Columbia's (UBC) first athletic facility for winter sports and was opened in 1963. Since its opening, the UBC Thunderbirds Hockey Team has called this venue home. The venue was first called the Father Bauer Arena, as it was named after Father David Bauer who was the founder of the first national hockey program in Canada.

The Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre was also renovated in 2008 for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games which were hosted in Vancouver, and the venue hosted such events as sledge hockey. During those renovations, two additional rinks were added to the venue: The Thunderbird Arena and the Protrans Community Arena. After the addition of these two rinks, the venue then became the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre and was named after Doug Mitchell who was a well-known hockey builder in Canada. Further, the practice rink, known as the Prontrans Arena, is located right in the venue. The size of the rinks are 200 x 85 feet.

The Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre currently holds space for just over 5,000 permanent seats. In addition, a 5000 square foot varsity fitness centre, alumni room, and the UBC Sports Hall of Fame also call the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre home. The Major League Soccer (MLS) team, the Vancouver Whitecaps FC, also have their training facility located at UBC. In addition, numerous concerts, sporting events, and conventions have been held at this venue, as well as the 2018 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships. Further, the venue is located just approximately 25 minutes from the heart of downtown Vancouver.

Extra Practice Ice

Unofficial extra practice ice is available for purchase at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre.

Availability:

The ice will be booked on a first come first serve basis. <https://sportfacilities.ubc.ca/dmc/dmc-rental-rates/>

Please contact: Subha Hrbinic – Subha.Hrbinic@ubc.ca 604.827.5928, to book extra practice ice.

Accommodations

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

1088 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6Z 2R9

Telephone: 604.331.1000

<http://www.sheratonvancouver.com/>

- ◆ **Free Wired & Wireless Standard Internet**
- ◆ **Parking – \$30-33/day**
- ◆ **Business Services**
 - ◆ Copying, Messenger, Fax, Post/Parcel
- ◆ **Health and Fitness**
 - ◆ Fitness Centre
 - ◆ Pool
 - ◆ Sauna
 - ◆ Jacuzzi
- ◆ **Miscellaneous Services**
 - ◆ Restaurant and Café
 - ◆ Fine Spirits
- ◆ **Distance from Airport to Hotel:** Approximately 14 kilometres/30 minutes (traffic dependent)
- ◆ **Distance from Hotel to Venue:** Approximately 12 kilometres/25 minutes (traffic dependent)



General Accommodation Information

Reservations

All reservations must be made through the Organizing Committee (OC) via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS). Individual reservations by Team Members at the Official Hotel will not be accepted. If rooms are cancelled after **Friday, November 30, 2018**, even if it is for rooms that the OC is required to pay for, any cancellation fees the OC incurs will be invoiced to the Member Federation.

OC Accommodations Contact:

Véronique Labrosse

2018GPF@skatecanada.ca

Rates

Standard \$159.00 + tax

View \$184.00 + tax

Deluxe Corner \$209.00 + tax

Junior Suite \$219.00 + tax

Club Floor \$224.00 + tax

One Bedroom \$284.00 + tax

All rates are in CAD and are subject to 1.5% DMF, 5% GST and 11% PST

Room Payment

The Organizing Committee will pay costs for accommodation for athletes, officials, judges and ISU officials in accordance with the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Announcement 2018-19, item 7.5.



Federations will be sent confirmations for the room costs not covered by the Organizing Committee. Payments must be made directly to the hotel upon check-in. If the Federations prefer to pay the Organizing Committee in advance, they must request an official invoice.

Payment to the Organizing Committee must be completed at the latest by Friday, November 30, 2018.

Extra Services, Incidentals and Damages

Each person will require a valid personal credit card or cash deposit at time of check-in to the hotel to cover incidentals as well as a security deposit. Payment for incidental services is the guest's responsibility and should be settled directly with the hotel at check-out.

Contact Person and Room Changes

For questions or problems relating to rooms, relocations, incidental charges, etc., the Team Leader of each team will be the contact person. Any room relocations or changes to the rooming list must be made through the Organizing Committee as no room changes will be accepted by the hotel from guests directly.

Dining Room

Skaters, Judges and other ISU officials entitled to receive the meal program will receive vouchers for the period outlined in the official announcement, beginning with dinner on Tuesday December 4, 2018 until breakfast on Monday December 10, 2018. Please refer to the meal hours below.

Location: 34th Floor Constellation Ballroom

Meal vouchers for Skaters, Judges and other ISU Officials will be distributed at Registration and can be used only on the specified date. In addition: Team Leaders, Assistant Team Leaders, coaches or other Federation Officials wishing to take advantage of the meal service may purchase individual meal tickets from the Organizing Committee at the time of Registration or inside the dining room (34th Floor Constellation Ballroom) during dining room hours. The meal vouchers are **not transferable** and will be accepted only in combination with an accreditation tag.

Meal Service Prices

Breakfast:	\$25.00 CAD
Lunch:	\$40.00 CAD
Dinner / Late Dinner:	\$50.00 CAD
All Meals (1 day):	\$115.00 CAD

Dining Room Hours

Breakfast:	06:00 – 10:30
Lunch:	11:30 – 15:00
Dinner:	17:30 – 22:00

Extended Dinner & Late Dinner Hours:

Thursday night:	17:30 – 23:30
Friday night:	17:30 – 00:00
Saturday night:	17:30 – 23:30

Note: There will be no dining room available on Sunday night as food will be available at the Closing Party.

Travel Information

The OC will provide transportation from the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to the Official Hotel starting on Monday December 3, 2018.

Team Members (Skaters, Team Leaders, Team Officials), Event Officials, VIP's, ISU Office Holders, Special Guests and Member Presidents will be met by the OC at their arriving Terminal and directed to their transportation. Please provide the OC with the appropriate travel details in ORS. Once you have claimed your baggage please look for a Skate Canada Representative.

Transportation will also be made available for Coaches, Chaperones and Medical Staff if they are travelling with the Team and have provided all travel details in the ORS. If Coaches, Chaperones and Medical Staff are not travelling with the Team, there will be a \$50.00 CAD fee for each.

Should any guest's arrival be delayed for any reason, they are asked to inform the OC as soon as possible with the expected arrival time in Canada so that transportation arrangements can be modified. Do so by contacting the **Transportation Desk at +1.613.914.5348**. Please inform the OC of any changes to your travel plans or for any inquiries about transportation at any time, please email: 2018gpf@skatecanada.ca

There are several airport transportation options available for anyone who has not informed the OC of their arrival information or those arriving prior to the date indicated for the start of the airport shuttle service. Visit the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) for more information about [Ground Transportation](#). If a guest chooses one of these methods of transportation to the hotel, the OC is not responsible for the costs.

Passports and ID

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.

[Processing times for visa applications](#) vary depending on the visa office and the time of the year. Participants are encouraged to apply approximately 12 weeks in advance of their departure date to ensure they receive the visa in time.

Please Note: Depending on your nationality, you may be required to give your biometrics as soon as this summer 2018:

- Starting July 31, 2018, the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Europe, Middle East and Africa, and
- Starting December 31, 2018, the biometric requirement becomes mandatory for nationals of Asia, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

For additional information on whether you require a biometric, please refer to our [fast facts about Biometrics](#).

Visitors must have valid travel documents to enter Canada. Document requirements vary depending on which country you are travelling from. For specific information on travel documents and to find out if you require a visa to enter Canada as a visitor, please refer to <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/> and <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>.

Important Notice: Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is mandatory for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air (not by land or sea). To avoid any issues at the airport, you should get your eTA as soon as you begin planning your trip to Canada. To find out if you need an eTA or to apply online, visit this [website](#).

Shuttle Bus Service

A shuttle bus service will run between the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre and the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre. The shuttle bus service will commence on Wednesday December 5, 2018 and run until Sunday December 9, 2018 departing every 30 minutes from both the hotel and the venue. A detailed schedule will be available at registration.

Registration and Accreditation

All Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical, Member Press Officer, Judges, Coaches, ISU Event Officials, ISU Guests must register at the *Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre – Granville Room* on Tuesday, December 4 (14:00-22:00).

Registration will move to the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre – *Team Entrance* – starting Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 08:00.

All competitors will be required to present their passport (and clearance certificate if applicable) prior to receiving accreditation. Accreditation will not be issued without presentation of a valid passport.

Forgotten, lost or stolen accreditation cards must be reported and can only be replaced for a cash fee of \$100 CAD. The replacement is upon approval of the ISU and the OC.

Registration and Accreditation Hours & Locations

Location	Date	Hours
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre – <i>Granville Room</i>	Tuesday, December 4	14:00 – 22:00 *
Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre – <i>Registration, Team Entrance</i>	Wednesday, December 5	08:00 – 17:00
	Thursday, December 6	10:00 – 19:00
	Friday, December 7	11:00 – 15:00
	Saturday, December 8	11:00 – 15:00
	Sunday, December 9	09:00 – 12:00 (Prize Money)

*Open for late arrivals, if necessary.

Event Office Hours

Location	Date	Hours
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre – <i>Granville Room</i>	Tuesday, December 4	14:00 – 20:00
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre – <i>Hudson Room</i>	Wednesday, December 5	9:00 – 13:00*
	Thursday, December 6	9:00 – 13:00*
	Friday, December 7	9:00 – 13:00*
	Saturday, December 8	9:00 – 13:00*
	Sunday, December 9	09:00 – 12:00*

*Note: Please see Dining Room Attendants during meal periods outside of Event Office Hours.

Chaperones

Chaperones will not be accredited and must purchase an event ticket at face value to enter the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre to watch the competition. Each Chaperone will receive a bus pass, this will grant them access to the Event Shuttle Bus, as well as practices. Bus passes will be given to the Team Leader to be distributed. Bus passes are not replaceable and should be handled with care.

Closing Party

The Closing Party with an **Après-Ski** theme will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 20:00 – 23:00 in the *Grand Ballroom CD*. Dress is Mountain Chic. A light buffet is included.

Invitations for the Closing Party will be issued to the ISU office holders, ISU officials, judges, competitors and Skate Canada guests at Registration.

Additional persons may purchase a ticket for this function at the *Grand Ballroom CD*. Cost per ticket is \$100 CAD and must be purchased by Friday, December 7, 16:00.

Tickets must be presented at the door. If closing party tickets are lost, new tickets must be purchased at the user's own expense.

Event Ticket Information

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster: <https://www1.ticketmaster.ca/event/1100542BBE9E6350>

Boutique Hours (Event Merchandise)

Date	Hours
Thursday, December 6	12:00-21:00
Friday, December 7	12:00-21:00
Saturday, December 8	12:00-21:00
Sunday, December 9	13:00-16:00

*Boutique hours are subject to change.

Information Distribution

Team leader mailboxes are located at the Rink – Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre – *Skating Lounge – Protrans Arena, Event Level*. In our effort to be sustainable, we encourage anyone without a designated mailbox to use their mobile device to view all event related information including communications by downloading the ISU “Inside Events” application free of charge on Android and Apple systems.

Skating Lounge

The *Skating Lounge* is located in *Protrans Arena*, on the event level back of house.

Water

A reminder, water bottles must not be branded. In our effort to be sustainable, water jugs will be available in the back of house area to fill up your own non-branded water bottles. Non-branded water bottles will be available at rinkside, as well as the Kiss and Cry.

Costume Repair, Skate Sharpening and Emergency Repair

All arrangements for costume repair, skate sharpening, and emergency repair services will be available throughout the competition at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre – *Printing & Operations Room*.

Lost and Found

Lost and found will be collected and held at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports - *Registration Desk*.

Other 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.

Vancouver Public Transit

Plan your trip with the user-friendly Google Maps Trip Planner or Vancouver's transportation network Translink's [website](#).

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.

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/>

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