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Olympic and World Champions to take center stage as ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2019/20 kicks off

The World's best Figure Skaters including reigning Olympic Champions <u>Yuzuru Hanyu</u> (JPN) and <u>Alina Zagitova</u> (RUS), 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Champion <u>Nathan Chen</u> (USA) and four-time Ice Dance ISU World Champions <u>Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume</u> <u>Cizeron</u> (FRA), two-time ISU World Pairs Champions <u>Wenjing Sui/Cong Han</u> (CHN) as well as Olympic, ISU World, ISU European and ISU Four Continents medalists are getting ready to take center stage now as the attention shifts to the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2019/20. Spectators and fans worldwide can also look forward to seeing accomplished veterans, crowd favorites as well as the next generation of up and coming skaters.

Overview of the events

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series starts with Skate America in Las Vegas (USA) on October 18 to 20. ISU World Figure Skating Champion Chen, 2015 ISU World Figure Skating Champion Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (RUS) and two-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance medalists Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue (USA) lead the line-up.

Skate Canada in Kelowna, BC (CAN), October 25 to 27, is headlined by two-time Olympic Champion Hanyu, Olympic silver medalist Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS), 2019 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champion Rika Kihira (JPN), 2019 ISU World Figure Skating silver medalists Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov (RUS). ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champion Alexandra Trusova (RUS) debuts on the senior Grand Prix. Trusova made headlines earlier this season by landing three quadruple jumps at the Challenger Series event Nepela Trophy and four quadruple jumps at the Japan Open.

The series moves then to Europe for the Internationaux de France in Grenoble (FRA) NovembeSar 1 to 3. The event features Olympic and ISU World Figure Skating Champion Zagitova (RUS), 2018 Olympic silver medalist Shoma Uno (JPN), Chen and four-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance Champions Papadakis/Cizeron.

The series continues in Chongqing (CHN) with the Cup of China November 8 to 10 with two-time ISU World Figure Skating medalist <u>Satoko Miyahara</u> (JPN), ISU European Figure Skating Champion <u>Sofia Samodurova</u> (RUS), 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Champions <u>Wenjing Sui/Cong Han</u> (CHN) and 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance silver medalists <u>Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov</u> (RUS).

The circuit then returns to Europe for the Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS) November 15 to 17. Competing are Medvedeva, Miyahara, Uno, Tarasova/Morozov and Sinitsina/Katsalapov

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The last spots for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final will be decided in Sapporo (JPN) at NHK Trophy November 22 to 24. Top contenders include Hanyu, Zagitova, Kihira, Sui/Han and Papadakis/Cizeron.

42 Men, 42 Ladies, 27 Pairs and 34 Ice Dance couples from 24 ISU Members have been invited. The number of entries for each event is 12 Ladies, 12 Men, 8 Pairs and 10 Ice Dance couples. The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Torino (ITA), December 5 to 8, 2019.

Selection Criteria

The skaters are seeded and invited to the six ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2019. Skaters/couples who have placed 1 to 6 in each of the four categories are seeded and assigned to two events. Skaters/ couples who have placed 7-12 at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships are selected for two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, and skaters with a top 24 high seasons best score as well as those placed in the top 24 of the World Standings can also be invited. If available medalists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final gold medalists can also be selected.

In order for a skater/couple to be eligible to compete at a ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event, a minimum total score must have been achieved in the previous or current season in an ISU event (Grand Prix, Junior Grand Prix, Championships) or a Challenger Series event. Exceptions apply to host country skaters, previously ranked skaters or split ranked couples who return with new partners.

Prize Money & Points

Competitors collect points in there ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events towards the qualification for the Final. The global prize money per individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating is US \$ 180,000 and the prize money is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples at the events as follows:

1st place US \$ 18,000 4th place US \$ 3,000 2nd place US \$ 13,000 5th place US \$ 2,000

3rd place US \$ 9,000

The points are awarded as follows:

1st place 15 points5th place 7 points2nd place 13 points6th place 5 points3rd place 11 points7th place 4 points4th place 9 points8th place 3 points

Pairs and Ice Dancers collect points up to 6th place.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series begins this week in Las Vegas (USA) on October 18 to 20. The General Announcement of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is available here. The individual announcements are published under the respective events. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit: https://isu.org/GrandPrix

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Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019?

Viewers will be able to watch the Series either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the Skating ISU YouTube Channel.

For more information please refer to Where to Watch the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series.

Subscribe to the <u>ISU Newsletter</u> to receive the latest information and the "Where to Watch" news and you can also subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: <u>ISU Skating</u> IG: <u>@ISUFigureSkating</u>

Facebook: @ISU Figure Skating

Twitter: @ISU_Figure

Follow the conversation with #GPFigure.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20

Skate America - Las Vegas (USA) – October 18 – 20

Skate Canada International – Kelowna (CAN) – October 25 – 27

Internationaux de France – Grenoble (FRA) – Novembre 1 – 3

SHISEIDO cup of China - Chongqing (CHN) - November 8 - 10

Rostelecom Cup – Moscow (RUS) – November 15 – 17

NHK Trophy - Sapporo (JPN) - November 22 - 24

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (Senior & Junior) – Torino (ITA) – December 5 – 8

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the previous ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Competitors collect points in their ISU Grand Prix events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.