

November 19, 2019

Sapporo, Japan

## **Last spots for ISU Grand Prix Final on the line at NHK Trophy in Japan**

The last spots for the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final](#) are on the line this week at [NHK Trophy in Sapporo \(JPN\)](#). NHK Trophy is the sixth and last event of the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#). Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN), four-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA), two-time ISU World Figure Skating Pairs Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) as well as ISU World Figure Skating and Olympic Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS) headline the event and have good chances to qualify for the Final in Torino (ITA) December 5 to 8.

### **Hanyu (JPN), Zagitova (RUS), Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA), Sui/Han (CHN) to compete**

Two-time Olympic Champion [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN) comes with a gold medal from Skate Canada and is looking forward to competing on home ice. The current ISU World Figure Skating silver medalist is eager to book his ticket to the Final. Skate America silver medalist [Jason Brown](#) (USA) has a good shot at the Final as well. Internationaux de France bronze medalist [Kevin Aymoz](#) (FRA) and Rostelecom Cup bronze medalist [Makar Ignatov](#) (RUS) not only hope for another medal but also have a chance to make the Final for the first time. Other competitors are ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champion [Tomoki Hiwatashi](#) (USA), ISU Grand Prix Finalist [Sergei Voronov](#) (RUS) and [Alexei Bychenko](#) (ISR).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Men](#).

The Ladies event promises an exciting battle between Olympic Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS), ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champion [Rika Kihira](#) (JPN) and Internationaux de France Champion [Alena Kostornaia](#) (RUS). Newcomer Kostornaia left a strong impression in France and wants to challenge Kihira and Zagitova, who both took silver in their first event. All three have excellent chances to qualify for Torino. Other contenders include 2019 ISU European Figure Skating Champion [Sofia Samodurova](#) (RUS), [Eunsoo Lim](#) (KOR) and [Starr Andrews](#) (USA).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Ladies](#).

In the Pairs, Olympic silver medalists [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) are the hot favorites following a confident win at their home ISU Grand Prix Shiseido Cup of China. ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champions [Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov](#) (RUS) come with a gold medal from Internationaux de France and aim at the podium and at their first senior-level Final. Skate Canada silver medalists [Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro](#) (CAN) hope for another medal and the Final as well. Also competing are [Alexa Scimeca Knierim/Chris Knierim](#) (USA), [Nicole della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) and [Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea](#) (USA).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Pairs](#).

Olympic silver medalists [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) lead the Ice Dance competition and look for another gold medal after winning their home event Internationaux de France. Skate America silver medalists [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) (RUS) eye the podium and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final again but need to watch out for Internationaux de France bronze medalists [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) (ITA). Also in the mix are Skate Canada

bronze medalists [Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson](#) (GBR), [Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) and [Christina Carreira/ Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (RUS).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating [Standings Ice Dance](#).

### Schedule of the event

Friday, November 22	Rhythm Dance, Pairs, Ladies & Men's Short Programs
Saturday, November 23	Free Dance, Pairs, Ladies & Men's Free Skating
Sunday, November 24	Exhibition Gala

Overall, 58 skaters/couples representing 11 ISU members compete at NHK Trophy November 22-24. The top 6 qualifiers of the Grand Prix series in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Torino (ITA), December 5 to 8, 2019. Full [entry lists, results, the General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series are available on [isu.org](#).

### 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](#) as of season 2019/20. You will find the full list in the [Where to watch news here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the "Where to Watch" news and you can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: [ISU Skating](#)

IG: [@ISUFigureSkating](#)

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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.