

January 17, 2020

Graz, Austria

Europe looking for three new champions in Graz ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2020 Preview

Europe's top Figure Skaters are getting ready for the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2020 in Graz, Austria (January 21-27). Graz will host the event for the first time, but Austria has hosted the ISU European Figure Skating Championships at total of 11 times in Vienna (2000, 1957, 1952, 1931, 1927, 1914, 1901, 1894 and 1892), in Innsbruck (1981) and Seefeld (1934).

165 skaters from 33 ISU members have been entered for this 113th edition of the ISU European Championships: 35 Men, 38 Ladies, 19 Pair Skating couples and 27 Ice Dance couples. Skaters/couples have had to obtain a minimum total technical score in Short Program and Free Skating in an ISU competition in order to compete at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships.

Only in the Ice Dance event five-time and reigning ISU European Figure Skating Champions Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA) are back and hope to defend their title. There will be different champions in the Men's, Ladies and Pairs categories.

Overview of the top contenders

In the Men's event, the European throne is vacant since [Javier Fernandez](#) (ESP) retired after winning seven consecutive titles since 2013. Several Men are hoping to be his successor. Reigning ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final bronze medalist [Kevin Aymoz](#) (FRA/Seasons best 275.63), 2019 European silver medalist [Alexander Samarin](#) (RUS/SB 265.10) and 2018 ISU European silver medalist [Dmitri Aliev](#) (RUS/SB 259.88), who is back after not qualifying for ISU European Figure Skating Championships a year ago, are the top favorites. However, 2019 ISU European Figure Skating bronze medalist [Matteo Rizzo](#) (ITA) and 2013 ISU European Figure Skating Championship bronze medalist [Michal Brezina](#) (CZE) are aiming at the podium as well. Other contenders include [Moris Kvitelashvili](#) (GEO), [Deniss Vasiljevs](#) (LAT), 2018 ISU World Junior Figure Skating silver medalist [Artur Danielian](#) (RUS) and 2019 ISU World Junior Figure Skating bronze medalist [Daniel Grassl](#) (ITA).

Following their podium sweep at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final last month, the Russian "A Team" consisting of [Alena Kostornaia](#), [Anna Shcherbakova](#) and [Alexandra Trusova](#) wants to continue their winning ways in Graz. All three moved up from the junior ranks and will debut at the ISU European Championships. Shcherbakova and Trusova come armed with quadruple jumps, Trusova also has a triple Axel as does Kostornaia. Kostornaia tops the seasons best list with 247.59 points and set new highest scores in the Short Program and total score, followed by Trusova, who holds the highest Free Skating score, with a season's best of 241.02 and Shcherbakova, who scored 240.92 points. Others to watch include [Alexia Paganini](#) (SUI), [Nicole Schott](#) (GER), [Ekaterina Kurakova](#) (POL), [Viktorii Safonova](#) (BLR) and [Ekaterina Ryabova](#) (AZE).

In the Pairs, two-time ISU European Figure Skating Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) are looking to recapture the title they lost last year to [Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres](#) (FRA). The French are not competing this year, but competition nevertheless will be tough as 2019 ISU European Figure Skating bronze medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii](#) (RUS) come with the highest season's best of 229.48 points to Austria and have beaten Tarasova/Morozov (SB 216.77) on three occasions this season. 2018 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champions [Daria](#)

[Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) (SB 206.56) and 2019 Rostelecom bronze medalists [Minerva Fabienne Hase/Nolan Seegert](#) (GER/SB 186.16) are eying the podium as well. Austria's medal hopes rest on [Miriam Ziegler/Severin Kiefer](#) (SB182.02) while [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA/SB 182.88) hope to return to form in time for Graz after recovering from injury.

Olympic silver medalists [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) are going for a sixth consecutive ISU European Figure Skating title in the Ice Dance event and top the season's best list with 226.61 points, which is also the current highest total score. The challenge should come from 2019 ISU World Figure Skating silver medalists [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (RUS/SB 212.15) as well as from 2019 ISU European Figure Skating silver medalists [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) (RUS/SB 208.81) and 2019 ISU European Figure Skating bronze medalists [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbrì](#) (ITA/SB 201.34). Other teams to watch include 2019 Skate Canada bronze medalists [Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson](#) (GBR), [Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) (RUS), [Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) (ESP), [Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz](#) (ESP) and [Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym Spodyriev](#) (POL). ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champions [Maria Kazakova/Georgy Reviya](#) (GEO) debut at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships.

Please note that for the seasonal best total scores, only the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating competitions (senior and junior) and ISU Challenger Series events have been taken into consideration, no other international competitions or National Championships.

Prize Money

The ISU awards a global prize money of US\$ 294, 000 at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships to Single Skaters, Pair Skating and Ice Dance couples placed 1st to 6th. The prize money is awarded as follows:

Men and Ladies

1st place US\$ 21,000
2nd place US\$ 16,000
3rd place US\$ 11,000
4th place US\$ 7,000
5th place US\$ 5,000
6th place US\$ 3,000

Pairs and Dance (per couple)

1st place US\$ 30,000
2nd place US\$ 20,000
3rd place US\$ 12,000
4th place US\$ 10,000
5th place US\$ 7,000
6th place US\$ 5,000

Event Schedule

The schedule of the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2020 is as follows:

Wednesday, January 22: Men and Pairs Short Program, Opening Ceremony
Thursday, January 23: Rhythm Dance, Men's Free Skating
Friday, January 24: Ladies Short Program, Pairs Free Skating
Saturday, January 25: Free Dance, Ladies Free Skating
Sunday, January 26: Exhibition Gala

Where to watch and follow the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2020?

Viewers will be able to watch 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](#). You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter or Press Releases](#) to receive the latest information and the "[Where to Watch](#)" news. 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:

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For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU website](#) and the [official event website](#).