

January 30, 2020

Milwaukee, United States

Four Continents finally get their equivalent to a long standing European tradition

Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA, will host the inaugural ISU Four Continents Speed Skating Championships from January 31 to February 2. While the European speed skaters have had their annual continental championships since 1893, skaters from the other four continents have not had a similar opportunity to fight for a prize until this day. Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China and the host nation mostly field their most talented youngsters in the new competition.

The Pettit National Ice Center in Milwaukee was host to the ISU World Sprint Speed Skating Championships in 1995 and ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships in 2000. The last time Milwaukee hosted a major international ISU competition was in 2005, when Shani Davis (USA) set the 1000m track record at 1.08,33.

Track records could be up for grabs in Milwaukee, because many of the best rink times already stand for quite a while, with [Brittany Bowe](#)'s (USA) 2019 mark of 1.13,76 in the 1000m being the most recent one.

Bowe herself will not be competing at the Four Continents Championships, leaving the honor in the 1000m to [Brianna Bocox](#) (USA), Chrysta Rands (USA) and [Mia Kilburg-Manganello](#) (USA). Manganello grabbed career her first individual ISU World Cup Speed Skating medal when she came third in the mass start in Nagano, Japan, last December.

Sprint and endurance to start with

The first day of the ISU Four Continents Speed Skating Championships, which will be held in single distance format, will feature both sprinting and endurance events. The Men and Ladies' will kick-off with the 500m,

In the ladies' tournament [Min Sun Kim](#) (KOR) is the highest ranked competitor in the ISU World Cup Speed Skating at seventh and in the Men's event [Jun-Ho Kim](#) (KOR) is favorite based on that statistic. The Korean is currently ranked third.

The Friday program continues with the Ladies' 3000m and the Men's 5000m, while the Ladies' and Men's Team Sprint events conclude the first day.

Race of the Kings

Saturday will feature the race of the Kings. Both the Ladies' and the Men battle for the 1500m and the mass start title. In absence of Canada's [Ivanie Blondin](#) and [Isabelle Weidemann](#), 2018 mass start ISU World Junior Speed Skating Champion [Béatrice Lamarche](#) gets a chance to present herself on the international stage at senior level.

In the Men's 1500m all eyes are on [Min-Seok Kim](#) (KOR). The 2018 Olympic bronze medalist in the 1500m is currently ranked fifth in the 1500m ISU World Cup Speed Skating.

Track records

The final day of the ISU Four Continents Speed Skating Championships comprises of the 1000m and the Team Pursuit for both Men and Ladies. In the Ladies' 1000m Bowe's track record will

probably be a tough nut to crack, but in the Men's event Davis' 15-year-old 1.08,33 might well be broken.

[Laurent Dubreuil](#) (CAN), currently ranked fourth in the ISU World Cup Speed Skating, has a personal best of 1:07.60, albeit that was at high altitude Calgary, while Milwaukee is a low altitude rink.

The team pursuit events could be interesting because none of the traditional power houses will field their regular squad. Will their substitutes be able to put forward their candidacy for promotion?

Where to Watch

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](#) 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 further information on ISU Speed Skating visit <https://www.isu.org/speed-skating>

About the International Skating Union

The International Skating Union (ISU), founded in 1892, is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering the sports of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance), Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating worldwide. The objectives of the ISU are to regulate, govern, promote and develop its sports on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding between athletes. Currently three ISU disciplines are included in the Olympic Winter Games program (Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating). For further information please visit isu.org.