

September 23, 2020

Oberstdorf, Germany

Nebelhorn Trophy 2020 – a kickstart of the season 2020/21

There is no doubt that the international Skating season 2020/21 is different from all other seasons athletes and fans have known. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to many changes and restrictions. Nevertheless, athletes and coaches have been working hard and are eager to show the results of their work. The ISU Challenger event Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany, is the oldest continuously held Figure Skating competition in the world outside ISU Championships and kicks off the 2020/21 season as the first international event.

Who to look out for:

2019 ISU European Figure Skating Championships bronze medalist [Matteo Rizzo](#) (ITA) and [Deniss Vasiljevs](#) (LAT) headline the Men's event. German Champion [Paul Fentz](#) is aiming at the podium on home ice as well. Other contenders include [Aleksandr Selevko](#) (EST) and [Lukas Britschgi](#) (SUI).

[Alexia Paganini](#) (SUI) leads the Ladies and has to expect competition from [Nicole Schott](#) (GER), who is hoping to improve from her bronze medal in this event from last year, as well as from [Eva-Lotte Kiibus](#) (EST) and [Olga Mikutina](#) (AUT).

Germany hopes for victory in the Pairs with 2019 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Rostelecom bronze medalists [Minerva-Fabienne Hase/Nolan Seegert](#) and [Annika Hocke/Robert Kunkel](#). [Cleo Hamon/Denys Strekalin](#) (FRA) and [Rebecca Ghilardi/Filippo Ambrosini](#) (ITA) are eying the podium as well.

The Ice Dance event looks wide open. Oberstdorf's own [Jennifer Janse van Rensburg/Benjamin Steffan](#) (GER), [Darya Popova/Volodymyr Byelikov](#) (UKR) and [Natalie Taschlerova/Filip Taschler](#) (CZE) have the most experience of the seven teams and the best chances to fight for the medals.

Organizing an international competition during the pandemic demands a lot of preparation and planning. The German Skating Federation made sure the event is as safe as possible for all participants on and off the ice for the 52nd edition of Nebelhorn Trophy to take place. For Figure Skating event manager and former ISU Event Coordinator Peter Krick it is a new challenge. "The situation is absolutely new. But the athletes need to get competition experience," Krick said. "If it takes too long and if our sport is not visible anymore it will disappear. Soccer dominates and the smaller sports that are not so much in the focus are dropping off the radar. The athletes deserve this and we want to prove that it is possible to hold an event." The usual rules will apply: all participants need to wear masks in the rink unless they are on the ice training or competing. They need to observe social distancing and follow all the hygiene measures.

Krick also pointed out that this is the pre-Olympic season and most of the spots for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games will be decided at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2021 and Skaters need to prepare for this also by competing.

The athletes agree. "This is what we are doing the sport for. You want to compete against each other and you are training every day. For us as athletes it is very, very important as a goal that competitions take place," said German Pair Skater Nolan Seegert. "We have been working all summer towards competitions. Also, in regards to the Olympic Games and the qualification it is very important that we

can get as much competition experience as possible this season in order to move up in the rankings,” his partner Minerva-Fabienne Hase added. She pointed out that in order to progress, it is also important to compete against teams from other countries.

“The competitions are very important to us, mostly to keep the motivation up and to get feedback for our hard work during the summer,” said ice dancer Jennifer Janse van Rensburg (GER).

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no spectators at the rink to the regret of athletes and organizers. However, a live stream will be available so fans from all over the world can follow the event.

The schedule of the event is as follows:

Thursday, 24.09.20: Men, Ladies, Pairs Short Programs

Friday, 25.09.20: Rhythm Dance, Men and Pairs Free Skating

Saturday, 26.09.20: Ladies Free Skating, Free Dance

More information, schedules and results are available at the [event page](#) of the German Figure Skating Federation.

Where to watch and follow the Nebelhorn Trophy 2020?

Viewers will be able to watch the Nebelhorn Trophy here:

[Watch day 1 live stream](#)

[Watch day 2 live stream](#)

[Watch day 3 live stream](#)

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information.

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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](#).