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ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2020/21 assignments announced

A number of the World's best Figure Skaters including two-time World Champion <u>Nathan Chen</u> (USA) and four-time Ice Dance World Champions <u>Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron</u> (FRA), two-time World Pairs Champions <u>Wenjing Sui/Cong Han</u> (CHN) are set to compete in the Grand Prix of Figure Skating events of the 2020/21 season.

Following a decision of the ISU Council due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, the six ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events are primarily domestically run events with domestic Skaters and Skaters who train in the host country or respective geographical region.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final that was to be held as an Olympic Test Event on December 10-13 has been postponed. The ISU, in consultation with all stakeholders and considering the pandemic developments, is evaluating the continuation of the 2020/21 season, in particular the re-scheduling possibilities for the important Olympic Test Events.

Overview of the events

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Skate America

The ISU Grand Prix series starts with <u>Skate America</u> in Las Vegas (USA) October 23 to 25. 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Champion <u>Chen</u>, 2019 World bronze medalist <u>Vincent Zhou</u> (USA), two-time ISU World Figure Skating Pairs silver medalists <u>Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov</u> (RUS) as well as two-time ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Champions <u>Madison Chock/Evan Bates</u> (USA) and two-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance medalists <u>Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue</u> (USA) lead the line-up.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Skate Canada

<u>Skate Canada</u> in Ottawa (CAN), October 30 to November 1, is headlined by two-time World medalist <u>Satoko Miyahara</u> (JPN), 2020 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships silver medalists <u>Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier</u> (CAN), <u>Junhwan Cha</u> (KOR), <u>Jason Brown</u> (USA) and 2020 Four Continents bronze medalists <u>Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro</u> (CAN).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating -SHISEIDO Cup of China

The next event is the <u>SHISEIDO Cup of China</u> in Chongqing, November 6 to 8, with 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Champions <u>Wenjing Sui/Cong Han</u> (CHN), 2020 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships silver medalists <u>Cheng Peng/Yang Jin</u> (CHN), and two-time ISU Word Figure Skating bronze medalist <u>Boyang Jin</u> (CHN).

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ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating – Internationaux de France

The series moves then to Europe for the Internationaux de France in Grenoble (FRA), November 13 to 15. The event features four-time ISU World Figure Skating Ice Dance Champions Papadakis/Cizeron, 2018 Olympic silver medalist Shoma Uno (JPN), ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Finalist Kevin Aymoz (FRA), two-time ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Champion Rika Kihira (JPN).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Rostelecom Cup

France is followed by the Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS), November 20 to 22. Top competitors include ISU European Figure Skating Pairs Champions Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii (RUS), 2020 ISU European Figure Skating Champion Alena Kostornaia (RUS), 2018 Olympic silver medalist Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS), 2020 ISU European Figure Skating Champion Dmitri Aliev (RUS), 2018 World bronze medalist Mikhail Kolyada (RUS), 2020 ISU European Figure Skating bronze medalist Morisi Kvitelashvili (GEO), 2020 ISU European Figure Skating Ice Dance Champions Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov (RUS) and four-time ISU European Figure Skating medalists Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin (RUS).

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating - NHK Trophy

NHK Trophy takes place in Osaka, November 27 to 29. Top contenders include 2018 ISU World Figure Skating silver medalist Wakaba Higuchi (JPN), 2018 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Champion Kaori Sakamoto (JPN) and 2020 Youth Olympic Games Champion Yuma Kagiyama (JPN). There is no Pair Skating event scheduled for NHK Trophy.

60 Men, 52 Ladies, 34 Pairs and 46 Ice Dance couples from 23 ISU Members currently have been invited. The maximum number of entries for each event is 12 Ladies, 12 Men, 8 Pairs and 10 Ice Dance couples.

Selection Criteria

Due to the current situation, the usual selection criteria do not apply. The competitors will be invited according to the following principles: The top 6 Skaters/Couples from the ISU Grand Prix List are given priority to be selected for a Grand Prix event provided they reside/train in one of the Grand Prix Member countries, or have no travel restrictions to travel to a Grand Prix Member country in the nearby area. The top 7-12 Skaters (for Ladies and Men), Top 7-10 Couples (for Pair Skating and Ice Dance) from the Grand Prix List are given 2nd priority to be selected for a Grand Prix. The top 24 Season's best and World Standings Skaters/Couples for season 2019/20, not included in the above will have 3rd priority for selection. The remaining entries will be from Skaters/Couples in the top 75 season's best list from 2019/20 and up to two Skaters/Couples from the Organizing Grand Prix Member (off list). In case there are no available Skaters/Couples left in the top 75, the Organizing Grand Prix Member may invite any other Skater training in the Organizing Grand Prix Member's country.

The Grand Prix List was composed in the following ranking order: the top 6 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020 (listed in Season's best order, in replacement of the usual World Figure Skating Championships results); top 7 to 12 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020 (listed in Season's best order - 7 to 10 for Pair

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Skating and Ice Dance); "Come-back" Skaters/Couples; top 24 Skaters in the World Standings for 2019/20; top 24 Skaters in the Season's best list for 2019/20; medalists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 and winners of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2019/20; returning "split Couples" and top 25 to 75 in the Season's best list for 2019/20.

Prize Money

Prize money will be awarded. If an event has at least one full group of Skaters (6 Ladies, 6 Men, 5 Ice Dance couples, 4 Pairs) including three entries from the Top 24 Seasons Best or World Standings for 2019/20, it is considered a "qualified event".

For a "qualified event", the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place	US\$12,000
2nd Place	US\$ 7,000
3rd Place	US\$ 3,500
4th Place	US\$ 1,500
5th Place	US\$ 1,000

Total per category: US\$ 25,000

For events that do not meet the definition of "qualified", the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place US\$ 5,000 2nd Place US\$ 2,000 3rd Place US\$ 1,000

Total per category: US\$ 8,000

For the sake of fairness, no World Standing/Ranking points will be awarded and the scores obtained by the Competitors do not count towards the Minimum Total Elements Scores applicable for ISU Championships.

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/figure-skating/events/grand-prix-of-figure-skating

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About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known a s the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Due to the current situation, the usual selection criteria do not apply. Please see the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating page for further information.