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Top 6 teams qualify for ISU World Team Trophy 2021

Russia leads the six ISU Members that have qualified for the ISU World Team Trophy in Figure Skating in Osaka (JPN), April 15 to 18, 2021. The ISU World Team Trophy is a biennial event.

Russia tops the standings with 9847 points followed by the USA (8001 points) and Japan with 6441 points. The other directly qualified ISU Members are Canada (5580) and Italy (4021). China was qualified with 4537 points but will not send a team allowing France (3905 points) to compete instead.

Overview of the participants

Russia sends three newly minted World Champions <u>Anna Shcherbakova</u>, Pair Skaters <u>Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov</u> and Ice Dancers <u>Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov</u>. Also included are the 2021 World silver medalist <u>Elizaveta Tuktamysheva</u>, 2018 World bronze medalist <u>Mikhail Kolyada</u> and <u>Evgeni Semenenko</u>, who were fifth and eighth in Stockholm and the highest ranked European men.

The USA come with <u>Nathan Chen</u>, who just claimed his third World title in Stockholm. He is joined by top-ten World competitors <u>Jason Brown</u>, <u>Karen Chen</u>, <u>Bradie Tennell</u>, <u>Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier</u> and <u>Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker</u>.

Japan sends two-time Olympic Champion <u>Yuzuru Hanyu</u> and 2018 Olympic silver medalist <u>Shoma Uno</u> as well as two-time Four Continents Champion <u>Rika Kihira</u>, <u>Kaori Sakamoto</u>, Pair Skaters <u>Riku Miura/Ryuichi Kihara</u> and Ice Dancers Misato <u>Komatsubara/Tim Koleto</u>.

Team Canada is led by <u>Nam Ngyuen</u> and 2017 World bronze medalist <u>Gabrielle Daleman</u>. Team Italy includes 2019 European bronze medalist <u>Matteo Rizzo</u>, 2019 World Junior bronze medalist <u>Daniel Grassl</u>, 2019 European Ice Dance bronze medalists <u>Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri</u> as well as Pair Skaters <u>Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise</u>. 2019 ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist <u>Kevin Aymoz</u> headlines Team France.

Competition Format and Qualifying

The ISU World Team Trophy format is based on a competition consisting of the six best national teams from ISU Members with a special provision for the host ISU Member to be included. Each team will be composed of two Men, two Ladies, one Pair Skating couple and one Ice Dance couple, i.e. a total of eight skaters per team.

The team event consists of two phases of competition, the Short Program/Short Dance and the Free Skating/Free Dance. Teams are awarded 12 to 1 team points (12 points for first place, 1 point for 12th place) for Men and Ladies and respectively 12 to 7 points for Pairs and Ice Dance couples in the Short Program/Rhythm Dance and in the Free Skating/Free Dance. The standings are calculated according to the sum of the team points achieved in each phase of the event. Several tie breakers are in place.

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The teams qualified based on a scoring scale used for the ISU World Standing points scored by their best Skaters at ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and Final season 2019/20 and the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2021, plus possibly the ISU European Figure Skating Championships / ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2020, the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating season 2019/20.

Event Schedule

The schedule of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2021 is as follows:

Thursday, April 15: Opening Ceremony, Rhythm Dance, Ladies and Men Short Program Friday, April 16: Pair Skating Short Program, Free Dance, Men Free Skating Saturday, April 17: Pair Skating and Ladies Free Skating, Victory ceremony

Sunday, April 18: Exhibition Gala

For more information, full entry lists and results please see the <u>ISU website</u>. Follow the discussion on social media using #WTTFigure and #FigureSkating.

Stay connected with the ISU Social Media:

YouTube: <u>Skating ISU</u> IG: @ISUFigureSkating

Facebook: @ISUFigureSkating

Twitter: @ISU Figure

Follow the conversation with #WTTFigure and #FigureSkating.

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).