

February 4, 2022

Beijing, China

## **Host China eying first gold medal as Olympic Short Track events start in Beijing**

### **Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games**

Host country China is eying their first possible Short Track gold medal - and maybe first gold of the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games - when the Short Track competition starts with the Mixed Relay at the Beijing Indoor Stadium on Saturday. The Mixed Relay celebrates its Olympic debut. In this format, teams consist of two women and two men.

#### **Overview of the top contenders**

China is leading the World Cup ranking in the Mixed Team Relay with 28'000 points, followed by The Netherlands (21'277 points) and Hungary (19'520 points).

The Chinese team features stars such as 2018 Olympic 500m Champion [Dajing Wu](#) and [Ziwei Ren](#), who collected four individual distance World Cup titles this season.

The Netherlands can rely on their superstars [Suzanne Schulting](#) - the 1000m Olympic Champion from PyeongChang 2018, who is aiming at taking home more hardware from Beijing - and on two-time Olympic medalist [Sjinkie Knegt](#), who is back in shape after overcoming serious injuries.

Hungary features the popular Liu brothers - [Shaoang](#) and [Shaolin Sandor](#) - who won gold with the Men's 5000m relay four years ago.

Short Track powerhouse Korea is eager to start their medal haul in the Mixed Relay and can count on [Minjeong Choi](#), who struck gold in the 1500m and the 3000m relay in PyeongChang 2018.

Canada features the three-time Olympic medalist [Kim Boutin](#) as well as Olympic bronze medalist [Pascal Dion](#), who never should be under-estimated when it comes to Short Track.

A total of 12 teams are competing in Beijing this year.

#### **Women's 500m and Men's 1000m Heats**

The day starts with the Women's 500m and Men's 1000m heats. Schulting, Boutin, Choi and [Kristen Santos](#) (USA) are competing plus Italian legend [Arianna Fontana](#), who is after a record ninth Olympic medal. Schulting (NED) hopes to become the first female Short Track Skater to sweep the three individual distances 500m, 1000m and 1500m at the Olympic Winter Games.

In the Men's 1000m, Ziwei Ren, Dajing Wu, Pascal Dion as well as Sjinkie Knegt and the Liu brothers will start their individual medal quest in Beijing.

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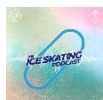
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What's coming ?

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**

Women's 500m – Heats, 19:00 (local time)  
Men's 1000m – Heats, 19:38 (local time)  
Mixed Team Relay - Quarterfinals, 20:23 (local time)  
Mixed Team Relay - Semifinals, 20:53 (local time)  
Mixed Team Relay – Final B, 21:18 (local time)  
Mixed Team Relay – Final A, 21:26 (local time)

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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](#).