

February 11, 2022

Beijing, China

Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) eye gold as Olympic Ice Dance event starts in Beijing

Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

2018 Olympic silver medalists [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) headline the Ice Dance field as the Figure Skating events continue on Saturday at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games with the Rhythm Dance. Competition promises to be exciting with several strong couples in the medal hunt.

Papadakis/Cizeron back in action

Since winning their first ISU Championship in 2015, Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA) have been at the top of the Ice Dance field and collected a total of four ISU World and five European titles. They were beaten only by [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) (CAN) at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games and more recently, at the 2020 ISU European Championships by [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (ROC).

Papadakis/Cizeron won their ISU Grand Prix events earlier this season and they hold the highest score for the Rhythm Dance (90.03 points), for the Free Dance (136.58 points) and overall (226.61 points). The French decided to not attend the ISU World Championships 2021 nor the ISU European Championships in January 2022.

The elegant French couple dances to Hip Hop “Made To Love” and Blues “U Move I Move” by John Legend in the Rhythm Dance and have selected the Tango piece “Elegie” by Gabriel Fauré for the Free Dance.

Papadakis/Cizeron have to expect stiff competition in Beijing as their rivals have come closer. There is no room for error.

ROC and USA couples ready to offer resistance

[Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (ROC) have claimed gold at the ISU World Championships 2021 and managed to beat Papadakis/Cizeron in 2020 at the ISU European Championships. The couple from Moscow defended their European title this year with strong performances. Sinitsina/Katsalapov did not compete in PyeongChang in 2018, but both were, with different partners, in Sochi in 2014. Katsalapov won the bronze medal in the individual event with Elena Ilinykh. Sinitsina/Katsalapov skate to “You Can Leave Your Hat On” (Blues) and “Brick House” (Funk) in the Rhythm Dance and to Sergei Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2 and Caprice No. 24 by Niccolò Paganini.

Three-time ISU World medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) and two-time ISU Four Continents Champions [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) both shone in the Team Event and placed first in their respective segments. Hubbell/Donohue’s programs are set to a Janet Jackson Medley in the Rhythm Dance and to “Drowning” by Anne Sila while Chock/Bates are dancing to a Billie Eilish Medley in the Rhythm Dance and to electronic music by Daft Punk in the Free Dance.

Reigning ISU World bronze medalists [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) (CAN) are challenging for the podium as well.

Other contenders to watch include 2022 ISU European silver medalists [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) (ROC), 2022 ISU European bronze medalists [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) (ITA), [Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz](#) (ESP), [Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson](#) (GBR) and [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Soerensen](#) (CAN).

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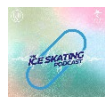
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What's next ?

Saturday, February 12, 2022
Ice Dance/Rhythm Dance, 19:00 (local time)
Monday, February 14, 2022
Ice Dance/Free Dance, 09:15 (local time)

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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](#).