

August 29, 2022

Courchevel, France

A first for Korean Ice Dance as Japan returns in style at ISU Junior Grand Prix Courchevel

Korean Ice Dancers Hannah Lim/Ye Quan claimed a historic first ISU Junior Grand Prix title in the discipline for their country, as the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2022/23 kicked off with the first event in Courchevel (FRA). Hana Yoshida and Shunsuke Nakamura continued Japan's success in Single Skating after the country had sat out the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in the past season.

Hana Yoshida's (JPN) golden birthday gift

[Hana Yoshida](#) of Japan made herself the perfect birthday present by triumphing in what was her debut at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating. A few days after her 17th birthday Yoshida claimed the title, pulling up from second place following her Short Program to "Dog Days Are Over" by Florence and the Machine. In her Free Skating set to "The Planets" by Gustav Holst and "Star Wars" by John Williams, the Japanese Skater stepped out of her opening triple Axel and reeled off six clean triples, while only underrotating one triple Lutz. Yoshida totalled 203.52 points and overtook her teammate and Short Program leader [Ayumi Shibayama](#) (JPN). "I wanted to land it (the triple Axel) clean and I'm going to do it in the next Junior Grand Prix," Yoshida said. "I like the Short Program because it is so fun, but I like the long program, because I can be princess Leia," she added.

Shibayama (JPN), 14, earned the lead with her flawless Short Program to "Song of Aeolus" by Karl Jenkins that included a triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination. Her Free Skating to "Turandot" by Giacomo Puccini featured seven clean triple jumps, but she singled one Axel and slipped to second place at 188.39 points. The bronze went to [Yujae Kim](#) (KOR), like the two Japanese women a newcomer on the ISU Junior Grand Prix scene. The 13-year-old slightly underrotated her triple Axel (q) in the Free Skating, but hit five triple jumps to place third (185.67 points). [Valentina Cueva](#) became the first Skater to represent Ecuador in ISU competitions (32nd).

Nakamura (JPN) celebrates golden debut

[Shunsuke Nakamura](#) (JPN) trains together with Yoshida and Shibayama in Kyoto and made his coaches proud by winning his first ISU Junior Grand Prix event. The 17-year-old took the lead in the Short Program with a strong performance to "El Conquistador" by Maxime Rodriguez, landing a triple Axel and triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination. Nakamura hit two more nice triple Axel in his Free Skating to "Sheik", but he missed a quad toeloop and a triple Lutz, which did not count as it was an extra repetition of a jump (219.65). "I am very, very glad to have won the title. (After the fall on the quad toe) I wanted to do all the other jumps clean. I had to train hard to build up my endurance (for the competition at high altitude in Courchevel)", Nakamura explained. He is heading to the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Yerevan (ARM) for his second event.

[Younghyun Cha](#) (KOR) has competed on the ISU Junior circuit since 2017 and this year won his first medal, the silver. The 18-year-old ranked second in the Short Program and landed five triples in the Free Skating to

the “Dune” soundtrack, but he did not risk a triple Axel and fell on a triple toe (196.15 points). Another training mate of Nakamura, [Ryoga Morimoto](#), (JPN) picked up the bronze in what was his first international competition to complete an excellent showing of his training group (188.66 points).

Lim/Quan win first ISU JGP Ice Dance title for Korea

Courchevel turned out to be a lucky place for [Hannah Lim/Ye Quan](#) (KOR). One year after becoming the first Korean Ice Dancers to win a medal on the ISU Junior Grand Prix, the couple that trains in Canada, made history again by winning the first Junior Grand Prix Ice Dance title this time. Lim/Quan tangoed to the lead in the Rhythm Dance to “Primavera Portena” by Astor Piazzolla with two level-four elements. The team built on their lead with their Free Dance to “Danse Macabre” by Camille Saint-Saens, producing level-four twizzles, lifts and a level-four dance spin. They set a personal best in both segments and won with 14 points to spare at 161.96 points ahead of [Celina Fradji/Jean- Hans Fournieux](#) (FRA) with 147.66 points.

“We are really, really proud. We got our personal best at the Junior Grand Prix in Russia (in 2021) and we really wanted to see the progress we had since (Junior) Worlds,” Quan noted. “We would like to go to the Junior Grand Prix Final and for that we will have to do very well at our next (Junior) Grand Prix. But I think within a month and a half we’ll be able to show an even better performance. And at (Junior) Worlds we’d like to do a podium”, Lim commented.

Fradji/Fournieux that train not far away from Courchevel in Villard-de-Lans made the podium in their second JGP season as a team and turned in two clean performances of their “Tango Gringo” Rhythm Dance and their Free Dance to “Agape”, “Epidauros” and “Ya Nas”. [Vanessa Pham/Jonathan Rogers](#) (USA) earned the bronze in the first ISU Junior Grand Prix event of their career (143.26 points).

A total of 74 Skaters/Couples representing 29 ISU Members competed in the first ISU Junior Grand Prix event of the season. The ISU Junior Grand Prix series 2022/23 continues next week with Czech Skate in Ostrava (CZE).

Full entry lists, results, the General Announcement and further information are available on the [ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series](#) page.

Selection Criteria

More than 300 young Skaters from over 50 ISU Members are expected to compete in this year’s Series. Each ISU Member is entitled to enter competitors for the Series while the number of their entries depends on the result of the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2022.

Following the IOC recommendation and in order to protect the integrity of ice skating competitions and for the safety of all the participants of international ice skating competitions, the ISU Council based on Article 17.1.q)i) of the ISU Constitution, agreed that with immediate effect and until further notice, no Skaters belonging to the ISU Members in Russia (Russian Skating Union and the Figure Skating Federation of Russia) and Belarus (Skating Union of Belarus) shall be invited or allowed to participate in International ice skating competitions including ISU Championships and other ISU Events. The same applies to Officials listed in the respective ISU Communications and/or Regulations under Russia and Belarus (see [ISU Communication 2469](#)).

Junior Grand Prix Standings

[Men](#)

[Women](#)

[Ice Dance](#)

[Pair Skating](#)

Where to Watch

The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events will be live streamed on the official [ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating YouTube Channel](#) in most countries. Find out [where to watch](#) the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating competitions.

[Subscribe](#) to the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating YouTube Channel to receive all the latest videos and follow the conversation with #JGPFigure.

ISU Junior Grand Prix Schedule

The schedules of each ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events are available below:

24 - 27 Aug 2022	Courchevel/FRA
31 Aug - 3 Sept 2022	Ostrava/CZE
7 - 10 Sept 2022	Riga/LAT
21 - 24 Sept 2022	Yerevan/ARM
28 Sept - 1 Oct 2022	Gdansk/POL
5 - 8 Oct 2022	Gdansk/POL
12 - 15 Oct 2022	Egna/ITA

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About ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating

The ISU Junior Grand Prix Figure Skating Series started in 1997. It includes seven events and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The Series features some of the up and coming Skaters of the world and provides young skaters aged 13 to 19 (21 for the male Ice Dance and Pair Skating partners) with the opportunity to compete at a high international

level. A points system based on the ranking has been established to determine the qualifiers for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Points are obtained according to the results in each of the seven events and only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final. The ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating is financed by the [ISU Development Program](#).

Since 2011 all events of the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating are live streamed on the official ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating [YouTube Channel](#).