

Press release

05 December 2017

**ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18:
ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final
ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final
Preview**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating culminate this week with the Finals in Nagoya (JPN). The event features the top six skaters/couples in each category from both series.

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

36 skaters/couples from eight ISU members will compete in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. They are vying for a global prize money of U.S. \$ 272,000. Six skaters/couples in each category qualified from the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series: Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS), Skate Canada International in Regina, Audi Cup of China in Beijing, NHK Trophy in Osaka, Internationaux de France de Patinage in Grenoble and Bridgestone Skate America in Lake Placid.

Overview of the participants

[Nathan Chen](#) (USA) is the top qualifier in the Men's category. He won his two events – Rostelecom Cup and Bridgestone Skate America and comes with a season's best of 293.79 points to Nagoya. He has to expect a stiff challenge from Nagoya native [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN), who has a gold and a silver medal from his two events and tops the season's best list with 319.84 points achieved at Lombardia Trophy. [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS/season's best 279.38 points) qualified for his first Grand Prix Final with a gold and a bronze medal. [Sergei Voronov](#) (RUS/271.12) and [Adam Rippon](#) (USA/266.45) return to the Final. [Jason Brown](#) (USA/261.14) will compete in his first Final replacing [Boyang Jin](#) (CHN) who has withdrawn due to injury.

One year ago, World Junior Champion [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS) won the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in her debut on the international circuit. This year she qualified with two gold medals on the circuit for her first senior-level Final. Zagitova scored a season's best of 218.46 points. World silver medalist [Kaetlyn Osmond](#) (CAN) earned her spot in Nagoya with a gold and a bronze medal and has a season's best of 217.55 points. 2012 World Champion [Carolina Kostner](#) (ITA/season's best 215.98) returns to the Final after not competing on the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating for three seasons. [Maria Sotskova](#) (RUS/208.78) will compete in her second senior-level Final while [Wakaba Higuchi](#) (JPN/217.63) will debut in the (senior) Final. Defending ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalist [Satoko Miyahara](#) (JPN/214.03) came in as a substitute for two-time World Champion [Evgenia Medvedeva](#) (RUS), who is recovering from injury.

In Pairs, reigning World Champions [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN) and European Champions [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) lead the standings after striking gold in their two events. Sui/Han did not compete on the Grand Prix circuit last season, but dominated this year and have the highest season's best total score so far with 234.53 points. Tarasova/Morozov are the defending ISU Grand Prix Final Champions and come with a season's best of 224.25 points to Japan. Current World silver medalists [Aljona Savchenko/Bruno Massot](#) (GER/season's best 223.13 points) will compete in their first Final as a team. They had qualified last year, but had to withdraw due to injury. The two-time World Champions [Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford](#) (CAN/222.22) are back at the Final along with [Xiaoyu Yu/Hao Zhang](#) (CHN/219.20) and 2014 Olympic silver medalists [Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov](#) (RUS/222.74).

In the Ice Dance event, reigning World Champions [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) (CAN) and World silver medalists [Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA) will face each other for the first time this season. Both couples won their two Grand Prix events clearly. The French became the first ice dancers to break 200 points and have a season's best of 201.98 points while the Canadians scored a season's best of 199.86 points. World bronze medalists [Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani](#) (USA/season's best 194.25) won their two events as well and look to challenge the leaders. [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA/season's best 184.50), [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA/189.43) and 2014 World Champions [Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte](#) (ITA/season's best 186.56) complete a deep field of ice dancers in Nagoya.

The prize money is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples as follows:

Men and Ladies, Pairs and Ice Dance (per couple)

- 1st place: US\$ 25,000
- 2nd place: US\$ 18,000
- 3rd place: US\$ 12,000
- 4th place: US\$ 6,000
- 5th place: US\$ 4,000
- 6th place: US\$ 3,000

ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

36 skaters/couples from six ISU members have qualified for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Six skaters/couples per discipline qualified in the seven events of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Australia, Austria, Latvia, Belarus, Croatia, Poland and Italy.

Overview of the participants

[Alexey Erokhov](#) (RUS) and [Alexei Krasnozhon](#) (USA) top the standings in the Junior Men with two victories on the Junior circuit. Erokhov, who has a season's best of 232.79 points, debuts in the Final while Krasnozhon (season's best 225.48) was fifth in the 2016 Junior Final and is the only Junior man to return this season. The other qualifiers are [Camden Pulkinen](#) (USA), [Mitsuki Sumoto](#) (JPN), [Makar Ignatov](#) (RUS) and [Andrew Torgashev](#) (USA).

Russia dominated the Junior Ladies this season and qualified five entries for the Final. [Alexandra Trusova](#) and [Sofia Samodurova](#) won their two events and have a season's best of 197.69 and 192.19 points respectively. They are joined by [Alena Kostornaia](#), [Daria Panenkova](#) and [Anastasia Tarankova](#). The sixth qualifier and the only one to return to the Junior Final this season is [Rika Kihira](#) (JPN).

World Junior Champions [Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya/Harley Windsor](#) (AUS/season's best 190.31 points) and World Junior silver medalists [Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii](#) (RUS/191.58) return to the Junior Final. However, the top qualifiers are [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) (RUS) and [Apollinariia/Dmitry Rylov](#) (RUS), who will debut in the Junior Final. [Anastasia Poluianova/Dmitry Sopot](#) (RUS) competed in the Junior Final before, albeit with different partners. World Junior bronze medalists [Yumeng Gao/Zhong Xie](#) (CHN) qualified for their first Junior Final.

The Junior Ice Dance event features 2017 World Junior bronze medalists [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA/season's best 150.05 points), who are the only team to win their two Junior Grand Prix events as well as [Anastasia Skoptcova/Kirill Aleshin](#) (RUS/season's best 150.78), who return to the Final after missing it last year. The other couples are all newcomers to the Final: [Sofia Polishchuk/Alexander Vakhnov](#) (RUS), [Majorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN), [Sofia Shevchenko/Igor Eremenko](#) (RUS) and [Arina Ushakova/Maxim Nekrasov](#) (RUS).

The prize money made available by the ISU is 105,000 US\$. The prize money is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples as follows:

Junior Men and Ladies

1st place US\$ 6,000
2nd place US\$ 5,000
3rd place US\$ 4,000
4th place US\$ 3,000
5th place US\$ 2,000
6th place US\$ 1,000

Junior Pairs and Dance (per couple)

1st place US\$ 9,000
2nd place US\$ 7,500
3rd place US\$ 6,000
4th place US\$ 4,500
5th place US\$ 3,000
6th place US\$ 1,500

The full list of entries and results are available at www.isu.org

The schedule of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (Junior & Senior) is as follows:

Thursday, Dec 7: Junior Pairs, Junior Men, Junior Ladies, Pairs & Men's Short Programs, Short Dance
Friday, Dec 8: Junior Short Dance, Junior Pairs & Junior Men's Free Skating, Ladies Short Program, Men's Free Skating
Saturday, Dec 9: Junior Free Dance, Junior Ladies Free Skating, Pairs Free Skating, Free Dance, Ladies Free Skating
Sunday, Dec 10: Exhibition Gala



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All relevant information such as entry lists and results, biographies, planned program content, quick quotes of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are available on the ISU website [here](#). The ISU Junior Grand Prix Final is streamed live on the [ISU Junior Grand Prix channel](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#JGPFigure** **#GPFigure** **#FigureSkating**.

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