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Torino, Italy

# Figure Skating's top stars headed to Torino for ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2019/20

The World's best Figure Skaters including reigning Olympic Champions <u>Yuzuru Hanyu</u> (JPN) and <u>Alina Zagitova</u> (RUS), 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Champion <u>Nathan Chen</u> (USA) and four-time Ice Dance World Champions <u>Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron</u> (FRA), two-time ISU World Figure Skating Pairs Champions <u>Wenjing Sui/Cong Han</u> (CHN) are headed to Torino (ITA) for the <u>ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final</u> this week. They are joined by the best juniors that qualified for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

It has been an exciting six weeks of competition around the globe with a total of 142 skaters/couples from 24 countries competing at Skate America in Las Vegas, Skate Canada in Kelowna, Internationaux de France in Grenoble, Shiseido Cup of China in Chongqing, Rostelecom Cup in Moscow and NHK Trophy in Sapporo. Only the best six skaters/couples in each discipline earned the ticket to Torino. Among the 24 skaters/couples representing six ISU Members are accomplished champions as well as exciting newcomers that represent the next generation of skaters. The athletes set new highest scores and Ladies performed quadruple jumps.

#### Men

Yuzuru Hanyu (JPN) and Nathan Chen (USA) top the Men's standings and won their two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events. Olympic Champion Hanyu struck gold at Skate Canada and NHK Trophy, achieving a new record score in the Free Skating in Kelowna with 212.99 points as well as in the total score with 322.59 points. ISU World Figure Skating Champion Chen, who won in Las Vegas and Grenoble, comes with a season's best of 299.09 points to the Final. Boyang Jin (CHN) returns to the Final after competing in it once before three years ago. The two-time ISU World Figure Skating bronze medalist took gold at his home event in China and finished sixth at Skate America (season's best 268.31 points). Three men made it for the first time to the Final: Alexander Samarin (RUS/season's best 265.10) qualified with gold from Russia and silver from France. Dmitri Aliev (RUS/season's best 259.88) advanced with a silver from Rostelecom Cup and bronze from Skate America. Kevin Aymoz (FRA/season's best 262.47) collected the silver at NHK Trophy and the bronze at Internationaux de France to secure his spot.

The substitutes are Nam Nguyen (CAN), Jason Brown (USA) and Keiji Tanaka (JPN).

#### **Ladies**

Three young Russian Ladies stormed from the junior ranks on to the senior stage to take two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating gold medals each on their way to the Final: Alena Kostornaia won in France and Japan, Alexandra Trusova topped the podium in Canada and Russia and Anna Shcherbakova took gold in the USA and China. Kostornaia set a new highest Short Program score of 85.04 points at NHK Trophy and has a season's best of 240.00 points. Trusova, who is the first female skater to land three quadruple jumps in one program, posted a record score in the Free Skating (166.62) and overall (241.02). Shcherbakova, who performed two quadruple Lutzes in her Free Skating, has a season's best of 227.76 points. Defending ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champion Rika Kihira (JPN) claimed silver in Kelowna and Sapporo to return to the Final (season's best 231.84). Defending ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final silver medalist Alina Zagitova (RUS/season's best 217.99) picked up a silver and a bronze medal to book her ticket to

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Italy. <u>Bradie Tennell</u> (USA/season's best 216.14), who ranked second and fourth in her two events, will compete in her first ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

The substitutes are: Satoko Miyahara (JPN), Mariah Bell (USA) and Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (RUS).

#### **Pairs**

Olympic silver medalists Wenjing Sui/Cong Han (CHN) celebrated two confident wins at Shiseido Cup of China and NHK Trophy and come with a season's best of 228.37 points to Italy. They return to the Final after sitting out the ISU Grand Prix season a year ago. Emerging stars Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitrii Kozlovskii (RUS/season's best 229.48) won their two events in Canada and Russia as well and are eager to challenge the reigning ISU World Figure Skating Champions in what will be their first senior-level Final. Current ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final silver medalists Cheng Peng/Yang Jin (CHN/season's best 200.89) collected gold in Las Vegas and silver in Chongqing while Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin (RUS/seasons best 206.56) come back to the Final with two silver medals. 2019 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Champions Anastasia Mishina/Alexander Galliamov (RUS/season's best 210.18) are the third young Russian Pair to qualify after taking gold in France and bronze in Japan. They will compete in their first Final as will Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro (CAN/season's best 210.35), who bagged two silver medals on the circuit.

The substitutes are <u>Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov</u> (RUS), <u>Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier</u> (USA) and <u>Liubov Ilyushechkina/Charlie Bilodeau</u> (CAN).

#### **Ice Dance**

Four-time ISU World Figure Skating Champions <u>Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron</u> (FRA) continued pushing the limits in the ISU Grand Prix series by setting new highest scores in the Rhythm Dance (becoming the first to break the 90 points barrier) and Free Dance to accumulate a total of 226.61 points. The Olympic silver medalists picked up the gold at Internationaux de France and NHK Trophy and come back to the Final. They missed it last year as they withdrew from their second event. 2019 ISU World Figure Skating silver medalists <u>Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov</u> (RUS) struck gold in Chongqing and Moscow as well and travel with a season's best of 212.15 points to Italy. Defending ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champions <u>Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue</u> (USA/season's best 209.55 points) and <u>Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier</u> (CAN/season's best 209.01) claimed a gold and a silver on the circuit. The Canadians return to the Final after missing out in the past four seasons. <u>Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin</u> (RUS/season's best 208.81 points) as well as <u>Madison Chock/Evan Bates</u> (USA/season's best 208.55 points) earned two silver medals in their events and want to challenge for the podium in Torino.

The substitutes are: <u>Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri</u> (ITA), <u>Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen</u> (CAN) and <u>Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson</u> (GBR).

## **Prize Money & Points**

The global prize money for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final is US\$ 272,000 and is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples as follows:

1st place US \$ 25,000 4th place US \$ 6,000 2nd place US \$ 18,000 5th place US \$ 4,000 3rd place US \$ 12,000 6<sup>th</sup> place US\$ 3,000

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Full entry lists, results and schedules for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are available <a href="https://isu.org/GrandPrix">https://isu.org/GrandPrix</a>

### Schedule of the event

Thursday, December 5 Junior Men, Junior Pairs & Junior Ladies Short Programs, Pairs &

Men's Short Program

Friday, December 6 Junior Rhythm Dance & Junior Ladies Free Skating, Rhythm Dance,

Ladies Short Program, Pairs Free Skating

Saturday, December 7 Men's Free Skating, Junior Pairs & Men's Free Skating, Junior Free

Dance, Free Dance & Ladies Free Skating

Sunday, December 8 Exhibition Gala

## Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019?

Viewers will be able to watch the Series either via their national broadcaster / channel. For countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the <a href="Skating ISU YouTube">Skating ISU YouTube</a> Channel. For the first time the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final live stream on the Skating ISU YouTube Channel will include English commentary.

You will find the full list in the Where to watch news here.

Subscribe to the <u>ISU Newsletter</u> to receive the latest information and the "Where to Watch" news and you can also subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

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

Facebook: @ISU Figure Skating

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Follow the conversation with #GPFigure.

## **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2019/20**

Skate America - Las Vegas (USA) - October 18 - 20

Skate Canada International – Kelowna (CAN) – October 25 – 27

Internationaux de France – Grenoble (FRA) – Novembre 1 – 3

SHISEIDO cup of China - Chongqing (CHN) - November 8 - 10

Rostelecom Cup – Moscow (RUS) – November 15 – 17

NHK Trophy - Sapporo (JPN) - November 22 - 24

ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (Senior & Junior) – Torino (ITA) – December 5 – 8

### **About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The top six of the past World Championships are seeded. Competitors collect points in their events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.