

## Press release

18 February 2018

### Youth meets experience: French-Canadian Ice Dance duel to be expected

The Ice Dance competition shapes up as a duel between the experienced 2010 Olympic Champions and 2014 Olympic silver medalists [Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir](#) (CAN) and young two-time World Champions [Gabriella Papadakis/ Guillaume Cizeron](#) (FRA).

At age 22 and 23, Papadakis/Cizeron are among the youngest couples in the Ice Dance event and will compete in their first Olympic Games. Virtue, 28 and Moir, 30, on the other hand have competed successfully in Vancouver in 2010 and in Sochi in 2014 and took the World title from Papadakis/Cizeron in 2017. However, the French beat their Canadian rivals at the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final last December and set a new personal best and highest score at the recent European Championships with 203.16 points. Virtue/Moir scored a seasons best of 199.86 points at Skate Canada earlier in the season.

Behind the two leading couples, a group of strong challengers has set their eyes on the podium as well and the battle will be fierce. ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalists [Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani](#) (USA) earned a seasons best of 194.25 points, but had to settle for silver at the U.S. National Championships, beaten by [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA/seasons best 189.43 points).

Two-time World medalists [Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) (CAN), multiple European medalists [Ekaterina Borbova/Dmitri Soloviev](#) (OAR), two-time World medalists [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) and 2014 World Ice Dance Champions [Anna Cappellini/Luca Lanotte](#) (ITA) are in the mix as well and have a shot at the PyeongChang 2018 podium.

Other couples to watch include [Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri](#) (ITA), [Penny Coomes/Nicholas Buckland](#) (GBR), [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) (CAN) and [Tiffani Zagorski/Jonathan Guerreiro](#) (OAR).

As the International Olympic Committee has suspended the Russian National Olympic Committee, individual Russian athletes will be competing as Olympic Athlete from Russia (OAR) in PyeongChang. A total of 24 Ice Dance couples representing 17 ISU Members have been entered for the Ice Dance competition and the best placed 20 Couples in the Short Dance will qualify for the final Free Dance.

#### The schedule of the Olympic Ice Dance event is as follows:

Monday, February 19: Short Dance

Tuesday, February 20: Free Dance

For more information, schedules, full entries and results please refer to the [ISU website](#) and the [official website](#) of the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.