



Grand Prix of Figure Skating

2020 / 21

A N N O U N C E M E N T

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL

Considering the continued critical COVID-19 developments involving many travel and other restrictions and especially risks around the World, the Council reiterated its basic policy decided during its April 28, 2020 Council meeting (ISU Communication 2320), namely that the health and safety of the participants of international ice skating events remains the number one priority. Mindful of the concern for health and safety related to COVID-19 but also the need to give Skaters the best possible opportunities to compete internationally, the ISU will give its utmost support to ISU Members in order to stage all international competitions that can safely be held during the season 2020/21.

Considering the above mentioned exceptional circumstances, the basic ISU policy and with the objective to limit COVID-19 risky international traveling to the minimum, the Council considered a proposal received from the six organizing ISU Members of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series (Canada, China, France, Japan, Russia, USA hereafter the "Grand Prix Members"). In line with the powers granted to the Council as per Article 17.1.q) of ISU Constitution, the Council agreed to the proposal that each individual ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event (hereafter "Grand Prix event") of the season 2020/21 becomes a domestically run event. The participation in each Grand Prix event is limited to:

- i) Competitors and Officials of the host country/Organizing Grand Prix Member and*
- ii) Competitors regularly training in the respective host country and*
- iii) Competitors from other ISU Members who will be assigned to a Grand Prix event in the respective geographical area, always subject to the applicable travel, entry and sanitary restrictions of the concerned countries.*

All relevant details such as applicable disciplines included in each Grand Prix event, number and selection criteria/conditions/restrictions of invited Competitors' entries, qualification criteria for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, cost responsibilities, qualification and number of Officials, ISU financial & other assistance including Prize Money to the organizing Grand Prix Members, has been worked out by a dedicated ISU Council appointed Working Group in cooperation with the six organizing Grand Prix Members of the individual Grand Prix events and, approved by the Council.

Each Grand Prix event will be organized in accordance with the host country's national health/sanitary requirements. Unless being in conflict with such national health/sanitary requirements, the ISU Guidelines to hold ISU Events during the COVID-19 Pandemic shall be considered as a strong recommendation. These Guidelines have been published and can be found [here](#).

For the sake of fairness, no World Standing/Ranking points will be awarded and the scores obtained by the Competitors shall not count towards the Minimum Total Elements Scores applicable for ISU Championships.

The 2020/21 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series will consist of six international senior invitational events, which will be domestically run events. All six Grand Prix events will be held with the approval and the assistance of the International Skating Union, under the responsibility of the Grand Prix Members concerned and in accordance with the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2018, the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2018 and all relevant ISU Communications.

The six Grand Prix events are only open to Skaters/Couples who belong to an ISU Member and qualify with regard to eligibility according to ISU Constitution and General Regulations Rule 102, provided their ages fall within the limits specified in ISU Rule 108, paragraph 3.a) and they meet the participation, citizenship and residency requirement in ISU Rule 109, and ISU Communication No. 2030 or any update of this Communication. Entries can only be made through the ISU Members.

The provisions included in this Announcement do not concern any participation at the ISU Championships or any other international event not included in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

For the 2020/21 season, the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (hereafter the “Grand Prix events”) are:

Skate America	October 23-24, 2020	Las Vegas, NV	USA
Skate Canada International	Oct. 30 – 31, 2020	Ottawa, ON	CAN
SHISEIDO Cup of China	November 6-8, 2020	Chongqing	CHN
Internationaux de France	November 13-15, 2020	Grenoble	FRA
Rostelecom Cup	November 20-22, 2020	Moscow	RUS
NHK Trophy	November 27-29, 2020	Osaka	JPN

2. DESIGNATION OF THE SKATERS

Further to the information listed in point 1. as the Grand Prix events will primarily be “domestic events” the usual procedure and criteria of inviting Competitors will not be possible.

The Competitors will be invited based on the following:

- a) Top 6 Skaters/Couples from the Grand Prix List are given priority to be selected for a Grand Prix event provided they reside/train in one of the Grand Prix Member countries, or have no travel restrictions to travel to a Grand Prix Member country in the nearby area, for example, European Skaters not residing/training in France but having the possibility to travel to France without critical restrictions
- b) Top 7-12 Skaters (for Ladies and Men), Top 7-10 Couples (for Pair Skating and Ice Dance) from the Grand Prix List are given 2nd priority to be selected for a Grand Prix event provided they reside/train in one of the Grand Prix Member countries, or have no travel restrictions to travel to a Grand Prix Member country in the nearby area.
- c) Top 24 Season’s best and World Standings Skaters/Couples for season 2019/20, not included in the above point a) and b), will have 3rd priority for selection
- d) The remaining entries will be from Skaters/Couples in the top 75 season’s best list from 2019/20 and up to two Skaters/Couples from the Organizing Grand Prix Member (off list).
- e) In case there are no available Skaters/Couples left in the top 75, the Organizing Grand Prix Member may invite any other Skater training in the Organizing Grand Prix Member’s country.

The Grand Prix List was composed as follows:

Skaters were listed in priority as follows:

- top 6 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020, listed in Season’s best order, in replacement of the usual World Figure Skating Championships results
- top 7 to 12 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020, listed in Season’s best order (7 to 10 for Pair Skating and Ice Dance), in replacement of the usual World Figure Skating Championships results
- “Come-back” Skaters/Couples
- top 24 Skaters in the World Standings for 2019/20
- top 24 Skaters in the Season’s best list for 2019/20
- medalists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 and winners of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2019/20
- Returning “split Couples”
- top 25 to 75 in the Season’s best list for 2019/20

For the responsibility of the expenses please refer to paragraph 6.4 below.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 Confirmation of Participation of Invited Skaters/Couples

The ISU Members must confirm the participation of the invited Skaters to the ISU Secretariat by **October 7, 2020**.

4. PRIZE MONEY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT AND EXHIBITION FEE

All Prize Money in favour of the awarded Skaters/Couples will be paid at the end of each individual Grand Prix event through the Organizing Grand Prix Members and subsequently through the ISU Members of the awarded Skaters/Couples. Withholding tax, if any, will be deducted according to the respective law of the Organizing Grand Prix Member taking into account double tax treaties with the countries of the awarded Skaters/Couples. The ISU is not responsible for any taxes, fees, or other costs.

The amount of Prize Money to be paid to the awarded ISU Members and Skaters/Couples is subject that the awarded Skaters/Couples and ISU Members have complied with the relevant ISU Regulations and provisions of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Announcement. Possible reductions of the stated Prize Money amounts may apply as outlined in this Announcement. If applicable, such monetary penalties could be deducted from the amount of Prize Money to be transferred and/or could be deducted from any future ISU contribution payable to the ISU Member of the Skater(s)/Couple(s) concerned.

Definition of a “Qualified” event for the purpose of Prize Money distribution:

For each discipline, at least one full group of skaters (6 Ladies, 6 Men, 5 Ice Dance couples, 4 Pairs) whereby there are three (3) entries from the Top 24 Seasons Best or World Standings for 2019/20. The only exception is if one of the Top 24 entries is a World Championship seed (see point 2. a) and b)) thereby satisfying 2 of the ranking criteria, then only one other Top 24 entry is needed (see point 2. c). Actual entries at the time of the competition will be considered.

For a “qualified event”, the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place	US\$12,000
2nd Place	US\$ 7,000
3rd Place	US\$ 3,500
4th Place	US\$ 1,500
5th Place	US\$ 1,000

Total per category: **US\$ 25,000**

For events that do not meet the definition of “qualified”, the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place	US\$ 5,000
2nd Place	US\$ 2,000
3rd Place	US\$ 1,000

Total per category: **US\$ 8,000**

4.1 Exhibition Gala and Exhibition Fee

The Organizing Grand Prix Member does not have to organize an Exhibition Gala. If the Organizing Grand Prix Member chooses to organize an Exhibition Gala, additional numbers from Skaters, who have not competed in the respective event (herewith called “extra exhibition numbers”) can be included. The extra exhibition numbers may not take place after the winners of the respective events who must skate last in the exhibition.

Further details will be given in the individual event’s announcement.

An exhibition fee to be provided by the Organizing Grand Prix Member will only be paid to Skaters/Couples who are not awarded Prize Money but have competed at the respective Grand Prix event. The exhibition fee is set at US\$ 200.00 for Single Skaters (Men and Ladies) and US\$ 300.00 for Pairs and Ice Dance Couples.

5. TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

5.1 Technical Details

MEN	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2018, Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2018, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the “well balanced program” and the element value. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
LADIES	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2018 Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2018, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the “well balanced program” and the element value. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
PAIR SKATING	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2018, Rule 620, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2020/21. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Figure Skating & Pair Skating 2018, Rule 621 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the “well balanced program” and the element value. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
ICE DANCE	Rhythm Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2018, Rule 709. Rhythms, required elements and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 2314, 2315 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2018, Rule 710. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 2314, 2315 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

5.2 Starting order

Considering the current Covid-19 situation and to avoid unnecessary gatherings in each Grand Prix event, the participating Skaters will be listed according to their ISU World Standing placement at the time of the event. The starting order in the Short Program/Rhythm Dance segment will be the reverse order of the ISU World Standing placements. In the case of any tie, there will be a draw to determine who skates first.

Skaters/Couples, who have not received any ISU World Standing points will be listed at the bottom of the ISU World Standing list in country order. There will be a separate draw between those Skaters/Couples with no World Standing points to determine the starting order, following the basic principles of ISU Rule 513.

For the Free Skating/Free Dance the starting order will be the reverse order of the result after the previous segment.

6. SCORING SYSTEM / OFFICIALS / REPLACEMENTS

6.1 Scoring System

The scoring system as described in ISU Special Regulations Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2018, Rule 352 and 353 will apply.

6.2 Officials and Judges

Considering the exceptional circumstances, the Judges, Technical Panel members, the Referee and the Data and Replay Operators in each Grand Prix event can be of the same ISU Member (basically the Organizing Grand Prix Member) and will be assigned by the Organizing Grand Prix Member. The list of Judges and Officials and their assignments for each category must be sent to the ISU Secretariat **latest 10 days prior to the first day of the competition for information.**

All the appointed Officials and invited Judges should have a minimum qualification of "International". Should this not be possible, exceptions will be examined and decided upon on a case by case basis by the ISU Vice-President.

The panel of Judges in each Grand Prix event may consist of up to 7 Judges if possible but no less than 5 Judges.

Any subsequent changes due to the non-availability of previously invited Judges and appointed Technical Panel members, Referees and Data & Replay Operators must be announced by the organizing Grand Prix Member to the ISU Vice President Figure Skating with copy to the ISU Secretariat. If such changes, to be approved by the ISU Vice President Figure Skating, would not be in line with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the concerned organizing Grand Prix Members will be notified through the ISU Secretariat for possible adjustments.

6.3 Officials Remuneration

The Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators and Judges will receive remuneration in accordance with ISU Communication No. 2096 (or any update of this Communication). The honorarium will be provided in hard currency (in envelope) at accreditation. Whenever possible the honorarium should be paid via wire transfer.

6.4 Expenses

The six Grand Prix Members will pay travel expenses based on economy airfare rate for all of their Skaters/Couples regardless whether their Skaters compete in their home Grand Prix event or in another Grand Prix event. The Organizing Grand Prix Members will pay the travel expenses of all Event Officials and Judges invited to their ISU Grand Prix event from their domicile to the event and return. The travel expenses of the non-domestic Skaters/Couples (who are not part of the 6 Grand Prix Members), will be reimbursed by the ISU.

Non-domestic Skaters/Couples (who are not part of the 6 Grand Prix Members), who shall purchase their air or train tickets directly or make other individual travel arrangements (car) must first have a confirmation from the ISU concerning the acceptance of the travel costs.

The six Grand Prix Members will pay accommodation and meal expenses for all their Skaters/Couples, regardless of whether their skaters compete in their home Grand Prix event or in another Grand Prix event. The Organizing Grand Prix Member will pay accommodation and meal expenses for Referees, Technical Specialists, Technical Controllers, Data & Replay Operators and Judges from dinner on the day preceding the first official practice through breakfast on the day after the Exhibition. This period may be extended due to individual flight arrangements and/or local sanitary restrictions/measures. The expenses for accommodation and meals for non-domestic Skaters/Couples (who are not part of the 6 Grand Prix Members), will be reimbursed by the ISU to the respective Organizing Grand Prix Member.

If a Skater/Couple does not finish an event, that Skater/Couple's ISU Member is obligated to cover the expenses for travel, accommodation and meals for the Skater/Couple.

6.5 Replacements

An Organizing Grand Prix Member should, if possible, replace any Skater/Couple who withdraws from the event up to fourteen (14) days prior to the Team Leaders Meeting for that event.

An Alternate List would be available for each Grand Prix event considering the Covid-19 restrictions and the concept of "domestically" run Grand Prix events.

7. ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS

Anti-Doping tests can be carried out according to the ISU Anti-Doping Rules and ISU Anti-Doping Procedures, as given in the applicable ISU Communications (ISU Communications Nos. 2213 & 2243 or any updates of these Communications).

8. ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING FINAL 2020/21

Considering the pandemic developments and related impact on the organizers and participants of ISU Events, the ISU Council decided to postpone the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, initially scheduled to be held in Beijing/China - December 10-13, 2020 (Olympic Test Event).

The ISU, in consultation with all stakeholders and considering the continued volatile and unpredictable pandemic developments, is evaluating alternative dates for the Final. All details, including the confirmation of the date, prize money etc. will be published in due time in a separate announcement.

Mindful that the pandemic might also have a negative impact on the individual ISU Grand Prix events participation that normally serve as qualification events for the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, the Council decided that a fair and transparent qualification criteria cannot be established at this time and will be decided earliest at the conclusion of the individual Grand Prix events (NHK Trophy, Osaka, November 27-29, 2020).

9. ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING FINAL ORGANIZING STRUCTURE & CONTACT INFORMATION

International Skating Union

Mr. Jan Dijkema, ISU President

Contact:

International Skating Union

Mr. Fredi Schmid, ISU Director General

or Ms. Patricia Mayor, ISU Sports Manager Figure Skating

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Mr. Alexander Lakernik

ISU Vice President of Figure Skating

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Any late changes regarding an event (entries, etc) must be communicated simultaneously to the ISU Secretariat (e-mail: entries@isu.ch)

ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group (Junior and Senior):

Mr. Alexander Lakernik, ISU Vice-President of Figure Skating
& Coordinator ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group

Mr. Charles Cyr, ISU Sports Director Figure Skating

Ms. Rita Zonnekeyn, member S&PTC

Ms. Halina Gordon-Poltorak, Chair IDTC

Secretary:

Ms. Patricia Mayor, ISU Sports Manager Figure Skating

Organizing Grand Prix Members of the 6 individual events:

Canada

Skate Canada

China

Chinese Figure Skating Association

France

Fédération Française des Sports de Glace

Japan

Japan Skating Federation

Russia

The Figure Skating Federation of Russia

United States

The United States Figure Skating Association