

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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Media Advisory Olympic and World Champions to compete in ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2017/18

The World's top figure skaters including reigning Olympic Champion Yuzuru Hanyu (JPN), 2010 Olympic Champions Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir (CAN), World, European and Four Continents Champions and medalists will compete in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series in the 2017/18 Olympic season.

The first event of the series this year is the Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS), October 20 to 22. World and Olympic Champion Yuzuru Hanyu will start his season there and will face Four Continents Champion Nathan Chen (USA). Two-time World Champion Evgenia Medvedeva (RUS) will meet five-time European Champion Carolina Kostner (ITA), who returns to the Grand Prix series after not competing in it in the past three seasons. The event also features Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani (USA), Ekaterina Bobrova/Dmitri Soloviev (RUS) and European Champions Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov (RUS). World Junior Ice Dance Champions Rachel Parsons/Michael Parsons (USA) will debut at the ISU Grand Prix.

Skate Canada in Regina, SK (CAN), October 27 to 29 is headlined by three-time World Champion Patrick Chan (CAN), World silver medalist Shoma Uno (JPN), World silver medalist Kaetlyn Osmond (CAN), 2017 World Champions and 2014 Olympic silver medalists Virtue/Moir, two-time World Pairs Champions Meagan Duhamel/Eric Radford (CAN) and World silver medalists Aliona Savchenko/Bruno Massot (GER).

Cup of China is the third event and will take place in Beijing November 3 to 5. World Champions Wenjing Sui/Cong Han (CHN), two-time World Champions Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron (FRA), Four Continents Champion Mai Mihara (JPN), 2017 World bronze medalist Gabrielle Daleman (CAN) as well as two-time World Champion Javier Fernandez (ESP) and World bronze medalist Boyang Jin (CHN) are competing. 2017 World Junior Champions Alina Zagitova (RUS) and Vincent Zhou (USA) will debut at the ISU Grand Prix.

The series continues with the NHK Trophy in Osaka (JPN) November 10 to 12 with Hanyu, Chan, Medvedeva and 2015 World silver medalist Satoko Miyahara (JPN). The pairs event includes Sui/Han and 2014 Olympic silver medalists Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov (RUS) while Virtue/Moir lead the dance event.

The circuit then moves back to Europe for the Internationaux de France November 17 to 19 in Grenoble (FRA). The event is headlined by Uno, Fernandez, Osmond, 2015 World Champion Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (RUS), Tarasova/Morozov and Papadakis/Cizeron.

The last spots for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final will be decided in Lake Placid (USA) at Skate America November 24 to 26. Top contenders include Jin, Chen, 2016 World silver medalist Ashley Wagner (USA), Daleman, Duhamel/Radford, Savchenko/Massot and Shibutani/Shibutani.

134 skaters/couples from 25 ISU Members have been invited and few host country spots are still open. The number of entries for each event is 12 Ladies, 12 Men, 8 Pairs and 10 Ice Dance couples.

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The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Nagoya (JPN), December 7 to 10, 2017.

Selection Criteria

The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2017. Skaters/couples who have placed 1 to 6 in each of the four categories are seeded and assigned to two events. Skaters/ couples who have placed 7-12 at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships are selected for two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, and skaters with a top 24 high seasons best score as well as those placed in the top 24 of the World Standings can also be invited. If available medalists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final gold medalists can also be selected.

In order for a skater/couple to be eligible to compete at a Grand Prix event, a minimum total score or minimum technical score must have been achieved in the previous or current season in an ISU event (GP, JGP, Championships, World Team Trophy or selected international competitions). Exceptions apply to host country skaters, previously ranked skaters or split ranked couples who return with new partners.

Prize Money & Points

Competitors collect points in their Grand Prix events towards the qualification for the Grand Prix Final. The global prize money for the Grand Prix is US \$ 272,000 and the prize money is awarded to winners and placed skaters/couples at the events as follows:

1st place US \$ 18,000
2nd place US \$ 13,000
3rd place US \$ 9,000
4th place US \$ 3,000
5th place US \$ 2,000

The points are awarded as follows:

1st place 15 points
2nd place 13 points
3rd place 11 points
4th place 9 points
5th place 7 points
6th place 5 points
7th place 4 points
8th place 3 points

Pairs and Ice Dancers collect points up to 6th place. For full entry lists of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2017/18 please refer to www.isu.org.

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