For immediate release

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ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2018 Day Two

The ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships concluded in Zagreb (CRO) Saturday with the Free Skating. A total of 21 teams representing 16 ISU members competed in the Championships. This was the fourth edition of the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships that was a biennal event and has become annual beginning in 2017.

Team Junost (RUS) repeats as World Junior Synchronized Champions

Team Junost Junior (Russia 1) repeated as World Junior Synchronized Skating Champions. The Skyliners (USA 1) claimed the silver medal, the first for their country in the history of the event. The bronze went to Russia's Crystal Ice Junior.

Junost's performance to 'Giselle' was highlighted by a rotating circle and a pair element that merited a level four as well as by smooth intersections. The team scored 106.08 points and totaled 174.58 points to take the second consecutive title.

Performing to 'Swan Lake', the Skyliners Junior picked up a level four for the Pair element and No Hold Element as well as the Line element, although it was marred by a fall. The Americans earned 104.67 points and remained in second place at 169.82 points overall.

Crystal Ice Junior (Russia 2) completed three level-four elements in their routine to 'Games of Thrones' and lost one point for a fall in the Circle. The team from Moscow collected 103.81 points for their Free Skating for a total of 167.14.

Les Supremes Junior (Canada 1) placed fourth at 162.99 points. The 2017 silver medalists Fintastic (Finland 2) had to settle for fifth place this time (153.79 points) followed by The Lexettes Junior (USA 2) on 148.36 points. For the first time, no Finnish team made the podium.

Teams from Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey were competing as well.

Originally called Precision Skating, Synchronized Skating was introduced in the 1950s. It is a highly technical form of Figure Skating characterized by speed, precisions, unison, intricate formations, synchro elements, difficult footwork, spectacular lifts and exciting transitions. A synchronized team consists of 16 skaters (plus up to four alternates).

The Junior Free Skating program contains four required elements: two different Intersection Elements, No Hold Element, Pair Element plus one element that has to be chosen from three different groups of elements such as rotating element, linear element, creative element or synchronized spin element. The Free Skating program is $4 \min +/-10$ seconds in length.

For more information, full entry lists and results please see the <u>ISU event page</u> and the <u>official</u> <u>website</u>. Hashtag: #WorldJSynchro

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