

November 15, 2018

Lausanne, Switzerland

Olympic Champions Zagitova (RUS) and Hanyu (JPN) to take the ice at Rostelecom Cup

Olympic Champions [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) (JPN) and [Alina Zagitova](#) (RUS) will take the ice again at Rostelecom Cup in Moscow (RUS) this week in the fifth event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series 2018/19. Several skaters are looking to secure their spot in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Overview of the event

Following his confident win at the Grand Prix in Helsinki [Yuzuru Hanyu](#) is the top favorite again in Moscow. The challenge should come from Skate Canada silver medalist [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN) and 2018 World bronze medalist [Mikhail Kolyada](#) (RUS), who wants to improve on his fourth place from Helsinki. Other contenders include [Morisi Kvitelashvili](#) (GEO), [Kazuki Tomono](#) (JPN), [Julian Zhi Jie Yee](#) (MAS), [Andrei Lazukin](#) (RUS), [Alexander Majorov](#) (SWE) and ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion [Alexei Krasnozhon](#) (USA).

[Alina Zagitova](#) leads the Ladies and wants to follow up on her gold from Helsinki. The battle for the podium spots should be interesting with Skate Canada silver medalist [Mako Yamashita](#) (JPN), Skate America bronze medalist [Sofia Samodurova](#) (RUS), [Yuna Shiraiwa](#) (JPN), [Elizabeth Tursynbaeva](#) (KAZ) and [Eunsoo Lim](#) (KOR) in the mix. Six-time ISU Grand Prix medalist [Gracie Gold](#) (USA) returns to competition after sitting out the past season.

In the Pairs, several spots for the ISU Grand Prix Final are on the line. 2018 World silver medalists [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS) want to qualify after taking gold at Skate America. Grand Prix Helsinki silver medalists [Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise](#) (ITA) and bronze medalists [Daria Pavliuchenko/Denis Khodykin](#) (RUS) as well as Skate America silver medalists [Alisa Efimova/Alexander Korovin](#) (RUS) and bronze medalists [Ashley Cain/Timothy LeDuc](#) (USA) all want to use their chance to grab another medal and a ticket to Vancouver.

In the Ice Dance event, two-time European bronze medalists [Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin](#) (RUS) want to add another Grand Prix gold medal to their collection and qualify for the Final after winning in Helsinki. World Junior silver medalists [Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko](#) (USA) and [Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) (ESP) have set their eyes on the podium as well. Other competitors include [Natalia Kaliszek/Maksym Spodyriev](#) (POL), [Anna Yanovskaya/Adam Lukacs](#) (HUN) and [Sofia Evdokimova/Egor Bazin](#) (RUS).

Overall, 56 Skaters / Couples representing 18 ISU Members compete at Rostelecom Cup November 16-18, the fifth event in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series. The top 6 qualifiers in each discipline will proceed to the Final in Vancouver (CAN), December 6 to 9, 2018.

Schedule of the event

Friday, November 16	Men's Short Program, Rhythm Dance, Pairs & Ladies Short Program
Saturday, November 17	Men's Free Skating, Free Dance, Pairs & Ladies Free Skating
Sunday, November 18	Exhibition Gala

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using **#FigureSkating #GPFigure**.

About the 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 international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The skaters are seeded and invited to the six Grand Prix of Figure Skating events based on the results of the previous ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Competitors collect points in their Grand Prix 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.