

January 10, 2019

Lausanne, Switzerland

Dutch ready to dominate as Europe's finest land in Dordrecht

The ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships take place at the Sportboulevard, Dordrecht from January 11-13, and promise to be a fascinating test for the continent's top Skaters.

With their fierce ISU World Cup rivals from Republic of Korea, Canada and China not present, it should be a close regional showdown, with skaters from the Netherlands, Hungary and Russia looking the favorites to take the spoils.

Results in the Ladies' field will certainly differ from last season's European Championships in Dresden: back then, Italy's [Arianna Fontana](#) was dominant, producing the sort of form that she'd take into the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Her compatriot [Martina Valcepina](#) finished in second place overall.

Fontana isn't skating this time around, and the smart money will be on in-form Dutch racer [Suzanne Schulting](#), recently named as her country's 2018 Sportswoman of the Year, taking her crown – and the Netherlands perhaps dominating as Italy did last time.

Schulting has had a near-perfect season so far, winning World Cup gold in the 1000m in Calgary, Salt Lake City and Almaty, and 1500m gold in Calgary, too.

Without [Choi Min Jeong](#) (KOR) to tussle with, who can stop the Dutch rocket? Young Russian [Sofia Prosvirnova](#) has hit some form – winning silver in the 1000m in both Salt Lake City and Calgary – and her compatriot [Ekaterina Efremenkova](#) has also been making podiums.

The 500m is the domain of [Natalia Maliszewska](#), however: the speedy Pole has picked up gold over that distance at the World Cups in Salt Lake and Calgary already this season, although Hungary's [Petra Jaszapati](#) beat her over the distance to win gold in Almaty.

Also in contention should be [Elise Christie](#) (GBR) who will be returning to competition at the European Championships, the Dutch duo [Yara van Kerkhof](#) – who had a great Olympics and finished 5th overall in this competition in 2018 – and [Rianne de Vries](#). [Veronique Pierron](#) of France is also having a strong season.

In the Men's competition, expect very different results from last time around, too. Last year [Sjinkie Knegt](#) put in an astonishingly dominant performance, winning a hat-trick of gold medals – in 500m, 1000m and 1500m. Like Schulting, it propelled him to a great Olympic Games.

But Knegt, who's had a quieter start to this season, will not be skating in Dordrecht after tearing two muscles in his left leg last month in an incident involving a forklift truck.

That could leave [Shaoang Liu](#) (HUN) as the man to beat in the Netherlands. The Hungarian has been on fire: gold in the 1000m and silver in the 500m at both Calgary and Almaty, plus a new World Record as part of the 5000m Relay team make him a hot favorite here.

His brother, [Shaolin Sandor Liu](#), has also been impressing – winning 1000m gold in Salt Lake City – and they’ll certainly form half of the quartet to beat in the Relay, too. Elsewhere, look out for [Stijn Desmet](#) (BEL), [Vladislav Bykanov](#) (ISR) and [Thibaut Fauconnet](#) (FRA).

Find [results and classifications here](#). Follow the discussion on social media by using #ShortTrackSkating and #OneHandDown, and find out [where to watch the ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships](#).

About ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships

The ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships have both a single distance and allround format. A total of 10 European titles are up for grabs, Ladies and Men 500m, 1000m, 1500m, allround and Team Relay. The allround classification is based on the results of each skater in the three individual distances 500m, 1000m and 1500m. After the completion of the three distances the top eight-point scorers and ties on the eighth position will skate the 3000m Super Final. For the individual distances the final points 34, 21, 13, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 are awarded to Final A and Final B Skaters in descending order. In the case of a penalty or did not finish in the Final A, the skater(s) concerned will be awarded points equal to the winner of the Final B. In the case of a penalty in the Final B, the skater(s) concerned will not be awarded any points. No points are awarded to Skaters who receive a yellow or red card or did not start the race.