

February 4, 2019

Anaheim, USA

Asian and North American skating stars to hit the ice in Anaheim for ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2019

Preview

Following the ISU European Figure Skating Championships the focus now shifts this week to the [ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships](#) with most of the non-European top skaters competing in Anaheim, USA (February 5-10). Anaheim will host an ISU Figure Skating Championship for the first time.

88 skaters from 14 ISU members have been entered for this 20th anniversary edition of the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships: 26 Men, 22 Ladies, 8 Pair Skating couples and 12 Ice Dance couples.

Skaters/couples need to have obtained a minimum total technical score in the Short Program and Free Skating in order to compete at the Four Continents Championships. All four reigning Four Continents Champions are back and hope to defend their title.

Overview of the top contenders

Olympic, World and Four Continents silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) headlines the Men's event. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final silver medalist is aiming at winning his first ISU senior-level title and comes with a season's best of 277.25 points to Anaheim. Defending Four Continents Champion [Boyang Jin](#) (CHN) had a slow start into the season and hopes to improve on his results from the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#) (SB 227.28). 2018 Four Continents bronze medalist [Jason Brown](#) (USA/SB 263.42) and ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist [Junhwan Cha](#) (KOR/SB 263.49) have set their eyes on the podium as well. Other contenders include [Keegan Messing](#) (CAN), [Nam Nguyen](#) (CAN), [Keiji Tanaka](#) (JPN), [Kazuki Tomono](#) (JPN) and [Vincent Zhou](#) (USA).

In the Ladies event, reigning Four Continents Champion [Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN) is looking at defending her crown, but she will face stiff competition from ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Champion [Rika Kihira](#) (JPN). Sakamoto scored a season's best of 213.90 points, while rising star Kihira has a season's best of 233.12 points. A Japanese podium sweep seems possible with 2017 Four Continents Champion [Mai Mihara](#) (JPN/SB 209.22) competing as well, but [Bradie Tennell](#) (USA/SB 206.41), [Elizabet Tursynbaeva](#) (KAZ/SB 200.74) and [Eunsoo Lim](#) (KOR/SB 196.31) seem ready to spoil the Japanese party. Others to watch include [Mariah Bell](#) (USA), [Ting Cui](#) (USA), [Yelim Kim](#) (KOR), [Yi Christy Leung](#) (HKG) and [Alaine Chartand](#) (CAN).

In the Pairs, all eyes will be on Olympic silver medalists [Wenjing Sui/Cong Han](#) (CHN), who make their competition debut this season at the Four Continents Championships. The 2017 World Champions are aiming at their fifth Four Continents title. Competition should come from ISU Grand Prix Final silver medalists [Cheng Peng/Yang Jin](#) (CHN/SB 216.90), Canadian Champions [Kirsten Moore-Towers/Michael Marinaro](#) (SB 200.93), U.S. Champions [Ashley Cain/Timothy Leduc](#) (SB/181.56) and defending Four Continents Champions [Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea](#) (USA/SB 191.43).

The Ice Dance event features reigning ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Champions and World silver medalists [Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue](#) (USA) and 2018 World bronze medalists [Kaitlyn Weaver/Andrew Poje](#) (CAN). Hubbell/Donohue, who scored a season's best of 205.35 points, will meet Weaver/Poje (SB 197.95) for the first time this season in competition as the Canadians sat out the Grand Prix this season. [Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier](#) (CAN/SB 201.27) and defending Four Continents Champions [Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker](#) (USA/SB 184.63) are aiming at the podium as well. Two-time World medalists [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA) return to the big stage after missing the first half of the season as she recovered from injury. Other competitors include [Shiyue Wang/Xinyu Liu](#) (CHN) and [Misato Komatsubara/Tim Koleto](#) (JPN). [Laurence Fournier Beaudry/Nikolaj Sorensen](#) make their international competition debut for Canada. They had competed for Sorensen's native Denmark until the end of 2017.

Please note that for the seasonal best total scores only the ISU Grand Prix competitions (senior and junior) and [ISU Challenger Series](#) events have been taken into consideration, not other international competitions or National Championships.

Prize Money

The ISU awards a global prize money of US\$ 294, 000 at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships to Single Skaters, Pair Skating and Ice Dance couples placed 1st to 6th. The prize money is awarded as follows:

Men and Ladies

1st place US\$ 21,000
2nd place US\$ 16,000
3rd place US\$ 11,000
4th place US\$ 7,000
5th place US\$ 5,000
6th place US\$ 3,000

Pairs and Dance (per couple)

1st place US\$ 30,000
2nd place US\$ 20,000
3rd place US\$ 12,000
4th place US\$ 10,000
5th place US\$ 7,000
6th place US\$ 5,000

Event Schedule

The schedule of the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2019 is as follows:

Thursday, February 7: Ladies and Men's Short Program
Friday, February 8: Pairs Short Program, Rhythm Dance, Ladies Free Skating
Saturday, February 9: Pairs and Men's Free Skating
Sunday, February 10: Free Dance, Exhibition Gala

For more information, full entry lists and results please see: www.isu.org and the [official event website](#). Follow the discussion on social media using [#4ContsFigure](#) and [#FigureSkating](#).

For further information please contact:

ISU Media Coordinator
Selina Vanier
E-Mail: vanier@isu.ch

ISU Four Continents Championships
Michael Terry, Press Officer
E-Mail: mterry@usfigureskating.org