

April 12, 2019

Helsinki, Finland

Team Paradise (RUS) leads in Helsinki

Two-time World Champions Team Paradise of Russia took a narrow lead as the ISU World Synchronized Figure Skating Championships opened Friday in Helsinki (FIN) with the Short Program. Five-time and defending World Champions Marigold Ice Unity of Finland are not far behind in second place while Canada's Nexxice came third.

Performing to Frederic Chopin's Nocturne in cis moll, Team Paradise earned a level four for the Twizzle Element, Pivoting Element – Block, Travelling Element and No Hold Element. The Move Element was rated a level three. The skaters from St. Petersburg earned 87.12 points. Team Paradise captain, Anna Shkurdai, said during the press conference: "We are very happy with our skate today, it is almost at the level of our best for this season. Tomorrow we will try our best during the free skate and have a great skate".

Marigold Ice Unity's dynamic program to "Chariots of Fire" included four level-four elements as well. The defending World Champions just scored a little less on the Grade of Execution for the elements and picked up 85.90 points to remain close to first place. Camila Sundgren, Marigold Ice Unity captain was ready for the support from the local crowd: "We thought we were ready but it (the support) was more than anything we would imagine". "She added that the team practiced with low volume of music to get used to their program better with the crowd cheering.

Nexxice skated last out of the 24 teams. The Canadians collected a level four for four elements as did the top two teams, but the Intersection-Pivoting Element merited a level two. The team got 84.63 points for their routine to "Malaguena" by Ernesto Lecuona.

Team Tartastan (RUS) came fourth on 82.83 points and is still in medal contention. The Helsinki Rockettes (FIN) are not far behind in fifth place (82.12 points) and the newcomers Team Nova (CAN) round up the top six (82.00 points).

The ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2019 conclude Saturday with the Free Skating. For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU event page](#) and the [official website](#). Follow the event on social media using the hashtag: #WorldSynchro. Viewers have the possibility of watching the Championships on the following Channels:

[JSports](#) in Japan

[Rai](#) in Italy

[YLE](#) in Finland

[ISU Skating Channel](#) for the rest of the world.

About Synchronised Skating

Originally called Precision Skating, Synchronized Skating was introduced in the 1950s. Synchronized Skating is a team sport with 16 skaters (plus up to 4 alternates). 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.