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Lausanne, Switzerland

2019/20 season promises to be Short Track Speed Skating's fastest ever

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating series gets under way again on November 1, with a thrilling season of racing in prospect. A combination of experienced champions and bright new stars will make up a fascinating field of racers, meaning that predicting a winner in either the men's or women's field is extremely tough.

[Suzanne Schulting](#) of the Netherlands was the standout athlete of last season. The 21-year-old phenomenon came into the season with an Olympic gold medal from PyeongChang 2018 boosting her confidence and looked imperious throughout.

At the 2019 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, she became only the second-ever European victor of the Women's overall World Championships title in its 44-year history, getting gold in the 1000m and 3000m Super Final to take the title.

That achievement followed a season in which Schulting was overall 1000m and 1500m ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating champion – and didn't lose a single 1000m final that she lined up in.

With a bulletproof mentality and improved levels of power, Schulting will surely be in the mix again, batting for podiums in every distance and determined to build a dynasty.

Who is most likely to steal her thunder? [Choi Min Jeong](#). The Republic of Korea skater has dominated the sport in recent times, winning three of the four ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships titles prior to Schulting in the past five years. Last season she was slowed by injury, while still managing to win races. Fully fit, a mouth-watering season-long tussle with her Dutch rival could be on the cards.

Several other racers have the talent to challenge the pair, too. Canada's [Kim Boutin](#) got better and better last term: able to compete over all three main distances, she was worthy of her bronze medal at the ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, and can target further improvement.

The lightning fast trio of [Natalia Maliszewska](#) of Poland, [Martina Valcepina](#) of Italy and [Lara van Ruijven](#) of the Netherlands should dominate the 500m again, while [Kim Ji Yoo](#) (Republic of Korea), [Sofia Prosvirnova](#) (Russia) and [Alyson Charles](#) (Canada) all look likely to get onto podiums again.

Look out too for young American prospect [Maame Biney](#), while two veterans should also make appearances. Italy's [Arianna Fontana](#), who won 500m gold at PyeongChang 2018 and then took a season off, is back in training. Meanwhile, Great Britain's 2017 ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Champion [Elise Christie](#) has had a summer frustrated by injury – but is now looking to return to the circuit in the New Year. Don't write off either of these great racers yet.

The men's field is perhaps harder to gauge. Last season's honours were an internal battle between one country: the Republic of Korea.

[Lim Hyo Jun](#) was the overall 500m champion, and he was also appointed as the 2019 overall ISU

World Short Track Speed Skating Champion in Sofia after a fearsome struggle with teammate [Hwang Dae Heon](#).

Hwang enjoyed a sensational season's racing and could rightly feel disappointed about not becoming champion himself after a couple of disqualifications in Sofia. He will be determined to prove he is actually his country's number one racer this term.

[Park Ji Won](#) and [Hong Kyung Hwan](#) (first and second overall in the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating last season) along with [Lee June Seo](#) should also feature.

Injury and absence held back the Koreans' key competitors last season. Two off-ice accidents ended the season of [Sjinkie Knegt](#) of the Netherlands, while [Shaoang Liu](#) of Hungary was looking like a definite contender until a hand injury frustrated his year.

[Wu Dajing](#) of China was excellent early on in the 500m, but missed half the year, and then couldn't quite get his form back later in the year. Along with Liu's brother [Shaolin Sandor](#), [Kazuki Yoshinaga](#) of Japan and two brilliant young Canadians – [Steven Dubois](#) and [Samuel Girard](#) – there is plenty of talent to disrupt the Koreans.

Look out for further excitement in the relays, too. Hungary's male foursome won the Olympic gold at PyeongChang 2018, and then shattered the 5000m world record last term, while the brand-new mixed relay was a big hit. With teams having had an off season to work on their tactics, the racing should be faster than ever this time around.

The [ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating](#) season begins in Salt Lake City (November 1-3), before moving on to Montreal (November 8-10), Nagoya (November 29-December 1), Shanghai (December 6-8), Dresden (February 7-9) and Dordrecht (February 14-16).

As well as those regular meetings, there will also be [the ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships](#), in Debrecen, Hungary (January 24-26).

The planet's best young skaters will then get their chance in the limelight for the [ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships](#) in Bormio, Italy (January 31-February 2). It's a great competition that has seen the likes of [Courtney Lee Sarault](#) (CAN), Maame Biney, Lee June Seo and Shaoang Lui shine over recent years: expect potential future champions to emerge again this time around.

There's a brand-new event for this season, too: the [ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships](#). Taking place in Montreal (January 10-12), it's the rest of the world's answer to the European Championships, inviting the best skaters from the other four key skating continents – the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania – to fight for a fresh title.

Viewers will be able to watch either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). A Where to Watch News will be posted with more details on [isu.org](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the "Where to Watch" news. You can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

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For further information on Short Track Speed Skating visit : <https://www.isu.org/short-track>.

2019/20 Short Track Speed Skating Season:

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Salt Lake City \(USA\) - November 1-3](#)

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Montreal \(CAN\) -November 8-10](#)

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Nagoya \(JPN\) - November 29-December 1](#)

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Shanghai \(CHN\) - December 6-8](#)

[ISU Four Continents Short Track Speed Skating Championships - Montreal \(CAN\) - January 10-12](#)

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[ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships -Bormio \(ITA\)-January 31-February 2](#)

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Dresden \(GER\) - February 7-9](#)

[ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating - Dordrecht \(NED\) - February 14-16](#)

[ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships - Seoul \(KOR\) - March 13-15](#)

About the International Skating Union

The International Skating Union (ISU), founded in 1892, is the oldest governing international winter sport federation and the exclusive international sport federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering the sports of Figure Skating (Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance), Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating worldwide. The objectives of the ISU are to regulate, govern, promote and develop its sports on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding between athletes. Currently three ISU disciplines are included in the Olympic Winter Games program (Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating).