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Nottingham, Great Britain

Team Junost (RUS) skates to narrow lead

The ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2020 opened in Nottingham (GBR) Friday with the Short Program. A total of 19 teams representing 15 ISU Members are competing in the Championships. This is the sixth edition of the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships that was a biennial event and has become annual beginning in 2017. Nottingham hosts the event for the first time.

Junost (RUS) edges Crystal Ice (RUS) in World Junior Synchronized Short Program

Three-time and defending World Junior Champions Team Junost Junior of Russia edged national rivals and reigning World Junior silver medalist Team Crystal Ice Junior by just 0.16 points as the ISU World Junior Synchronized Championships opened Friday in Nottingham (GBR). Team Fintastic Junior finished third, giving Finland hope to return on to the World Junior podium.

Junost turned in a smooth and elegant program to "Melody" by Anton Dvorak, executing difficult elements with effortless speed and confidence. The travelling wheel, twizzles and no hold element garnered a level four while the Intersection and the move element were rated a level three. The three-time World Junior Champions picked up 76.09 points for a narrow lead.

Team Crystal Ice Junior shone in their powerful performance to "Masquerade Waltz" by Aram Khatchaturian, producing elements with great flow. The 2019 World Junior silver medalists collected a level four for the twizzle element, the travelling wheel and the no hold element to score 75.93 points.

Skating to "The Sound of Silence" by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, Team Fintastic Junior delivered a strong Short Program that featured level-four twizzles, wheel and no hold element. The Finns earned 73.79 points and remain in the battle for the top spot on the podium.

Team Mystique Junior (FIN) came fourth on 69.72 points. Team Nexxice Junior (CAN) follows in fifth with 66.18 points and Les Supremes Junior (CAN) are currently ranked sixth (62.42 points).

2019 World Junior bronze medalists Team Skyliners (USA) and Teams Elite (USA) have withdrawn from the event. "Due to the pandemic and growing travel concerns, U.S. Figure Skating withdrew its two entries from the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2020," read a statement published by U.S. Figure Skating Friday.

The ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships conclude Saturday with the Free Skating.

Where to watch and follow the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2020 Viewers can watch the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships as a live stream on the Skating ISU YouTube Channel.

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