

November 11, 2021

Tokyo, Japan

World Champions Mishina/Galliamov, Sinitsina/ Katsalapov (RUS) to start Grand Prix season at NHK Trophy

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2021/22 continues this week with the [NHK Trophy](#) in Tokyo (JPN). The 2021 ISU World Ice Dance Champions [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (RUS) and World Pair Skating Champions [Anastasia Mishina/Alexandr Galliamov](#) (RUS) start their Grand Prix season in Japan, while 2018 Olympic silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) and [Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN) aim to secure spots in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

Overview of the competitors

Two-time ISU World silver medalist [Shoma Uno](#) (JPN) leads the Men and is looking for his first Grand Prix victory since 2018, but he has to watch out for [Vincent Zhou](#) (USA) who beat him at Skate America last month to take the gold medal. Both have a good chance of qualifying for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Other contenders include [Matteo Rizzo](#) (ITA), who enters his first Grand Prix event this season, and [Junhwan Cha](#) (KOR), who finished fifth last week at the Grand Premio d'Italia. [Makar Ignatov](#) (RUS) hopes to improve on his result from Skate Canada International where he finished fourth.

[Kaori Sakamoto](#) (JPN), the 2018 Four Continents Champion, headlines the Women's field and still has a chance to qualify for the Final after coming fourth at Skate America. The challenge should come from [Daria Usacheva](#) (RUS), who took silver in Las Vegas, and the Skate America bronze medalist [Young You](#) (KOR), as well as [Alysa Liu](#) (USA).

In the Pairs, 2021 ISU World Champions [Anastasia Mishina/Alexandr Galliamov](#) (RUS) will face two-time ISU World silver medalists [Evgenia Tarasova/Vladimir Morozov](#) (RUS), who won in Las Vegas and aim to book their spot in the Final. Skate America silver medalists [Riku Miura/Ryuichi Kihara](#) (JPN) and Skate Canada bronze medalists [Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc](#) (USA) will target the podium again and have chances to reach the Final.

2021 ISU World Ice Dance Champions [Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov](#) (RUS) compete in their first ISU Grand Prix event this season. Competition should come from Skate America silver medalists [Madison Chock/Evan Bates](#) (USA), who hope to book a ticket to the Final. [Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin](#) (ESP), [Lilah Fear/Lewis Gibson](#) (GBR) and [Marjorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha](#) (CAN) are aiming at a podium finish this week as well.

Fifty-three competitors representing 10 ISU members have been entered for the event.

Schedule of the event

Friday, November 12	Pairs Short Program, Rhythm Dance, Women's & Men's Short
Saturday, November 13	Pairs Free Skating, Free Dance, Women's & Men's Free Skating
Sunday, November 14	Exhibition Gala

Viewers will be able to watch the [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series](#) either via their national broadcaster / channel or via the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) for countries where there is no broadcaster agreement in place. For more information please see [here](#).

The [General Announcement](#) of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is available at the ISU website. The individual announcements are published under the respective events. For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series please visit [here](#). The ISU has an anti-Covid protocol in place to keep all participants of the events as safe as possible.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events: [Guaranteed Rate Skate America](#) in Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24, [Skate Canada International](#) in Vancouver (CAN) October 29-31, [Gran Premio d'Italia](#) in Turin (ITA) November 5-7, [NHK Trophy](#) in Tokyo (JPN) November 12-14, [Internationaux de France](#) in Grenoble (FRA) November 19-21 and [Rostelecom Cup](#) in Sochi (RUS) November 26-28. The [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final](#) will take place in Osaka (JPN) December 9-12.

About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known as the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The top six of the past World Championships are seeded. Competitors collect points in their events towards the qualification for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Only the top six Skaters / Couples in each discipline can qualify for the Final.