

Frequently Asked Questions: ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Season 2020/21

Q : What happens with the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2020/21 ?

A: The pandemic affects sport events worldwide and also the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series. The ISU and the six ISU Grand Prix organizing members Canada, China, France, Japan, Russia and USA decided to hold the competitions as domestically run events. The participation of Competitors and Officials is limited to the host country, Competitors regularly training in the respective host country and Competitors from other ISU Members in the respective geographical area. This remains always subject to the applicable travel, entry and sanitary restrictions of the concerned countries. However, Canada has cancelled their event Skate Canada International on October 14 and France cancelled the Internationaux de France on October 19. For further information including the scheduled dates for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, please visit: <https://isu.org/GrandPrix>

Q: Will the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final take place and how can Skaters qualify?

A: The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final was scheduled as an Olympic test event for December 10-13, 2020 in Beijing (CHN) and has for now been postponed. Considering the continued volatile and unpredictable pandemic developments, the ISU is evaluating alternative dates for the Event. All details, including the confirmation of the date, prize money etc. will be published in due time in a separate announcement. As the pandemic might have a negative impact on the individual ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events participation that normally serve as qualification events for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, the Council decided that a fair and transparent qualification criteria cannot be established at this time and will be decided earliest at the conclusion of the individual ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Events (NHK Trophy, November 27-29, 2020).

Q: How are the Skaters assigned to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events?

A: The ISU composed a "Grand Prix List" (see below how the list was composed) because the usual procedure and criteria of inviting Competitors is not possible.

The Competitors have been invited according to the following principles: The top 6 Skaters/Couples from the Grand Prix List are given priority provided they reside/train in one of the Grand Prix Member countries, or have no travel restrictions to travel to a Grand Prix Member country. The top 7-12 Skaters (for Ladies and Men), Top 7-10 Couples (for Pair Skating and Ice Dance) from the Grand Prix List are given 2nd priority. The top 24 Season's best and World Standings Skaters/Couples for season 2019/20, not included in the above had 3rd priority for selection. The remaining entries were chosen from Skaters/Couples in the top 75 season's best list from 2019/20 and up to two Skaters/Couples from the Organizing Grand Prix Member (off list). In case there are no available Skaters/Couples left in the top 75, the Organizing Grand Prix Member may invite any other Skater training in the Organizing Grand Prix Member's country.

Q: What is the Grand Prix List?

A: Usually, the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating selection is mainly based on the results of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Since the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020 were cancelled, the Grand Prix List was used to assign Skaters to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events. The Grand Prix List was composed and Skaters were listed in priority as follows:

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- top 6 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020, listed in Season's best order, in replacement of the usual World Figure Skating Championships results
- top 7 to 12 Skaters as entered for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020, listed in Season's best order (7 to 10 for Pair Skating and Ice Dance), in replacement of the usual World Figure Skating Championships results
- "Come-back" Skaters/Couples
- top 24 Skaters in the World Standings for 2019/20
- top 24 Skaters in the Season's best list for 2019/20
- medalists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 and winners of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2019/20
- Returning "split Couples"
- top 25 to 75 in the Season's best list for 2019/2

Q: Can Skaters earn prize money, world ranking points and technical minimum scores?

Prize money is awarded, but it is reduced compared to previous years. If an event has at least one full group of Skaters (6 Ladies, 6 Men, 5 Ice Dance couples, 4 Pairs) including three entries from the top 24, or including one top 12 and one top 24 Seasons Best or World Standings for 2019/20, it is considered a "qualified event".

For a "qualified event", the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place	US\$12,000
2nd Place	US\$ 7,000
3rd Place	US\$ 3,500
4th Place	US\$ 1,500
5th Place	US\$ 1,000

Total per category: **US\$ 25,000**

For events that do not meet the definition of "qualified event", the following prize money will be awarded (per category):

Per Skater/Couple

1st Place	US\$ 5,000
2nd Place	US\$ 2,000
3rd Place	US\$ 1,000

Total per category: **US\$ 8,000**

For the sake of fairness, no World Standing/Ranking points will be awarded and the scores obtained by the Competitors do not count towards the Minimum Total Elements Scores applicable for ISU Championships. Additionally due to the domestic nature of the events the scores do not count for Season Best or Personal Best.

Q: What is a Minimum Total Element score?

The ISU Council determines a technical minimum score that considers only the technical element score. Skaters need to have achieved a technical minimum score in an international competition in order to participate at ISU Championships and Olympic Winter Games. The technical minimum score

for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships is higher than for ISU European, Four Continents and World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

The [same Minimum Total Element Scores](#) as the previous season will be necessary for participation in the 2021 ISU Figure Skating Championships and earned at competitions in the season 2019/20 and in the season 2020/21 as approved for the 2020 Championships.

Q: Where can I watch the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating?

A: Viewers will be able to watch the Series 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](#). The full list is available in the [Where to watch news here](#).

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

Q: How many Judges / Officials from different countries are judging in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events? How are judges selected?

A: Considering the exceptional circumstances, the Judges, Technical Panel members, the Referee and the Data and Replay Operators in each ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event can be of the same country as the Organizing Grand Prix Member and will be assigned by the Organizing Grand Prix Member. The panel of Judges in each ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event may consist of up to 7 Judges if possible but no less than 5 Judges.

Q: If all the Judges / Officials are from the Organizing Grand Prix Member, how is it possible to have unbiased Judging?

Although the Events will be locally run, all judges must still abide to the code of ethics.

Q: What health and safety measures apply and are put in place to assure the wellbeing of all participants?

A: The health and safety of the participants of international ice skating events remains the number one priority for each Organizing Grand Prix Member. Each ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event will be held as domestically run events and will be organized in accordance with the host country's national health/sanitary requirements. Unless being in conflict with such national health/sanitary requirements, the ISU Guidelines to hold ISU Events during the COVID-19 Pandemic shall be considered as a strong recommendation. These Guidelines have been published and can be found [here](#)