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# Grenoble, France

# Papadakis/Cizeron (FRA), Shcherbakova (RUS) in action at ISU Grand Prix Internationaux de France

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series 2021/22 continues this week with the <a href="Internationaux de France">Internationaux de France</a> in Grenoble. Several top stars are back in action in France, aiming at qualifying for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final: Reigning ISU World Champion <a href="Anna Shcherbakova">Anna Shcherbakova</a> (RUS), four-time ISU World Ice Dance Champions <a href="Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron">Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron</a> (FRA) and 2021 ISU World silver medalist <a href="Yuma Kagiyama">Yuma Kagiyama</a> (JPN). The Internationaux the France is the fifth of six events in the series.

## **Overview of the competitors**

Coming off a victory at the Gran Premio d'Italia, 2021 ISU World Champion Anna Shcherbakova (RUS) continues her Grand Prix season in Italy. Competition should come from 2020 European Champion Alena Kostornaia (RUS) and 2018 World silver medalist Wakaba Higuchi (JPN). Mariah Bell (USA) will compete in her first event. Other competitors are Haein Lee (KOR), Kseniia Sinitsyna (RUS) and Karen Chen (USA).

2021 World silver medalist <a href="Yuma Kagiyama">Yuma Kagiyama</a> (JPN) leads the Men and wants to book his ticket to Osaka for the Final following his win in Turin two weeks ago. He is up against 2021 Skate Canada silver medalist <a href="Jason Brown">Jason Brown</a> (USA) and 2020 European Champion <a href="Dmitri Aliev">Dmitri Aliev</a> (RUS), who hopes to improve from his 9th place finish in Italy. Other contenders include 2020 ISU World Junior Champion Andrei Mozalev (RUS), ISU Junior Grand Prix Final Champion <a href="Shun Sato">Shun Sato</a> (JPN), <a href="Deniss Vasiljevs">Deniss Vasiljevs</a> (LAT) and <a href="Keegan Messing">Keegan Messing</a> (CAN). 2019 ISU Grand Prix Final bronze medalist <a href="Kevin Aymoz">Kevin Aymoz</a> (FRA) is back after withdrawing from Skate America due to injury.

In the Pairs event, 2021 ISU World bronze medalists Aleksandra Boikova/Dmitri Kozlovskii (RUS) are looking to improve on their bronze medal from Skate America. They will compete against U.S. Champions Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier, Vanessa James/Eric Radford (CAN) and 2021 Gran Premio d'Italia bronze medalists Iuliia Artemeva/Mikhail Nazarychev (RUS), who still have a chance to make it to the Final.

Four-time World Champions <u>Gabriella Papadakis/Guillaume Cizeron</u> (FRA) headline the Ice Dance competition. 2021 Skate Canada Champions <u>Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier</u> (CAN) and 2021 Gran Premio d'Italia bronze medalists <u>Alexandra Stepanova/Ivan Bukin</u> (RUS) are looking for another podium finish and their chance to make it to the Final. Other competitors include 2021 Nebelhorn Trophy Champion <u>Juulia Turkkila/Matthias Versluis</u> (FIN), <u>Allison Reed/Saulius Ambruvelicius</u> (LTU) and <u>Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko</u> (USA).

Sixty competitors representing 13 ISU members have been entered for the event.

#### Schedule of the event

Friday, November 19 Saturday, November 20 Sunday, November 21 Women's Short Program, Rhythm Dance, Men's & Pairs Short Women's Free Skating, Free Dance, Men's & Pairs Free Skating Exhibition Gala

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The <u>General Announcement</u> 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 <u>here</u>. The ISU has an anti-Covid protocol in place to keep all participants of the events as safe as possible.

### Where to watch and follow the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2021?

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating will be live streamed on the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u>. Geo-restrictions will apply in markets where TV rights are in place. You will find the full list in the Where to Watch news here.

Subscribe to the <u>Skating ISU YouTube Channel</u> to receive alerts when the live streams start and when new videos are posted.

Stay connected with the ISU Social Media:

YouTube: <u>Skating ISU</u> IG: <u>@ISUFigureSkating</u>

Facebook: @ISUFigureSkating

Twitter: @ISU\_Figure

Follow the conversation with #GPFigure and #FigureSkating.

### **ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2021**

- Guaranteed Rate Skate America, Las Vegas (USA) October 22-24
- Skate Canada International Vancouver (CAN) October 29-31
- Gran Premio d'Italia, Torino (ITA) November 5-7
- NHK Trophy, Tokyo (JPN) November 12-14
- Internationaux de France, Grenoble (FRA) November 19-21
- Rostelecom Cup, Sochi (RUS) November 26-28
- ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, Osaka (JPN) December 9-12

### **About ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series started in 1995 (previously known a s the ISU Champions Series) and consists of six invitational international senior events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Due to the current situation, the usual selection criteria do not apply. Please see the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating page for further information.