



Grand Prix of Figure Skating

Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

2015 / 16

A N N O U N C E M E N T

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating consists of six international senior invitational events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. All six events will be held with the approval and the assistance of the International Skating Union, under the responsibility of the Members concerned and in accordance with the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2014, the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating / Ice Dance 2014 and all relevant ISU Communications.

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final belongs to the ISU and will be organized by the Federacion Espanola de Deportes de Hielo.

The six events and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are only open to Competitors who belong to an ISU Member and qualify with regard to eligibility according to ISU Constitution and General Regulations Rule 102, provided their ages fall within the limits specified in ISU Rule 108, paragraph 3.a) and they meet the participation, citizenship and residency requirement in ISU Rule 109, and ISU Communication No. 1420 or any update of this Communication. Entries can only be made through the ISU Members.

Skaters/Couples entered for an event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating may not participate in the same discipline of an event of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in the same season. Only Skaters participating in different disciplines may enter into both the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in the same year/skating season.

The provisions included in this Announcement do not concern any participation at the ISU Championships or any other international event not included in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating or the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

For the 2015/16 season, the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating are:

Skate America	23.10 – 25.10.2015	Milwaukee, WI	USA
Skate Canada International	30.10 – 01.11.2015	Lethbridge, AB	CAN
Cup of China 2015	06.11 – 08.11.2015	Beijing	CHN
Trophee Eric Bompard	13.11 – 15.11.2015	Bordeaux	FRA
Rostelecom Cup	20.11 – 22.11.2015	Moscow	RUS
NHK Trophy	27.11 – 29.11.2015	Nagano	JPN

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final will be organized for the 6 best ranked Men, Ladies, Pairs and Ice Dance Couples in:

Barcelona, Spain

from December 10 to December 13, 2015

A point system within the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating has been established to qualify the Skaters for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. Points will be obtained according to the results in each of the six events comprising the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.

2. DESIGNATION OF THE SKATERS

2.1 Seeded Skaters/Couples

- a) Skaters/Couples who have placed 1 – 6 in each of the 4 disciplines (Men, Ladies, Pair Skating, Ice Dance) at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2015 will be considered to be Seeded Skaters/Couples and will be assigned, by draw, to skate in two events.
- b) If any vacancies (less than 6 Seeded Skaters/Couples per discipline) remain, the next ranked Skater/Couple from the results of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2015 will be moved up to fill their position as a Seeded Skater/Couple.

- c) **“Come-Back” Skaters/Couples:** Skaters/Couples who were previously seeded (placed 1 to 6 within the past 10 years at a ISU World Figure Skating Championships) and subsequently did not participate in one or more competitive seasons will be given priority consideration to re-enter the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating for selection of up to 2 assignments if they commit in writing to participating in two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events and if such return is announced and confirmed by the date of the annual Selection Meeting. Such so called “Come Back Skaters/Couples” will not substitute any of the Seeded Skaters/Couples, mentioned under a). “Come Back Skaters/Couples” must not fulfil the requirements of the minimum Grand Prix score and would be considered for selection as an Organizing Member Choice. A come back under this clause is allowed only once in their competitive career for any Skater/Couple.
- d) If a Seeded or “Come-Back” Skater/Couple withdraws from an assigned event, even for medical reasons, that Skater/couple will not be assigned to another event.

2.2. Invited Skaters/Couples

- a) Skaters who have placed 7 – 12 in Men and Ladies and Pairs/Couples who have placed 7 – 10 in Pair Skating and Ice Dance at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2015 will be guaranteed to be selected for two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, provided that these Skaters/Couples fulfil the requirements of the minimum Grand Prix score as per paragraph 2.3. below. If there are any retirements from placements 7 – 12 (respectively 7 – 10 for Pairs/ Ice Dance), the vacant places will be completed with the next ranked Skaters/Couples of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2015 (placed 13 and below for Singles – placed 11 and below for Pair Skating and Ice Dance) will be moved up to fill their position as Placement 7 – 12 Skaters (respectively 7 – 10 Pairs/Couples).
- b) Return of a Split Couple - “Returning Split Couple”
Pairs or Dance Couples, who were previously in the top 7 to 12 of an ISU World Figure Skating Championships in the past two seasons (2013/14 or 2014/15) but who split and now have a new partner, may always be chosen as an Organizing Member Skater as per paragraph 2.2. f) and in addition, may be considered as an Organizing Member’s Choice as per paragraph 2.2. g). They will be ranked in the list of Grand Prix Season’s Best scores by taking the season’s points of their partnership with their most recent previous partner, if proof is given in writing by their Member that they intend to continue their competitive career and their return is announced and confirmed by the date of the annual Selection Meeting. Such Pairs/Dance Couples are defined as a “Returning Split Couple” and such Returning Split Couples do not need to fulfill the requirement of a minimum Grand Prix score.
- c) Return of a ranked Skater/Couple - “Return Skater/Couple”
A Skater or Couple, not included among those defined in paragraphs a) and b) above, who was previously in the top 7 to 12 at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2013 or 2014 but since was injured and/or did not compete at all during the entire 2014/15 season, may be chosen, if applicable, as an Organizing Member Skater, and in addition, may be considered as an Organizing Member’s Choice and will be ranked in the list of Season’s Best scores by taking the Season’s Best points of their most recent season, if proof is given in writing by their Member that they intend to continue their competitive career and their return is announced and confirmed by the date of the annual Selection Meeting. Such Skater or Couple is defined as a “Return Skater/Couple” and such a Return Skater/Couple does not need to fulfill the requirement of a minimum Grand Prix score.
- d) Skaters/Couples with an ISU World Standing placement of 1 – 24 (after season 2014/15) and Skaters/Couples with seasonal best scores in the top 24 (for season 2014/15) who do not hold an ISU World Standing placement of 1 – 24 will be guaranteed one (1) event if they do not otherwise meet the criteria listed in paragraphs 2.1 or 2.2 above and the minimum Grand Prix score.

A listing of seasonal best scores for each season will be compiled to include the following events:

- * ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating and Final
 - * ISU Senior Grand Prix of Figure Skating and Final
 - * ISU Figure Skating Championships
 - * Olympic Winter Games or Youth Olympic Games (if applicable in the year concerned)
 - * Other ISU controlled events as identified each season by the ISU Council.
- e) Medallists from the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2015 and the gold medallists from the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2014/15 will be included in the selection process. Skaters/Couples who have stated their intention to skate as Senior in the season 2015/16 might be included in the Grand Prix event(s) if they fulfil the requirements of the minimum Grand Prix score.
- f) A maximum of three (3) Skaters/Couples in each discipline from the Organizing Member may skate in the Organizing Member’s event. This includes Skaters/Couples selected according to paragraph 2.1 and 2.2

above. If the Organizing Member chooses not to exercise its option for the three (3) Skaters/Couples in any discipline from its own country, the remaining entry spots must be filled as per paragraphs 2.2 a) to e) above. The domestic Skaters/Couples should fulfil the criteria of being on the top 75 Grand Prix Season's Best list when first selected. It is not mandatory for the Organizing Member's Skaters/Couple to fulfil the criteria of the minimum Grand Prix score but it is strongly suggested.

- g) If any entries remains open and if all Skaters/Couples as defined in paragraph 2.2. a), b) and c) above have been selected for one (1) event, the Organizing Member may select any Skater/Couple with a top 75 seasonal best score to fill the open entries.
- h) In addition to the Seeded Skaters/Couples, or "Come-Back" Skaters/Couples and the above-mentioned Invited Skaters/Couples, each Organizing Member may select additional Skaters/Couples in accordance with selection procedures established by the ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group, provided that such Skaters/Couples have reached the minimum Grand Prix score as required. The maximum number of entries per event, however, is set as follows:

Men and Ladies	not more than 12 but not less than 8 entries
Pair Skating	not more than 8 but not less than 6 entries
Ice Dance	not more than 8 but not less than 6 entries
- i) No Invited Skaters/Couples may compete in more than two events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating. These events will count for points and Prize Money will be awarded according to placements.
- j) A maximum of three Skaters/Couples from the same Member may compete in the same discipline of any individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating.
- k) Non-Seeded Skaters/Couples will not be invited to another event in replacement if they choose not to skate in an assigned event.
- l) Non-Seeded Skaters/Couples will not be invited to another event in replacement if, by medical reason, they withdraw from an assigned event.

For the responsibility of the expenses please refer to paragraph 7.5 below.

2.3 Minimum Score for Grand Prix events (Minimum Grand Prix Score)

Each entrant to the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series must meet a minimum total score from ISU Events (GP, JGP, Championships, or in the selected international competitions as mentioned hereunder) of the previous season **OR** a minimum technical score in short program/short dance and free programs/free dance from such ISU Events or selected international competitions (last season or current season) to be included in the entry or the Alternate List (with exceptions and procedures as noted in paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 and 10). These scores will be published annually and be decided in consultation with the ISU Technical Committee in each discipline and approved by the ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group. The events from the Challenger Series 2014/15 and 2015/16 must respect the criteria for the composition of the Technical Panel as indicated in the respective Challenger Series Communications.

2014/15

Competitions part of the ISU Challenger Series 2014/15

2015/16

All events from the ISU Challenger Series for 2015/16 (see ISU Communication No. 1858 and No. 1876, point 7).

The minimum total score from ISU Events for this season is 3/5 of highest score per discipline at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2015:

Ladies	126.21
Men	164.34
Pairs	132.93
Ice Dance	110.58

The minimum technical score to be achieved in short and free programs from such ISU Events or an ISU Challenger Series 2014/15 and 2015/16 is as follows:

	<u>SP/SD</u>	<u>FS/FD</u>
Ladies	26.46	40.05
Men	29.94	56.07
Pairs	24.75	44.34
Ice Dance	23.10	33.39

Skaters/Couples who have scored at least the above mentioned limit in an ISU Championships, ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating and Final (Senior or Junior) between July 1st, 2014 and May 31st, 2015 are eligible for selection into the Grand Prix events 2015/16 or in the alternate list.

Skaters/Couples, placed in the top 75 Grand Prix Season's Best (season 2014/15) are placed on the alternate list. However those who need to score the minimum Grand Prix score as listed above can do so in the ISU Challenger Series 2015/16.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 Confirmation of Participation of Seeded Skaters/Couples

The ISU Members must confirm the participation of the Seeded Skaters/Couples in the two (2) events to the ISU Secretariat by **August 14, 2015**. If a Seeded Skater/Couple does not participate in the event(s) for which they are designated, there will be no substitute event(s).

3.2 Confirmation of Participation of Invited Skaters/Couples

The invitations for participation for Skaters/Couples, besides the seeded ones, will be forwarded to the ISU Members concerned through the Organizing Member of the respective ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event. The Members of these Invited Skaters/Couples must confirm participation to the ISU Secretariat, and the Organizing ISU Member by **August 14, 2015**.

3.3 Restrictions for Participation in Junior and Senior Grand Prix events

Please refer to paragraph 1 of this announcement.

3.4 Obligation of Seeded Skaters

It is of the highest importance that Rule 136 paragraph 6 of the ISU Regulations and the relevant provisions of ISU Communication No. 1811 be respected and implemented by all Members and Skaters. To assure compliance with Rule 136, paragraph 6, the following directive is issued by the ISU Council.

All Seeded Skaters/Couples as to paragraph 2.1 of this General Announcement are categorized as "Seeded" Skaters/Couples and, as such, will be expected to participate in two (2) ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating individual events during the 2015/16 season. The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events will take place from October 23, 2015 to November 29, 2015. ("the Grand Prix Period").

Seeded Skaters/Couples, as well as Come-Back Skaters/Couples who fulfill their ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating obligations may also skate in other competitions, shows and exhibitions as authorized by their Member during the Grand Prix Period and, for Seeded Skaters/Couples who do not qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, also in the period immediately following the last individual event (NHK Trophy – November 27-29, 2015).

If any Seeded Skater/Couple elects in advance of the Grand Prix Period not to participate in their assigned events (for whatever reason), they will not be permitted to participate in any other competitions, shows, and exhibitions during the Grand Prix Period. In addition, depending on the circumstances, these Seeded Skater/Couple may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Rule 136, paragraph 6 of the General Regulations. Such sanction may be in the form of monetary penalties that would be deducted from ISU payments of Prize Money and/or future ISU contributions to the Member of the concerned Skater.

Seeded Skaters/Couples who agreed to participate in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series and Skaters who qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final must skate in their assigned events and in the Final. Withdrawals are permitted only for illness or injury duly confirmed by a timely Medical Certificate as outlined below and subject to review by an ISU appointed Medical Doctor and/or for other justified serious reasons, such as e.g. bereavement in the close family.

In the case a Skater is withdrawn for injury or illness, a Medical Certificate is required to be submitted to the ISU as per Rule 140, paragraph 5. The Certificate must be issued on the stationary of a Medical Doctor or on an ISU withdrawal form in case of in-competition withdrawal and duly signed by the Medical Doctor. If the certificate is not in English a translation signed by the President or General Secretary of the Member of the respective Skater must be attached;

In addition, upon request of the Vice President the Certificate must be received by the ISU within 72 hours after the notice of withdrawal and the Member or the Skater must include or attach the following additional information:

- i) the history which clearly indicates the date of injury or date of onset of illness, the type of injury or illness and severity of injury or illness as well as the physical findings on examination;
- ii) copies of laboratory or radiological reports that were conducted in the investigation of the injury/illness;
- iii) the recommended treatment by the physician including medications, therapy, advice on training frequency and intensity, date for follow-up examination (a copy of this assessment should then be forwarded to the ISU), expected date of return to full activity, planned further investigations and/or criteria for return to full activity.

3.5 Confirmation of Replacements with respect to Invited Skaters/Couples

All Skaters/Couples invited to replace assigned Skaters/Couples in an individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating must be approved by the ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group in accordance with the procedures outlined in Item 7.6

4. POINTS/RANKING ORDER

4.1 Points

A point system based on the ranking of each individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating is established as follows:

Men and Ladies

1 st place	15 points
2 nd place	13 points
3 rd place	11 points
4 th place	9 points
5 th place	7 points
6 th place	5 points
7 th place	4 points
8 th place	3 point

Pair Skating and Ice Dance

1 st place	15 points
2 nd place	13 points
3 rd place	11 points
4 th place	9 points
5 th place	7 points
6 th place	5 points

4.2 Points considered

The two results of a Skater/Couple as announced/confirmed will be used to calculate the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating ranking order. The points as to paragraph 4.1 will be added to give a final total to determine the Skater/Couple's ranking for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating with the highest total being first.

4.3 Final Ranking Order

The ranking by points will be published immediately after the last event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (for the 2015/16 season, the NHK Trophy). The following will qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final:

- the top 6 ranking Men
- the top 6 ranking Ladies
- the top 6 ranking Pairs
- the top 6 ranking Ice Dance Couples

Ties

If there is a tie by added points, the following criteria will be taken into consideration for tie-breaking:

- a) the best place obtained in the two designated events will count for the better place/ranking;

If there is still a tie,

- b) the higher total of the added total scores obtained in the designated events will count for the better place/ranking;

If there is still a tie,

- c) participation in two events will be considered better than having participated in only one event;

If there is still a tie,

- d) the higher total of the added scores in Free Skating/Free Dance obtained in the two designated events will count for the better place/ranking;

If there is still a tie,

- e) the higher total score in Free Skating/Free Dance obtained in one of the two designated events will count for the better place/ranking;

If there is still a tie,

- f) the higher total of the added scores in the Short Program/Short Dance obtained in the two designated events will count for the better place/ranking;

If there is still a tie,

- g) the number of participants finishing the two individual events in which the tied Skaters/Couples have completed, will be added to the total. The higher number of participants will count for the better place/ranking.

If there is still a tie, all Skaters tied are qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

5. PRIZE MONEY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT AND EXHIBITION FEE

All Prize Money in favour of the awarded Skaters/Couples will be paid at the end of each individual event through the Organizing ISU Members and subsequently through the ISU Members of the awarded Skaters/Couples. Withholding tax, if any, will be deducted according to the respective law of the Organizing ISU Member taking into account double tax treaties with the countries of the awarded Skaters/Couples. The ISU is not responsible for any taxes, fees, or other costs.

The amount of Prize Money to be paid to the awarded Members and Skaters is subject that the awarded Skaters and Members have complied with the relevant ISU Regulations and provisions of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Announcement. Possible reductions of the stated Prize Money amounts may apply as outlined in this Announcement. In addition, sanctions in form of monetary penalties may apply as per paragraph 3.4 of this Announcement. If applicable, such monetary penalties could be deducted from the amount of Prize Money to be transferred and/or could be deducted from any future ISU contribution payable to the Member of the Skater(s) concerned.

5.1 Prize Money for Each Individual event

The Global Prize Money per individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating will be:

US\$ 180,000.00

Awarded to winners and placed Skaters/Couples as follows:

	Men and Ladies	Pair Skating and Ice Dance (per Couple)
1 st place:	US\$ 18,000.00	US\$ 18,000.00
2 nd place:	US\$ 13,000.00	US\$ 13,000.00
3 rd place:	US\$ 9,000.00	US\$ 9,000.00
4 th place:	US\$ 3,000.00	US\$ 3,000.00
5 th place:	US\$ 2,000.00	US\$ 2,000.00

Skaters/Couples qualified for the exhibition of an event must participate with an appropriate show number different from their competition programs. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of US\$ 3'000 from the awarded Prize Money.

Skaters/Couples are expected to be ready for any ceremony and/or prize award and participate in press conferences and/or social events if asked by the ISU and/or the event's Organizer. Failure to do so may result in a reduction of awarded Prize Money. The decision to reduce Prize Money will be made by the ISU Representative attending the event, subsequently to be ratified by the Council.

5.2 Exhibition

In each of the six ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, it shall be allowed to include up to 2 exhibition numbers of either ineligible or eligible Skater(s) from the Organizing Member having past tradition and/or reputation, but who have not competed in the respective event (herewith called "extra exhibition numbers"). The extra exhibition numbers may not take place after the winners of the respective events who must skate last in the exhibition.

The inclusion of these 2 extra exhibition numbers is subject to the approval of the ISU President, or if not attainable, subject to approval by the Vice President Figure Skating.

5.3 Exhibition Fee

An exhibition fee to be provided by the Organizing Member will only be paid to Skates/Couples who are not awarded Prize Money. The exhibition fee is set at US\$ 200.00 for Single Skaters (Men and Ladies) and US\$ 300.00 for Pairs and Dance Couples.

The above does not apply to the Skaters mentioned under 5.2 above

6. TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

6.1 Technical Details

MEN

Short Program The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014 Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less

Free Skating In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value.

Duration: 4 min. and 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.

LADIES

Short Program The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014 Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less

Free Skating In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value.

Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

PAIR SKATING

Short Program The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 620, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2015/16.

Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less

Free Skating In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Figure Skating & Pairs Skating 2014, Rule 621 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value.

Duration: 4 min. and 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.

ICE DANCE	Short Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2014, Rule 709. Rhythms, required elements and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 1932 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2014, Rule 710. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 1932 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

6.2 Starting order

In each individual ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event the participating Skaters will be listed according to their ISU World Standing placement at the time of the event. The starting order in the Short Program/Short Dance segment will be the reverse order of the ISU World Standing placements. In the case of any tie, there will be a draw to determine who skates first.

Skaters/Couples, who have not received any ISU World Standing points will be listed at the bottom of the ISU World Standing list in country order. There will be a separate draw between those Skaters/Couples with no World Standing points to determine the starting order, following the basic principles of ISU Rule 513.

For the Free Skating/Free Dance the starting order will be the reverse order of the result after the previous segment.

7. SCORING SYSTEM / OFFICIALS / REPLACEMENTS

7.1 Scoring System

The scoring system as described in ISU Special Regulations Single and Pair Skating/Ice Dance 2014, Rule 352 and 353 will apply.

7.2 ISU Appointed Officials

The ISU President will appoint all Officials (Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Assistant Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators, OAC members) for each individual event and the Final in accordance with the 2014 Regulations. In line with Article 37, paragraph 3 of the ISU Constitution, the ISU Council also assigned an ISU Representative to each individual ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event.

The ISU Secretariat will inform the Organizing Committees of the names of the Officials and ISU Representatives assigned to their events. No changes will be accepted unless confirmed by the ISU Secretariat.

7.3 Panel of Judges

The panel of Judges in each individual event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating will consist of 9 Judges of different ISU Members in each discipline if possible, but not less than 7 Judges. Only International or ISU Judges are eligible to serve in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events. Each Judge may participate in no more than two ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events plus the ISU Grand Prix of Skating Final.

The Organizing ISU Members will invite the Judges based on a procedure agreed with the ISU.

7.4 Officials Remuneration

The Judges, the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators, will receive remuneration in accordance with ISU Communication No. 1910 (or any update of this Communication). Only hard currencies are acceptable. The remuneration should be paid upon accreditation.

7.5. Expenses

The Organizing Member will pay travel expenses based on economy airfare rate for all Competitors invited to its ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event, for all Judges invited, from their domicile to the event and return. The travel expenses of the Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators are covered by the ISU.

Skaters/Judges, who wish to purchase their air tickets directly or made other individual travel arrangements must first have a confirmation from the Organizing Committee concerning the acceptance of the travel costs. For the Technical Panel, these should have the confirmation of the ISU before purchasing their tickets.

The Organizing Member will pay accommodation and meal expenses for all Competitors, Judges, Referees, Technical Specialists, Technical Controllers and Data & Replay Operators from dinner on the day preceding the first official practice through breakfast on the day after the Exhibition. This period may be extended due to individual flight arrangements.

If a Skater/Couple (seeded or non-seeded) does not finish an event, that Skater/Couple's Member is obligated to cover the expenses for travel, accommodation and meals for the Skater/Couple and for the Judge (if applicable), if the Judge is not working in another panel.

7.6 Replacements

It is mandatory that an Organizing Member replaces any Couple who withdraws from the event with an alternate up to fourteen (14) days prior to the draw for that event. For a Ladies or Men Skater, up to fourteen (14) days prior to the draw for that event, it is voluntary that an Organizing Member replace any Skater who withdraws from the event who would be the 11th or 12th entry, but must replace with an alternate any Skater who withdraws if fewer than 10 entries remain. At the fourteen day mark, consideration will be given by the ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group to leaving a position vacant because of visa requirements or unduly high travel costs that would be incurred by the Organizing Member.

Skater/Couples, who are part of the official Alternate List must be ready to accept an invitation for participation in an ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event, even on short notice, except if the reasons for refusal are obvious (injury, illness, conflict with other competitions or with national activities, e.g. seminars, tests, etc.). The benchmark of such short notice is seven (7) days.

The alternate list needs to be worked through in ranking order for the top 75 ranked Skaters/Couples according to their Season's Best. All Skaters/Couples of the alternate list will be grouped in top ranked groups of five (5) Skaters, out of which the respective Organizing Member may pick one Skater/Couple for invitation.

Skaters/Couples, who place first in any of the ISU Challenger Series international competitions for 2015/16 and can prove to have skated the minimum total score or the minimum Technical score as mentioned in paragraph 2.3, as well as Skaters/Couples, who can prove to have skated the minimum Technical score will be added to the alternate list, bottom ranked according to their scores.

8. ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS

Anti-Doping tests will be conducted at each of the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating as well as at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

The Anti-Doping tests will be conducted in accordance with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules & Procedures (ISU Communications No. 1922 and 1941 or any further update of these Communications).

The tests will be carried out on the winning Skater/s in Singles (after the final Free Skating), Pair Skating (after the Free Skating) and Ice Dance (after the Free Dance). One Skater from the remainder of the Skaters shall be selected by random draw in Singles, Pair Skating and Ice Dance. In Pair Skating and Ice Dance, either the man or the lady, but not both, shall be tested and shall be selected by random draw.

9. ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING FINAL 2015/16

According to the ranking order by points

**the top 6 Men and Ladies,
the top 6 Pairs and
the top 6 Ice Dance Couples**

who have participated in two (2) ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events 2015/16 are invited to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, which will take place in

**Barcelona, Spain
December 10 to 13, 2015**

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (for Seniors) and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final will be held during the same time period in the same venue. Details of qualification for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final are available in a separate announcement.

9.1 Prize Money

The ISU will make available the Global Prize Money for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final of:

U.S. \$272,000.00

to the Skaters/Couples through their ISU Members. All Prize Money in favour of the awarded Skaters/Couples will be paid immediately after the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final via bank transfer from the Organizing ISU Member to the Member of the awarded Skater. Withholding tax, if any, will be deducted according to the law of the Organizing Member taking into account double tax treaties with the countries of the awarded Skaters. The ISU is not responsible for any taxes, fees or other costs.

The amount of Prize Money to be paid to the awarded Members and Skaters is subject that the awarded Skaters and Members have complied with the relevant ISU Regulations and provisions of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Announcement. Possible reductions of the stated Prize Money amounts may apply as outlined in this Announcement. In addition, sanctions in form of monetary penalties may apply as per paragraph 3.4 of this Announcement. If applicable, such monetary penalties could be deducted from the amount of Prize Money to be transferred and/or could be deducted from any future ISU contribution payable to the Member of the Skater(s) concerned.

Men and Ladies

1st place: US\$ 25,000.00
2nd place: US\$ 18,000.00
3rd place: US\$ 12,000.00
4th place: US\$ 6,000.00
5th place: US\$ 4,000.00
6th place: US\$ 3,000.00

Pair Skating and Ice Dance (per Couple)

US\$ 25,000.00
US\$ 18,000.00
US\$ 12,000.00
US\$ 6,000.00
US\$ 4,000.00
US\$ 3,000.00

Skaters/Couples qualified for the exhibition of the Final must participate with an appropriate show number different from their competition programs. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of US\$ 5'000 from the awarded Prize Money (see also paragraph 9.9 below)

Skaters/Couples are expected to be ready for any ceremony and/or prize award and to participate in press conferences and/or social events if asked by the ISU and/or the event's Organizer. Failure to do so may result in a reduction of awarded Prize Money. The decision to reduce Prize Money will be made by the assigned ISU Representative, subsequently to be ratified by the Council.

9.2 Technical Details for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

Organizing Committee: **Federacion Espanola de Deportes de Hielo**
Place: **Barcelona, Spain**

MEN	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014 Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2015/16. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value. Duration: 4 min. and 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
LADIES	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014 Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2015/16. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 612 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
PAIR SKATING	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating 2014, Rule 620, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2015/16. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec. maximum, but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Figure Skating & Pairs Skating 2014, Rule 621 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the "well balanced program" and the element value. Duration: 4 min. and 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
ICE DANCE	Short Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2014, Rule 709. Rhythms, required elements and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 1932 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2014, Rule 710. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 1932 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

9.3 Special Regulations for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

Skaters/Couples will start the Short Program/Short Dance in reverse order of the ranking order in which they have qualified for the Final. In the case of a tie, there will be a draw to determine who skates first. The skating order for the Free Skating/Free Dance portion is the reverse order of the ranking order in the Short Program or the Short Dance.

9.4 Scoring System

The scoring system as described in ISU Special Regulations Single and Pair Skating/Ice Dance 2014, Rule 352 and 353 will apply.

9.5 ISU Appointed Officials

The ISU President will appoint all Officials (Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Assistant Technical Specialists, Data/Replay Operators, OAC members) for the Final in accordance with the 2014 Regulations. All Officials must have the qualification for ISU Championships. In line with Article 37, paragraph 3 of the ISU Constitution, the ISU Council also assigned an ISU Representative to the Final.

The ISU Secretariat will inform the Organizing Committee of the names of the Officials and ISU Representative assigned to the Final. No changes will be accepted unless confirmed by the ISU Secretariat.

9.6 Panel of Judges

The panel of Judges will consist of 9 Judges of different ISU Members in each discipline, if possible, but not less than 7 Judges. Judges must have the qualification of "ISU Judge". The invitations to the Judges will be issued by the ISU Secretariat.

No Judge may serve in more than two disciplines of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and two disciplines of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2015/16 each.

The composition of the panels of Judges in each category will be made in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) first priority will be given to the participating ISU Members in the Senior Final;
- b) second priority will be given to the participating ISU Members in the Junior Final;
- c) third priority, if necessary, will be given to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating organizing Members of individual ISU Grand Prix events (Senior);
- d) fourth priority, if necessary, will be given to the ISU Members with Judges present at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final (Junior and Senior), but not mentioned under a) and b);
- e) fifth priority, if necessary, will be given to the host Member of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final;
- f) sixth priority, if necessary, will be given to the ISU Members with Skaters/Couples qualified as alternates in the Senior Final;
- g) seventh priority, if necessary, will be given to the ISU Members with Skaters/Couples qualified as alternates in the Junior Final;
- h) eighth priority, if necessary, will be given to the ISU Members with Skaters/Couples not qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, with priority to the discipline concerned, starting from that Skater/Couple with the highest total amount of points but not being alternate for the final.

The invitations to the Judges will be issued by the ISU Secretariat immediately following the last event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2015/16 (NHK Trophy).

The respective ISU Members entitled to nominate a Judge must submit the name of the Judge(s) not later than **December 3, 2015**.

The selection of Judges will be made by the respective Member. The Members are responsible for providing all selected and stand-by Judges with the appropriate travel documents in time.

9.7 Officials Remuneration

The Judges, the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators will receive remuneration in accordance with ISU Communication No. 1910 (or any update of this Communication). Only hard currencies are acceptable. The remuneration should be paid upon accreditation.

9.8 Entries

Confirmation of entries will be forwarded to the Member of the qualified Skaters/Couples by the ISU Secretariat. The official entry to the host Organizing Committee of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final must be forwarded by the respective Members using the official entry forms.

If a Skater or Couple cannot participate due to injury or illness, they must inform the Organizing Committee and the ISU Secretariat in writing through the respective ISU Member immediately so that the Organizing Committee can extend an invitation on behalf of the ISU to the next ranked Skater/Couple. The Skater or Couple will be required to forward a medical certificate to the ISU Secretariat as mentioned in paragraph 11.

9.9 Exhibition

The Invited Skaters/Couples for the final Exhibition Gala are expected to participate with an appropriate show number. Encores as an additional show number are expected from the Gold Medallists. Skaters/Couples who fail to meet these requirements will have their Prize Money reduced by US\$ 5'000 in accordance with paragraph 9.1.

The final exhibition is a part of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

9.10 Schedule Combined Final (Subject to Change)

The arrival for competitors in the Grand Prix Final (Senior) and the first official practice are scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

The Team Leaders Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015

The Judges Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

The competitions (Juniors) are scheduled between December 10 and 12, 2015.

The competitions (Seniors) are scheduled between December 10 and 12, 2015.

The exhibition gala is scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2015.

9.11 Expenses

The Organizing Member will pay travel expenses based on economy airfare rate for all Competitors qualified for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, for all Judges invited (see paragraph 9.6) from the country of the Member they represent to Barcelona and return. The travel expenses for all Referees, Technical Controllers Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators are covered by the ISU.

The Organizing Member will pay accommodation and meal expenses for all Competitors (Seniors and Juniors) from dinner on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 through breakfast on Monday, December 14, 2015. This period may be extended due to individual flight arrangements.

The Organizing Member will pay accommodation and meal expenses for all Judges, Referees and Technical Officials (Technical Specialists, Technical Controllers, Data & Replay Operators and other participants as agreed upon in a cost chart included in the Agreement with the ISU) from dinner on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 through breakfast on Monday, December 14, 2015. This period may be extended due to individual flight arrangements.

9.12 Insurance / Liability

In accordance with Rule 119, it is the sole responsibility of each Member participating in ISU Events, to provide medical and accident insurance for their athletes, officials and all other members of the Member's team. Such insurance must assure full medical attendance and also the return to the home country by air transport or by other expeditious means of the ill or injured person.

The ISU assumes no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property damage incurred by Competitors and Officials.

9.13 Travel Documents and Permits

Due to the limited time between the last event of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (NHK Trophy) and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, all qualified Team Members are requested to take care of their individual travel documents and permits (visa, etc.) on a timely basis.

10. REPLACEMENTS

10.1 Replacement for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

A qualified Skater/Couple for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final who is not able to participate will be replaced by the immediately following Skater/Couple, based on the Grand Prix ranking order of points.

The Skaters/Couples placed 7 – 9 of the Senior Grand Prix ranking order of points must remain on stand-by as possible alternates until three days before the Opening of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, i.e. until Monday, December 7, 2015 – noon local time Barcelona, Spain. These Skaters/Couples are responsible for their own necessary visa or travel documents.

Replacements do not influence the invitation of Judges or the composition of the panel of Judges.

10.2 Decision for Replacements

The ISU Coordinator of the ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group will make the final determination of any replacements for the Final in accordance with paragraph 10.1.

11. INJURIES OR ILLNESS OF TOP SEEDED SKATERS

In the case a Skater is withdrawn for injury or illness a Medical Certificate is required to be submitted to the ISU as per Rule 140, paragraph 5. The Certificate must be issued on the stationary of a Medical Doctor or on an ISU withdrawal form in case of in-competition withdrawal and duly signed by the Medical Doctor. If the certificate is not in English a translation signed by the President or General Secretary of the Member of respective Skater must be attached;

In addition, upon request of the Vice President the Certificate must be received by the ISU within 72 hours after the notice of withdrawal and the Member or the skater must include or attach the following additional information:

- i) the history which clearly indicates the date of injury or date of onset of illness, the type of injury or illness and severity of injury or illness as well as the physical findings on examination;
- ii) copies of laboratory or radiological reports that were conducted in the investigation of the injury/illness;
- iii) the recommended treatment by the physician including medications, therapy, advice on training frequency and intensity, date for follow-up examination (a copy of this assessment should then be forwarded to the ISU), expected date of return to full activity, planned further investigations and/or criteria for return to full activity.

Skaters/Couples who cannot complete the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, will not receive any Prize Money or other appearance fee. It is also at the discretion of the ISU Coordination group, whether Skaters/Couples, who cannot finish the ISU Grand Prix Final due to any reason, must cover the travel expenses, as well as the local costs for hotel and full board by themselves.

12. ANTI-DOPING

Anti-Doping tests will be conducted at each of the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating as well as at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.

The Anti-Doping tests will be conducted in accordance with the current with the current ISU Anti-Doping Rules & Procedures (ISU Communications No. 1922 and 1941 or any further update of these Communications).

The tests will be carried out on the winning Skater/s in Singles (after the final Free Skating), Pair Skating (after the Free Skating) and Ice Dance (after the Free Dance). One Skater from the remainder of the Skaters shall be selected by random draw in Singles, Pair Skating and Ice Dance. In Pair Skating and Ice Dance, either the man or the lady, but not both, shall be tested and shall be selected by random draw. This procedure is valid for the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2015/16.

13. ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING FINAL ORGANIZING STRUCTURE & CONTACT INFORMATION

International Skating Union

Mr. Ottavio Cinquanta, ISU President

Contact:

International Skating Union
Mr. Fredi Schmid, ISU Director General
or Ms. Patricia Mayor, ISU Sports Coordinator Figure Skating
Avenue Juste-Olivier 17
1006 Lausanne/Switzerland
Telephone: +41 21 612 66 66
Fax: +41 21 612 66 77
E-mail: mayor@isu.ch or entries@isu.ch

Mr. David Dore
ISU Vice President of Figure Skating
& Coordinator ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group
534 Buchanan Crescent
Gloucester, ON, K1J 7V4 CANADA
Telephone: +1 613 747 9770
E-mail: daviddore@sympatico.ca

Any late changes regarding an event (entries, etc) must be communicated simultaneously to the ISU Secretariat (e-mail: entries@isu.ch) and Peter Krick (e-mail: peter.krick@eventint.com or fax: +49 321 212 50 252)

ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group (Junior and Senior):

Mr. David Dore, ISU Vice-President of Figure Skating
& Coordinator ISU Grand Prix Coordination Group

Mr. Peter Krick, ISU Sport Manager Figure Skating
Mr. Charles Cyr, ISU Sports Director Figure Skating
Ms. Krisztina Regöczy, ISU Sports Director Figure Skating
Mr. Mario Meinel, ISU Event Coordinator
Ms. Rita Zonnekeyn, Member S&PTC
Ms. Halina Gordon-Poltorak, Chair IDTC
Secretary:
Ms. Patricia Mayor, ISU Sports Coordinator Figure Skating

Organizing Members of the 6 individual events:

Canada	Skate Canada
China	Chinese Skating Association
France	Fédération Française des Sports de Glace
Japan	Japan Skating Federation
Russia	The Figure Skating Federation of Russia
United States	The United States Figure Skating Association

Organizing Member 2015/16 – ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final:

Contact: Federacion Espanola de Deportes de Hielo
C/ Tuset, 28 2º 1a,
08006 Barcelona
Spain
phone: (+34) 93 368 37 61
fax: (+34) 93 368 37 59
e-mail: figureskating@fedhielo.com