

## Press release

03 April 2018

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### **ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2018 Team Paradise (RUS) aiming at hat trick**

The ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships will be held in Stockholm (SWE) April 6-7. A total of 25 teams representing 20 ISU members have been entered for the Championships. This is the 19th edition of the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships. The event will be held for the first time in Stockholm and for the third time in Sweden. Finnish teams have been dominant, winning 22 medals including eight gold medals since the inaugural championship in 2000.

However, the defending champions come from Russia, Team Paradise, who won the first gold medal for their country in this discipline in 2016 at the World Synchronized Championships in Budapest (HUN) and defended their title in 2017 in Colorado Springs (USA). The Russians are looking for a third consecutive title, but competition will be tough. The challenge should come from the reigning World silver medalists Marigold Ice Unity (FIN) as well as from the 2013 World Champions Team Unique (FIN) and the reigning World bronze medalists Nexxice (CAN).

Other contenders include multiple World bronze medalists Haydenettes (USA), Les Supremes (CAN) and the multiple World Champions Team Surprise from Sweden that are counting on the home crowd support to achieve their first podium finish in six years. Other teams to watch are The Skyliners (USA), Team Berlin 1 (GER), Team Tatarstan (RUS) and Team Boomerang (SWE).

Teams from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey will also be competing.

Originally called Precision Skating, Synchronized Skating was introduced in the 1950s. It is a highly technical form of Figure Skating characterized by speed, precisions, unison, intricate formations, synchro elements, difficult footwork, spectacular lifts and exciting transitions.

A synchronized team consists of 16 skaters (plus up to four alternates).

The Short Program consists of five required elements: Intersection Element, Move Element, No Hold Element, Pivoting Element – Block and Traveling Element – Wheel. The Short Program is 2 min 50 seconds in length but may be less.

The Free Skating program contains six required elements: two different Group Lift Elements, two different Intersection Elements, No Hold Element, Pair Element plus two elements that have to be chosen from three different groups of elements, for example a synchronized spin element, a creative element or a linear element (line). The Free Skating program is 4 min 30 seconds in length but may be less.

#### **The schedule of the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2018 is as follows:**

Friday, April 6: Short Program

Saturday, April 7: Free Skating



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For more information, full entry lists and results please see the [ISU event page](#) and the [official event page](#). Follow the discussion on social media using #SynchroSkating and #WorldSynchro.

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