Grand Prix of Figure Skating

Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final

2012 / 13

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 2012, the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating / Ice Dance 2012 and all relevant ISU Communications.
The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final belongs to the ISU and will be organized by The Figure Skating Federation of Russia.

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 2.b) 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.

No skater or couple may skate in the exhibition of an event or the Final without having participated in the event itself.

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 2012/13 season, the six events of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating are:

Hilton HHonors Skate America	October 19 – 21, 2012	Seattle/Kent, WA, USA
Skate Canada International	October 26 – 28, 2012	Windsor, ON, Canada
Cup of China	November 2 - 4, 2012	Shanghai, China
Rostelecom Cup	November 09 – 11, 2012	Moscow, Russia
Trophée Bompard	November 16 – 18, 2012	Paris, France
NHK Trophy	November 23 – 25, 2012	Miyagi, Japan

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

Sochi, Russia

from December 5 to December 9, 2012

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, Pairs, Ice Dance) at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2012 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 2012 World Figure Skating Championships 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 Grand Prix for selection of up to 2 assignments if they commit in writing to participating in 2 Grand Prix 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 score and would be considered for selection as a Host Country 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/couples who have placed 7 – 12 in each of the 4 disciplines (Men, Ladies, Pairs, Ice Dance) at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2012 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 score. If there are any retirements from placements 7 – 12, the vacant places will be completed with the next ranked skaters/couples of the 2012 ISU World Figure Skating Championships (placed 13 and below) will be moved up to fill their position as Placement 7 -12 skaters/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 (2010/11 or 2011/12) but who split and now have a new partner, may always be chosen as a Host Country Skater paragraph as per 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 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 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 2010 or 2011 ISU World Figure Skating Championships but since was injured and/or did not compete at all during the entire 2011/12 season, may be chosen, if applicable, as a Host Country Skater, and in addition, may be considered as a 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 score.

d) Skaters/couples with an ISU World Standing placement of 1 – 24 (after season 2011/12) and skaters/couples with seasonal best scores in the top 24 (for season 2011/12) 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 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 2012 and the gold medallists from the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2011/12 will be included in the selection process. Skaters/couples who have stated their intention to skate as Senior in the season 2012/13 might be included in the Grand Prix event(s) if they fulfil the requirements of the minimum 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 slot(s) 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 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 score but it is strongly suggested.

g) If any slot(s) 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 slot(s).

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 score as required. The maximum number of entries per event, however, is set as follows:

Men and Ladies	not more than 10 but not less than 8 entries
Pairs	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/dance 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

Each entrant to the Grand Prix six (6) events must meet the minimum total score (SP/SD + FS/FD) to be included in the entry or the alternate list (for exceptions see paragraphs 2.1.c) and 2.2.).

For the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating season 2012/13, the minimum scores are:

- **Men** 159.66
- **Ladies** 113.43
- **Pairs** 120.90
- **Ice Dance** 109.59

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, 2011 and May 31st, 2012 are eligible for selection into the Grand Prix events 2012/13 or in the alternate list.

The minimum score for this season is 3/5 of highest score per discipline at the 2012 World Figure Skating Championships in Nice, France.

Skaters/couples, placed in the top 75 Season's Best (season 2011/12) are placed on the alternate list. However those who need to score the minimum score as listed above can do so in the following International Competitions only:

- U.S. Senior International 2012 – Salt Lake City (Pairs included in the competition)
- Nebelhorn Trophy 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)
- Ondrej Nepala Memorial 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)
- Finlandia Trophy 2012
- Cup of Nice 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)

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 1, 2012**. 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 1, 2012**.

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 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 2012/13 season. The Grand Prix events will take place from October 19, 2012 to November 25, 2012. ("the Grand Prix Period").

Seeded skaters/couples who fulfill their Grand Prix 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 Final, also in the period immediately following the last individual event (NHK Trophy, November 23-25, 2012).

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 Grand Prix Series and skaters who qualify for the 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 Chair of the Sports Directorate 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,

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

Pairs and Ice Dance

1st place	15 points
2nd place	13 points
3rd place	11 points
4th place	9 points
5th place	7 points
6th 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 2012/13 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	**Pairs and Ice Dance (per couple)**
1st place:	US$ 18,000.00	US$ 18,000.00
2nd place:	US$ 13,000.00	US$ 13,000.00
3rd place:	US$ 9,000.00	US$ 9,000.00
4th place:	US$ 3,000.00	US$ 3,000.00
5th 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 Members of the Grand Prix Coordination Group attending the event, subsequently to be ratified by the Council.

5.2 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.

6. TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

6.1 Technical Details

Men:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rule Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 511, para 1 and 2 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 512 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
Ladies:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 511, para 1 and 2 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 512 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
Pairs:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 520, para 1 and 2, group for 2012/13 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less;
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 521 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
Ice Dance:	Short Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 609. Rhythms, required elements and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 1721 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 610. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 1721 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min. +/- 10 sec. ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 610 paragraph 2 (required elements) and the respective ISU Communication must be observed.

6.2 Starting order

In each individual Grand Prix 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 579.

For 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 2012, 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 2012 Regulations.

The ISU Secretariat will inform the Organizing Committees of the names of the Officials 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. 1631, paragraph II. K. (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 skater/couple who withdraws from the event with an alternate up to fourteen (14) days prior to the Team Leaders' meeting for that event. At the seven 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.

The alternate list will include the following skaters/couples:

- Split couples/Return Skaters-Couples who were previously in the top 7-12 of a World Championship would be listed according to their best possible Season's Best with the previous partner.
- Skaters in proper order of top 24 Season's Best would be next.
- All other Skaters in the top 75 Season's Best would be listed next.
- Selected International Competitions' winners are placed on the bottom of the alternate listing.
- A subgroup of any Come-Back-Skaters/Couples (as per paragraph 2.2), that may be chosen for a first or second event.

The alternate list needs to be worked through in ranking order for the top 24 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 the following international competitions

- U.S. Senior International 2012 – Salt Lake City (Pairs included in the competition)
- Nebelhorn Trophy 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)
- Ondrej Nepala Memorial 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)
- Finlandia Trophy 2012
- Cup of Nice 2012 (Pairs included in the competition)

and can prove to have skated the minimum total score as mentioned in paragraph 2.3, 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. 1650 and 1651 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 2012/13

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 2012/13 are invited to the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, which will take place in

Sochi, Russia
December 5 to 9, 2012

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 will be 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		**Pairs and Ice Dance (per couple)**
1st place:	US$ 25,000.00	US$ 25,000.00
2nd place:	US$ 18,000.00	US$ 18,000.00
3rd place:	US$ 12,000.00	US$ 12,000.00
4th place:	US$ 6,000.00	US$ 6,000.00
5th place:	US$ 4,000.00	US$ 4,000.00
6th place:	US$ 3,000.00	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 Delegate, subsequently to be ratified by the Council.

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

Organizing Committee: **The Figure Skating Federation of Russia**
Place: **Sochi, Russia**

Men:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rule Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 511, para 1 and 2 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 512 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
Ladies:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 511, para 1 and 2 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 512 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

Pairs:	Short Program	The prescribed elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 520, para 1 and 2, group for 2012/13 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: max. 2 min., 50 sec., but may be less;
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating 2012, Rule 521 and the respective ISU Communication. Duration: 4 min., 30 sec., +/- 10 sec.
Ice Dance:	Short Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 609. Rhythms, required elements and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 1721 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
Ice Dance:	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 610. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 1721 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min. +/- 10 sec. ISU Technical Rules Ice Dance 2012, Rule 610 paragraph 2 (required elements) and the respective ISU Communication must be observed.

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 2012, 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 2012 Regulations. All Officials must have the qualification for ISU Championships.

The ISU Secretariat will inform the Organizing Committee of the names of the Officials 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 2012/13 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 2012/13 (NHK Trophy).

The respective ISU Members entitled to nominate a Judge must submit the name of the Judge(s) not later than **November 28, 2012**.

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.

The name(s) of the Judge(s) must be submitted on the official entry form by fax/e-mail and confirmed by registered mail to:

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. 1631, paragraph II. K. (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 5, 2012.

The Team Leaders Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2012 – 11:00 am.

The Judges Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2012.

The competitions (Juniors) are scheduled between December 6 and 8, 2012.

The competitions (Senior) are scheduled between December 7 and 8, 2012.

The exhibition gala is scheduled for Sunday, December 9, 2012.

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 Sochi 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 for the Junior Grand Prix Final from dinner on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 through breakfast on Monday, December 10, 2012, and for all Competitors for the Senior Grand Prix Final from dinner on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 through breakfast on Monday, December 10, 2012. 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 4, 2012 through breakfast on Monday, December 10, 2012. 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 3, 2012 – noon local time Sochi, Russia. 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 Chair of the Sports Directorate 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 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 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. 1650 and 1651 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 2012.

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

International Skating Union

Mr. Ottavio Cinquanta, ISU President

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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 (Junior and Senior) Coordination Group:

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

Mr. Peter Krick, ISU Chair Sports Directorate
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 2012/13 – ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final:

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