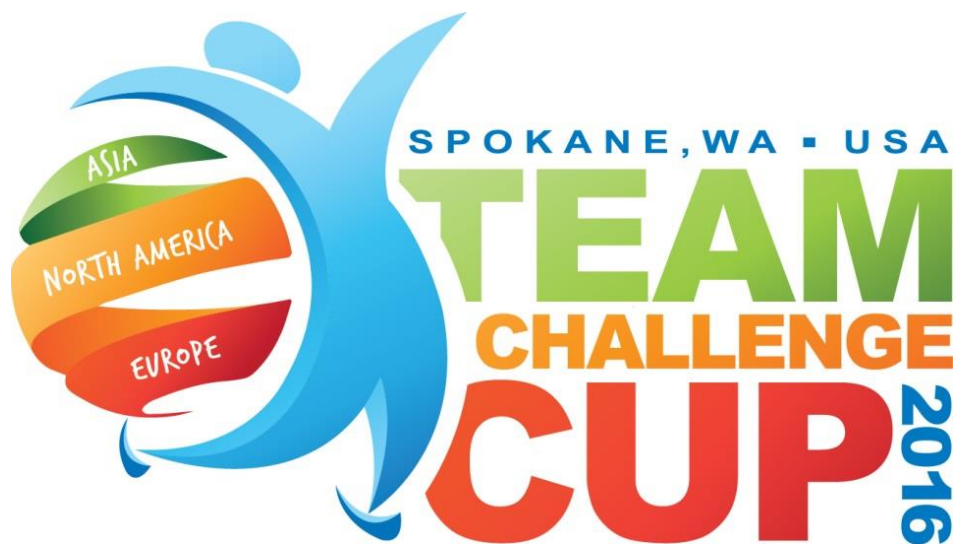




ANNOUNCEMENT

April 22-24, 2016

Spokane, Washington (USA)



1. GENERAL

The 2016 Team Challenge Cup (TCC) is an International Skating Union (ISU) sanctioned International Competition, organized by the ISU Member U.S. Figure Skating, in accordance with the current ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2014, the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2014 and all relevant ISU Communications. The Team Challenge Cup consists of eligible Skaters representing their continent (Team Asia vs. Team Europe vs. Team North America) in a team format approved, according to ISU Rule 367, by the respective ISU Technical Committees.

2. BASIC EVENT FORMAT, ENTRIES AND QUALIFYING SYSTEM

2.1 New Format (ISU Rule 367):

As approved by the ISU Single & Pair Skating Technical Committee and the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee, and in accordance with ISU Rule 367 (new systems), the innovation to be implemented is a Short Program competition followed by a continental team competition featuring eligible Skaters using aggregate scoring of the Free Skating programs in all four disciplines to determine the final result. The required elements to be skated are listed in paragraph 4 and are based on the ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2014.

2.2 Teams/Number of Skaters:

The competition will consist of eligible Skaters that will make up three (3) teams: Team Asia, Team Europe and Team North America.

Each team will be made up of 10 entries (14 athletes per team) in the following disciplines:

- Three (3) Ladies
- Three (3) Men
- Two (2) Pairs
- Two (2) Ice Dance couples

A minimum of two (2) ISU Members must be represented in each discipline for each team (i.e. all three Ladies entered cannot be from the same ISU Member but only 2 out of the 3 Ladies could be from the same Member; team members in Pair Skating and Ice Dance must be from different ISU Members).

Skaters will represent continents based on the geographic location of their country. Team Asia will consist of Skaters of ISU Members from Asia, Team Europe will consist of Skaters of ISU Members from Europe and Team North America will consist of Skaters of ISU Members from Canada and the United States.

2.3 Prize Money

Skaters in the Team Challenge Cup will compete for \$617,000 USD in total prize money as follows:

Singles Team Short Program Winners

- First Place – Team Prize Money \$60,000 (\$10,000/singles athlete)
- Second Place – Team Prize Money \$42,000 (\$7,000/singles athlete)
- Third Place – Team Prize Money \$30,000 (\$5,000/singles athlete)

- In addition, the highest scoring Individual TCC Short Program Skater in Ladies and Men will receive an additional \$5,000 each.

Overall Team Challenge Cup Winners

- First Place – Team Prize Money - \$210,000 (\$15,000/athlete)
- Second Place – Team Prize Money - \$140,000 (\$10,000/athlete)
- Third Place – Team Prize Money - \$105,000 (\$7,500/athlete)
- In addition, the Couples with the highest score in the TCC Pair Skating Free Skate and highest score in the TCC Free Dance will receive an additional \$5,000/athlete (\$10,000 per couple).

All prize money in favor of the Skaters/Couples will be paid via bank transfer by the organizing ISU Member (U.S. Figure Skating) to the ISU Member of the Skaters/Couples of the awarded teams within two weeks after the Team Challenge Cup.

2.4 Skater Selection:

Subject to honoring the provisions in para 2.2 above, ISU World Standings will be used to invite the first 8 entries per team (2 Ladies, 2 Men, 2 Pairs, 2 Ice Dance couples).

The top two (2) Singles Skaters and top two (2) Pairs and Ice Dance couples (not from the same ISU Member) for each team will be automatically invited to participate based on the ISU World Standings as of January 1, 2016.

Invitations will be sent by U.S. Figure Skating to the relevant ISU Member. Those invited on January 1, 2016 will have until February 10, 2016 to accept the invitation. If an invited entry declines the invitation, the ISU World Standings of January 1, 2016 will be used to invite the next highest ranked Skater. Invitations will continue in the same manner until each Team completes their first eight (8) entries.

The final Singles Skaters (Ladies and Men) team members will be selected by a World-wide fan vote. A pool of up to five (5) Ladies and five (5) Men will be nominated/announced by March 15, 2016 by the organizer from those Skaters who are entered in the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Online fan voting will begin with the announcement of the pool of Skaters and conclude one day after the 2016 ISU World Championships (i.e., April 4, 2016) The top Lady and Man vote getter from each team will be invited and have three (3) business days to accept. If the top vote getter declines the invitation, then the next top vote getter will be invited. Invitations will continue in the same manner and the team will be completed once the final Singles Skaters are confirmed.

If for any reason a Skater cannot participate after April 5, 2016 after accepting an invitation, a Replacement Skater(s) will be invited at the discretion of the organizer.

2.5 Event Format

- **Day #1 - Friday, April 22 – Men's and Ladies Singles –Short Program Competition**
 - Each Team will decide their entries in order of #1-#3 and submit them in closed envelopes
 - A "live" ceremony/event will announce the skating match-ups on Thursday, April 23
 - Skaters #1-3 will skate (3 teams) earning points in their flight for their team; Skaters will earn points for first, second or third (i.e. 12, 10, 8 points)
 - Three warm up groups, Men and Ladies will be mixed

- Warm up Group 1 (#3 slotted Ladies and Men)
- Warm up Group 2 (#2 slotted Ladies and Men)
- Warm up Group 3 (#1 slotted Ladies and Men)
- Singles Team Short Program Winners will be crowned based on the total team points, an aggregate of the points earned by a team in each flight
 - First Place – Team Prize Money \$60,000 (\$10,000/singles athlete)
 - Second Place – Team Prize Money \$42,000 (\$7,000/singles athlete)
 - Third Place – Team Prize Money \$30,000 (\$5,000/singles athlete)

*The first tie-breaker will be aggregate score of top Lady and top Man of each team in the tie; second tie-breaker is aggregate of second highest Lady and man followed by third highest.

- The highest scoring Individual TCC Short Program Skater in Ladies and Men will be recognized in arena and receive an additional \$5,000 each.

- **Day #2 – Saturday, April 23 afternoon – Team Challenge Cup – Pair Skating/Ice Dance**

- Pair Skating/Ice Dance – aggregate score of the top scoring Pair Skating and top scoring Ice Dance Free Skating/Free Dance programs for each team will be counted. The score of the second ranked Pair and Ice Dance couple of each Team will not count and will not be included into the aggregate score.
 - The Couples with the highest score in the TCC Pair Skating Free Skate and highest score in the TCC Free Dance will be recognized in-arena and receive an additional \$5,000/athlete (\$10,000 per couple).

- **Day #2 – Saturday, April 23 evening – Team Challenge Cup – Ladies/Men**

- Aggregate score from afternoon session will carry forward to evening session
- The Team will decide which Skaters will skate in warm-up group one and two, with the final warm-up group featuring the top scoring Lady and Man from each team during Friday night's short program.
- Ladies – aggregate score of top two entries Free Skating, the lowest score is dropped from each team
- Men – aggregate score of top two entries Free Skating, the lowest score is dropped from each team
- For the overall Team Score, two Men's, two Ladies, one Pair and one Ice Dance score will be added together for an overall team score. The highest aggregate score wins.
- Overall Team Challenge Cup Champions crowned based on total overall points
 - First Place – Team Prize Money - \$210,000 (\$15,000/athlete)
 - Second Place – Team Prize Money - \$140,000 (\$10,000/athlete)
 - Third Place – Team Prize Money - \$105,000 (\$7,500/athlete)

- **Day #3 – Sunday, April 24 – Exhibition Gala** - will feature 24 performances, with Skaters to be selected by the organizers based on their show program.

3. VENUE AND LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Committee: U.S. Figure Skating

Venue: Spokane Arena

All Team Challenge Cup events as well as official practices will take place at the “Spokane Arena” with an ice surface of 61 m x 26 m. The facility is indoor, air-conditioned and heated.

Venue address:
Spokane Arena
720 W Mallon Ave, Spokane, WA 99201
T: (509) 279-7000

4. 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

Free Skating In accordance with ISU Technical Rules Single & Pair 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

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.

5. ENTRIES

5.1 Entries of Skaters/Couples

The invited Skaters/Couples (according to paragraph 2.4) will be officially informed through their Member by the TCC organizing Member, U.S. Figure Skating, at the appropriate times. The official Entry Forms indicating the acceptance of the invited Skater/Couple must be made by the Member concerned. The deadline to receive such entries will be outlined in the invitation. Entry forms listing Skaters/Couples who have accepted the invitation must be sent simultaneously to:

2016 Team Challenge Cup Organizing Committee

fax: +1 719 635 9548

e-Mail: bdunlop@usfigureskating.org

and for info to:

ISU Secretariat & Sport Manager Figure Skating

fax: +41 21 612 6677

e-mail: entries@isu.ch

Mr. Peter Krick

Sport Manager Figure Skating

fax: +49 8158 928650

e-mail: peter.krick@eventint.com

All Skaters/Couples must turn in to the Organizing Committee together with the entry forms the "Program Content Sheet." It is not permitted to hand over the Program Content Sheets directly to the acting Officials.

5.2 Entries of Judges, Referees, Technical Panels, Officials and Team members

The Organizing Committee will make the final determination on invited Judges, Referees, Technical Panels and Team members (coaches and medical). Each participating ISU Member will have at least one Judge invited. Each panel will consist of 7 Judges, namely 2 Judges from Asian ISU Members, 2 Judges from European ISU Members, 2 Judges from North American ISU Members plus 1 Judge from African or Oceanian ISU Members. All Judges must be from different ISU Members on each panel and the Judges must be "ISU" Judges. Double duty Judges (Single & Pair Skating/Ice Dance qualification) are preferred. The final Panel of Judges will be determined by the Organizing Committee and the Members concerned will be notified.

The Technical Controller and the 2 ISU Technical Specialists for each discipline/panel must be from ISU Members of different Continents (Asia, Europe and North America).

All Officials (Referee, Judges, Technical Controller, Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators) must be on the current ISU Officials lists with the qualification "ISU"

The proposed Referees, Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists must be submitted to the ISU President for approval before the invitation is being extended.

Accreditation will be provided to those who are officially accepted by the Organizing Committee.

Please be advised that only one Coach per Skater/Couple will be accredited.

Additional Team Members will be reviewed by the Organizing Committee and decided upon on a case by case basis.

For Chaperones (one per Skater), the Member can request a “bus permit” which will include access to practices. The chaperones will not receive any special price tickets to the competition events or the Exhibition. Chaperones may visit www.teamchallengecup.com for ticket and housing information.

All such requests must reach the Organizing Committee no later than April 5, 2016 – 17:00h, local time Colorado Springs, USA.

6. MEALS, LODGING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

All expenses for accommodation and meals for all invited Skaters/Couples, Judges, Officials and Team Members will be covered by the Organizing Committee during the period beginning with dinner on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 and ending with breakfast on Monday, April 25, 2016. The travel expenses for airfare at economy rates for all officially invited Skaters/Couples, Judges, Officials and Team members will be paid by the Organizing Committee from their home to Spokane, Washington and return. All participants must agree to the acceptance of the provided airline ticket when the invitation is accepted. No reimbursement will be made on any airline ticket issued without the Organizing Committee’s approval in advance. Any additional costs will be at the expense of the respective individual.

7. PRACTICE

Official practices for Skaters/Couples begin on Thursday, April 21, 2016. The detailed schedule will be issued at the time of registration. ISU Rule 344, paragraph 4 must be observed.

8. MEETINGS FOR EVENT OFFICIALS and JUDGES

The individual Initial Judges Meetings and – if applicable – an additional Judges draw will be held one (1) day prior to each first segment of each individual discipline. The draw for the seating order of the Panels of Judges will be made 45 min. prior to each segment. Subsequent draws, as required, will be made at the “Spokane Arena” in the Judges’ room. A detailed draw schedule will be published on site.

Please see the dates and times for all other official meetings for Technical Panels (before and after the respective event), Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting and Judges Round Table Discussions in paragraph 17 – Event Schedule.

9. EXHIBITION

An Exhibition Gala will take place on the final day, Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 14:00 at the Spokane Arena. All Skaters/Couples will participate in the Gala, but not all Skaters/Couples will perform a full exhibition performance. The Organizers will select the Skaters/Couples who will perform a full exhibition performance based on their placement at the Team Challenge Cup and their show program.

10. MUSIC

All Skaters/Couples shall furnish competition music of excellent quality on CD (Compact Disc) or in any other approved format.

In accordance with ISU Rule 343, paragraph 1, all discs must show the Competition event, Skaters/Couples name, the Nation and the exact running time of the music - not skating time - including any starting signal, which shall be certified by the Skater/Couple and by the coach, when submitted at the time of registration. Skaters/Couples must provide a back-up drive for each program.

The titles, composers and orchestras of the music to be used for the Short Program and Free Skating Program for Singles, Free Skate Program for Pair Skating and the Free Dance Program for Ice Dance and for the Exhibition, must be listed for each Skater/Couple on the official Competition Music Form.

11. REGISTRATION/ACCREDITATION

Registration and accreditation for all invited Skaters/Couples, Judges, Officials and Team Members will take place at the "Davenport Grand Hotel". Media accreditation will take place at the Spokane Arena.

12. OFFICIAL HOTEL

The official hotel for the 2016 Team Challenge Cup is:

The Davenport Grand Hotel
333 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99201
1-800.899.1482

<http://www.davenporthotelcollection.com/our-hotels/the-davenport-grand/>

Rate: \$149 USD/room/night plus taxes (does not include breakfast)

13. INSURANCE/LIABILITY

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

The Organizing Committee assumes no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property damage incurred in connection by the Skaters/Couples and Officials.

14. ANTI-DOPING TESTS

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 this Communication).

The tests will be carried out on the best scoring Skater in Ladies and Men (after the final Free Skating), Pair Skating (after the Free Skating) and Ice Dance (after the Free Dance). One additional Skater from the winning team 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.

15. AWARDS

The winning team will be awarded with a 2016 Team Challenge Cup trophy and each member of the winning team will receive a gold medal. All Skaters/Couples will be recognized in arena.

16. INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

2016 Team Challenge Cup Organizing Committee
U.S. Figure Skating
20 First Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80906 USA
phone: +1 719 228 3431
fax: +1 719 635 9548
e-mail: bdunlop@usfigureskating.org
web: www.teamchallengecup.com

17. EVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 20

Arrival of delegations and officials

Thursday, April 21

All Day - Official Practice Sessions

TBD - Referee & Controllers Meeting

TBD - Judges Meeting

TBD - Technical Panel Meetings

TBD – Opening Banquet – For all participants and includes the draw ceremony for the Singles Short Programs

Friday, April 22

All Day – Official Practice Sessions

19:30 - Men's and Ladies Short Program

Saturday, April 23

13:30 – Pair Skating Free Skate and Free Dance - Aggregate Team Score

19:00 - Men's and Ladies Free Skate - Aggregate Team Score

Sunday, April 24

TBD - Technical Panel Review Meetings

TBD - Roundtable Discussions

14:00 – Exhibition Gala

Please note: This schedule is subject to change.