



Kinoshita Group Cup 2026

Tokyo, Japan

September 4 to 6, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kinoshita Group Cup 2026

An International Senior Competition

for

Men, Women, Pair Skating, and Ice Dance

organized by

Japan Skating Federation

Tokyo, Japan

September 4 to 6, 2026

A competition as part of the



Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27

under the authorization of the

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

The **Kinoshita Group Cup 2026** will be conducted in accordance with the ISU Constitution 2025, Competition & Event Regulations 2026, Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, and the relevant ISU Communications.

Participation in the **Kinoshita Group Cup 2026** is open to all Competitors who belong to an ISU Member and qualify with regard to eligibility according to Competition & Event Regulations 2026, Article 7.2, provided their ages fall within the limits specified in Article 9.3.1, and they meet the participation, citizenship and residency requirement in Article 8 and ISU Communication 2526 or any update of this Communication.

In accordance with Article 8 and ISU Communication 2526, all Skaters who do not have the nationality of the Member by which they have been entered or who, although having such nationality, have in the past represented another Member, must produce an ISU Clearance Certificate. Passports of all Skaters, as well as the ISU Clearance Certificate, if applicable, must be presented at the accreditation of the event for verification.

All competitors must be entered through their respective ISU Member Federation.

2. ISU CHALLENGER SERIES IN FIGURE SKATING

The **Kinoshita Group Cup 2026** is part of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 and will be conducted in accordance with additional requirements as specified in the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780.

If the requirements specified in the above-mentioned documents are fulfilled, the event will count towards ISU World Standing Points, Minimum Total Technical Score, Challenger Series in Figure Skating Ranking and Prize Money.

There is a limitation for the Skaters/Couples to three (3) participations in the events of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating. Participation in any of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating events or ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events does not limit participation in events of the Challenger Series.

CHALLENGER SERIES IN FIGURE SKATING RANKING AND PRIZE MONEY

At the end of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating, after the last event of the season has been concluded, the two highest final scores in up to three different Challenger Series in Figure Skating events of each Competitor/Couple will be added and taken into consideration to form a Challenger Series in Figure Skating Ranking, which will be published on the ISU website.

The top three placed Skaters/Couples of the annual Challenger Series Ranking in Figure Skating after the last event of the Challenger Series in Figure Skating will receive ISU Prize Money as outlined in the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780.

3. TECHNICAL DATA

PLACE	Main arena: Tokyo Tatsumi Ice Arena (an indoor ice-rink with an ice surface of 30 x 60 m, air-conditioned and heated)	
MEN	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, 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.
WOMEN	Short Program	The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 611, paragraphs 1 and 2. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, 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 Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 620, paragraphs 1 and 2 for 2026/27. Duration: 2 min., 40 sec. +/- 10 sec.
	Free Skating	In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 621 and the respective ISU Communication. Special attention should be paid to the “well balanced program” and the element value. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.
ICE DANCE	Rhythm Dance	In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 709. Rhythms, required elements, and guidelines are those listed in ISU Communication 2795 and subsequent updates. Duration: 2 min., 50 sec., +/- 10 sec
	Free Dance	In accordance with ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 710. The required elements to be skated are those listed in ISU Communication 2795 and subsequent updates. Duration: 4 min., +/- 10 sec.

4. ENTRIES

4.1 General

All Entries must be made by the ISU Member concerned based on the regulations for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27.

All entries for the **Kinoshita Group Cup 2026** must be done through the **ISU Online Registration System (ORS)** by the deadline indicated. Hotel and travel information should also be entered into ORS, as well as bank information. Declarations will need to be uploaded to the ORS as well.

4.2 Preliminary Entries

The preliminary entries must reach the Organizer by latest: **Wednesday, July 15, 2026** by entering the information through ORS.

4.3 Entries by Name

4.3.1 Entries of Competitors

Each ISU Member may nominate up to three (3) competitors / couples for each event at the **Kinoshita Group Cup 2026**. In accordance with the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27, the participation of the host member is not limited.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries in case of overcrowding to 24 Men and 24 Women, 15 Pairs and 15 Ice Dance couples. In case of a higher number of entries, the Organizing Committee may limit the number of final entries available for members. If the Organizing Committee must limit these numbers, priority will be given to those countries who have completed the preliminary entry.

The Entries by names must be made via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS):

<https://fsk-ors.isu.swisstiming.com>

and will be submitted via the ORS simultaneously to the:

Japan Skating Federation
Organizing Committee Kinoshita Group Cup 2026
Tomoko Doi (Ms)
e-mail: jst-figure-events@skatingjapan.or.jp

and to:

ISU Office
e-mail: entries@isu.org

not later than: **Friday, August 7 – 20:00 (JST)**.

4.3.2 Entries of Judges

Each participating ISU Member has the right to nominate one judge per discipline who has at least the qualification “Judge for International Competitions”.

In case of too many nominated judges, the organizer will draw the panel of judges immediately after the closing date for the entries. The result of such draw will be communicated to all ISU Members involved in writing immediately after the conclusion of such draw.

The Entries of Judges must be made via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS) not later than: **Friday, August 7 – 20:00 (JST)**.

Each panel of Judges will consist of at least 7 Judges. In exceptional cases and if there is no possibility to compose a panel with at least 7 Judges, the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating may exceptionally authorize the panel in question to have a minimum of 6 Judges.

In case that at the time of the competition more Judges will be available and entered as required to compose the panels of Judges in one or more disciplines, the Organizing Member in consultation with the ISU will conduct on site, a draw for the panel of judges in the discipline in question for the first segment. The Judges, not drawn for the first segment will be seated for the second segment.

The panel for the second segment (Free Skating / Free Dance) will in this case be completed by an open draw amongst the Judges serving in the first segment of the discipline in question.

4.3.3 Entries of Team Members

Official entries of Team Leaders, Assistant Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff, Coaches and the partner or relative of a Judge will be accepted. Accreditation will be provided to those who are officially accepted by the Organizer.

Please be advised that only one Coach per Skater will be accredited. An Assistant Team Leader will be accepted for Teams having six (6) and more Skaters. Only two (2) Team Officials of each Member, including the Member President, provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation, will be accredited. Not more than one (1) Team Doctor and one (1) Team Physiotherapist will be accepted as the Team Medical Staff, for which the organizer requests the right to have a medical certification (document) presented before accreditation. An accompanying person to a Judge will only be accepted for accreditation if this person is a partner in life or a relative of the Judge. The Member Federations guarantee that the requested accreditation of Team Members will correspond to their function within the team and the Federation.

The names of all team members must be submitted via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS) and must reach the Organizing Committee and the ISU Office not later than: **Friday, August 7 – 20:00 (JST)**.

4.4 Entry Fee

With the entry to the competition, the entry fee must be paid as follows:

14,000.00 JPY per single skater
20,000.00 JPY per pair or ice dance couple

The entry fee will not be refunded in case of withdrawals for any reason.

After the entry deadline on **Friday, August 7, 2026** an invoice for the entry fees per skater / couple will be sent by the Organizing Committee to the ISU Member Federation having competitors entered in ORS. The payment of the invoice must be completed no later than 5 days after the invoice was received. Missing the payment deadline may result in a higher entry fee or in the deletion of the entries from the entry list.

5. APPOINTED EVENT OFFICIAL

This Challenger Series in Figure Skating event will follow the requirements of the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as CER Article 14.2.1, ISU Communication 2780 and principles of Rule 420, paragraph 5.a) of the ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026 for appointing the Event Officials.

The members of each individual Technical Panel (Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists) will not be from the same ISU Member. At least two Technical Panel members will have the qualification "ISU", however one of the three members may have the qualification "International".

The Referee will have at least the qualification "International" and could be of the same ISU Member as one member of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller and Technical Specialists).

The Data Operator and the Replay Operator will have at least the qualification "International".

6. MEALS, LODGING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

The organizer will provide and cover the expenses for rooms and meals for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, the Data and Replay Operators and the Judges participating, beginning with dinner on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**, until breakfast on **Monday, September 7, 2026**.

Should any of the above-mentioned persons arrive at the hotel before or stay longer than the period described above, their room costs and expenses will be the responsibility of the individual and must be paid on arrival.

The Organizing Committee will cover the costs for travel expenses for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, and the Data and Replay Operators.

In accordance with the General Announcement for the Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27 as well as ISU Communication 2780, all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialist, the Data and Replay Operators and Judges officiating in the "senior" competitions of a Challenger Series in Figure Skating event will, at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive pocket money of USD 250.00 or the equivalent in the local currency.

7. PRACTICE

Official practice for Competitors begins on **Thursday, September 3, 2026**. The detailed schedule will be issued at the time of registration.

8. MUSIC / PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT

In accordance with Rule 343 the following method to submit the Competitor's music to the Organizing Committee must be followed:

The ISU Member is responsible for submitting their competitor's music as direct attachment to an email to the Organizing Committee (**music@skatingjapan.or.jp**) until **Monday, August 24, 2026 – 20:00 (JST)**.

Please note:

Some music files might exceed the size of a regular email. In this case, an email-based transfer service which allows to send large files could be used to send the file to the OC.

Each submission shall be labelled with the name of the ISU Member, name of the category, segment and the name(s) of the competitor(s):

Example:

GER_Men_SP_MUSTERMANN-Max

GER_Men_FS_MUSTERMANN-Max

SUI_Pairs_SP_MUSTERMANN-Erika_MUSTERMANN-Max

Files in MP3 format may have a significant difference in the music quality when reproduced. The Organizing Committee in this case is not responsible if the music quality would be insufficient.

Each Competitor must have an own back-up drive (USB Stick) for each program in the format of a WAV or MP3 file.

The exact running time of the music (not skating time) must be communicated to the Organizing Committee when submitting the music and shall be certified by the Competitor/Coach/Team Leader at the time of registration.

During the first practice a skater/couple is attending, the music will be played as indicated in the Practice Schedule and will allow to verify the correctness of the submitted music. If there is an issue with the music, the Team Leader/Coach may be allowed to change the music by presenting an acceptable reproduction to the Organizing Committee's Music Team (USB Stick with file format of WAV or MP3 file).

If the music files have been submitted within the above-mentioned deadline to the Organizing Committee, then the music team of the Organizing Committee is entirely responsible for the correct execution of the music. In case of issues with submitted music files the Organizing Committee may request at the time of registration a secondary copy of the music files.

In case the music files have not been submitted in time to the Organizing Committee, the skater(s) must present their music latest at the time of registration on the above defined mean and in the defined format.

No accreditation card will be issued to any competitor the skater until the music files have been received and confirmed by the Organizing Committee.

Please note: CDs will not be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

The titles, composers, and orchestras of the music to be used for the Short Program and Free Skating Program for Singles and Pairs, for the Rhythm and Free Dance Program for Ice Dance must all be entered, in detail, by the ISU Member or the Skater(s) on the ISU PORTAL.

If music information is not complete and/or the music is not provided, accreditation will not be given.

The "Program Content Sheet" must also be submitted before the competition via the ISU PORTAL. It is mandatory that the Program Content Sheet be filled in precisely by each Skater/team in English using the terminology for the elements listed in the respective ISU Communication.

It is not permitted to hand over the Program Content Sheets directly to the acting Officials.

9. ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS / TEAMS

The nearest airport to **Tokyo Tatsumi Ice Arena** is **Tokyo Haneda Airport (HND)** with a distance of **20 km** and **Narita Airport (NRT)** with a distance of **65 km** to the official hotel.

For details regarding airport transportation please refer to the First Information document.

All Referees, the Technical Panel (Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators), Judges, Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff and Coaches are requested to announce to the Organizing Committee as soon as possible but no later than **Friday, August 7 – 20:00 (JST)** the name of the airlines, flight numbers, dates and times of arrival or any other information concerning transportation and arrivals. The detailed travel information needs to be submitted via the ISU Online Registration System (ORS).

10. OFFICIAL HOTEL

The Organizing Committee together with the official travel agent JTB will recommend an official hotel in close to the competition venue of the Kinoshita Group Cup 2026. For the hotel details as well as booking, payment and cancellation procedures please see the details in the First Information document.

For all Referees, the Technical Panel (Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators) and Judges the Organizing Committee will book hotel accommodations in the official hotel in accordance with the arrival and departure information provided in ORS no later than **Friday, August 7 – 20:00 (JST)**.

11. ACCREDITATION

The official accreditation for Teams is planned at the hotel on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026** upon arrival.

Accreditation as a Team Member will be given to all entered Judges, Competitors, and one Team Leader per participating team, one Coach per Competitor, a maximum of two Team Officials of ISU Members (including the Member President), provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation, and a maximum of two medical persons. Accreditation will only be granted to persons in those various functions if officially entered and named through their ISU Member. **The ISU Member certifies with the signed entry form the indicated functions within the team of all team members. Any misuse of any function will be sanctioned by the ISU/OC.**

Accreditation will be given to appointed Event Officials and Guests.

Chaperons will not receive accreditation. Chaperones must purchase event tickets onside to enter the competition venue.

12. RESULTS

The marking system (ISU Judging System) as described in ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, Rule 352 and Rule 353 be used.

13. PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AND PRIZES

The three best placed Skaters/Couples in each event will be announced and honoured. The winners in each category will receive a victory cup by the Kinoshita Group. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to the medallists. The national anthem of the winner will be played and the flags of the medal winners hoisted.

14. INSURANCE / LIABILITY

In accordance with Article 17.3, it is the sole obligation 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 of the ill or injured person to the home country by air transport or by other expeditious. It is an internal matter of each ISU Member to decide the issue who shall pay the premium for such insurance.

The ISU and the Organizing Committee assume no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property damage incurred by Competitors or Officials in connection with the event.

15. EXHIBITION

There is no Exhibition held at the Kinoshita Group Cup 2026.

16. MEETINGS FOR ISU EVENT OFFICIALS AND JUDGES

All Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators and Judges are responsible to make their travel arrangements in order to be able to attend the respective event related meetings. If any other party makes the flight arrangements, the Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators and the Judges are responsible to check if such arrangements are in line with the detailed schedule as mentioned under paragraph 18.

17. INFORMATION AND VARIOUS

For information, please contact the Organizing Committee:

Japan Skating Federation
Organizing Committee
Kinoshita Group Cup 2026
Tomoko DOI (Ms)
e-mail: jsf-figure-events@skatingjapan.or.jp

18. EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, September 2	All day	Official Arrival Day
Thursday, September 3	All day	Official practice
	10:30	Team Leaders Meeting
	TBA	Technical Panel Meeting – MEN
	TBA	Technical Panel Meeting – WOMEN
	TBA	Technical Panel Meeting – PAIRS
	TBA	Technical Panel Meeting – ICE DANCE
	19:30	Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting
	20:00	Initial Judges Meeting
Friday, September 4	15:15	MEN – Short Program WOMEN – Short Program
Saturday, September 5	15:00	PAIRS – Short Program ICE DANCE – Rhythm Dance MEN – Free Skating Victory Ceremony MEN Technical Panel Review Meeting – MEN
Sunday, September 6	10:00	Judges Round Table Discussion – MEN
	12:00	PAIRS – Free Skating Technical Panel Review Meeting – PAIRS ICE DANCE – Free Dance Victory Ceremonies ICE DANCE and PAIRS Technical Panel Review Meeting – ICE DANCE WOMEN – Free Skating Victory Ceremony WOMEN Technical Panel Review Meeting – WOMEN Judges Round Table Discussion – PAIRS Judges Round Table Discussion – ICE DANCE Judges Round Table Discussion – WOMEN
Monday, September 7	All day	Official Departure Day

Please note:

This schedule is subject to changes and will be updated in accordance with the final number of entries.

FORMS AND DEADLINES

Where?	Item	Deadline
ORS	Preliminary Entries	Friday, 15.07.2026
ORS	Entry by Name for Competitors	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Entry by Name for Judges	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Entry by Name Delegation Members	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Hotel Reservation	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Travel Details	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Bank Transfer	Friday, 07.08.2026
ORS	Declaration Form	Friday, 07.08.2026
ISU Portal	Press Information	Friday, 07.08.2026
ISU Portal	Competition Music Information	Friday, 07.08.2026
ISU Portal	Planned Program Content	Friday, 07.08.2026
FORM	Visa Application Request	ASAP
E-Mail	Music File Submission - e-mail: music@skatingjapan.or.jp	Monday, 25.08.2026