



Challenger Series in Figure Skating 2026/27



34th Nepela Memorial

Bratislava, Slovakia

September 24th – September 27th 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

34th Nepela Memorial

An International Senior Competition

for

Men, Women and Ice Dance

organized by

Slovak Figure Skating Association

Bratislava, Slovakia

September 24th – September 27th 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 **34th Nepela Memorial** 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 **34th Nepela Memorial** 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 **34th Nepela Memorial** 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: Ondrej Nepela Arena, Odbojárov 9, Bratislava (an indoor ice-rink with an ice surface of 28 x 60 m, air-conditioned and heated)
	Practice arena: Ondrej Nepela Arena – practice rinks, Odbojárov 9, Bratislava (an indoor ice-rink with an ice surface of 26 x 56 m, air-conditioned and heated)
	Main and Practice Rinks are in the same complex.

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.
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.

Please note that PAIRS event during **34th Nepela Memorial** will not be the part of ISU Challenger Series. For more details on Pairs event please check the separate announcement.

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 **34th Nepela Memorial**, 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: **5th of August 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 **34th Nepela Memorial**. 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, 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:

Slovak Figure Skating Association

Záhradnícka 95

821 08 Bratislava

e-mail: slovaskskating@kraso.sk

and to:

ISU Office

e-mail: entries@isu.org

not later than: **Friday, 28th of August 2026 – 20:00 h (local time in Bratislava)**.

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, 28th of August 2026 – 20:00 h (local time in Bratislava)**.

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, 28th of August 2026 - 20:00 h (local time in Bratislava).**

4.4 Entry Fee

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

70.00 € per single skater
100.00 € per ice dance couple

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

The invoice will be issued to the ISU Member Federation having competitors entered in ORS. All bank charges are taken by the payer.

Entry fee must be paid no later than **28th of August 2026.**

Account owner: Slovak Figure skating Association
Account No: IBAN SK04 0200 0000 0017 8827 9653
SWIFT code: SUBASKBX
Variable Symbol: 25092026
Note for recipient: Name of federation / Association or skater/ couple

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 the 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 **Thursday evening 24th of September 2026** until breakfast on **Monday morning 27th of September**.

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 Specialists, 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 24th**. The detailed schedule will be issued at the time of registration.

8. MUSIC / PLANNED PROGRAM CONTENT

In accordance with Rule 343 in the ISU Sports Rules Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2026, 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 a direct attachment to an email to the Organizing Committee (**music.nepela@gmail.com**) until **Monday, 14th of September 2026 (local time in Bratislava)**

Please note:

Some music files might exceed the size of a regular email. In this case, an email-based transfer service that 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

The music files must be sent as **WAV or MP3** file formats. Any other format is not acceptable.

Please note:

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 is insufficient.

Each Competitor must have their own backup 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 1st Official Practice, 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 at the latest at the time of registration on the above-mentioned means 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.

ISU Members/Skaters are reminded that, for them to use music to accompany their routines, the following 'Music Accompaniment' rights/licenses are required:

- the right to edit or adapt music into a mix, if more than one song is being used.
- the right to set choreography to the music, often referred to as a 'Grand Right', which is the right to perform musical compositions and recordings within the context of a "dramatic work" or choreography.
- the right to create any copies of the music that may be needed for training and competition purposes, also known as the 'mechanical rights'.

For a music to be fully cleared for these uses, these rights need to be cleared for each and every track used in each mix that contains a license (backed by a warranty and legal indemnity) for appropriate territory(s) that covers both the master rights of the recording artist and the publishing rights of each individual writer and composer of the track.

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

The Planned Program Content must also be entered by the ISU Member or the Skater(s) on the dedicated ISU platform. It is mandatory that the Program Content information be filled in precisely by each Skater/team in English using the terminology for the elements listed in the respective ISU Communication.

Program Content Sheets must not be submitted directly to any appointed Event Official.

9. ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS / TEAMS

The nearest airport to **Bratislava** is **Bratislava Airport (BTS)** with a distance of **10 km** to the official hotel. Another travel option is arrival to **Vienna Airport (VIE)** with a distance of **65 km** to the official hotel.

Transportation fee per person from **Bratislava** to the official hotel: **15 €**

Transportation fee per person from **Vienna Airport** to the official hotel: **30 €**

The Organizing Committee provides a shuttle to meet the teams on arrival. Please accept that the Organizing Committee has to ask for a small transportation fee from all persons participating in this shuttle service. Please inform the Organizing Committee together with your entry whether you will be using the transportation offered.

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, September 4th** 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).

OC does not provide shuttle bus for practice rink and competition – walking distance from the official hotel is only 200 m.

10. OFFICIAL HOTEL(S)

HOTEL ADDRESS

DoubleTree by Hilton Bratislava****

Trnavská cesta 27/A

831 04 Bratislava

phone: + 421 2/323 401 11

web: <https://ddoubletree-bratislava.sk/>

Distance from the Ice rink cca 200 m

Single room: 130 €

Double room: 150 €

Hotel capacities can only be booked via the Organizing Committee. Booking requests have to be sent to the organizer by latest **Friday 21st August 2026**. All payments shall be made by **Monday, 24th August 2026**. Cancellation fee of 100 % will be charged after 24th August 2026.

11. ACCREDITATION

The official accreditation for Teams is planned at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Bratislava** 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.

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 honored. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to the medalists. 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

No Exhibition is planned for this event.

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:

Slovak Figure Skating Association

Záhradnícka 95

821 08 Bratislava

phone: +421 918 791227

e-mail: slovaskskating@kraso.sk

18. EVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 23, 2026	All day	Official Arrival Day
Thursday, September 24, 2026	12:00	Official practice
	18:00	Team Leaders Meeting 1
	18:30	Individual Technical Panel Meetings (Men, Women, Pairs – International)
	19:00	Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting (Men, Women, Pairs – International)
	19:30	Initial Judges Meeting (Men, Women, Pairs – International)
	20:30	Opening Ceremony & Draw
Friday, September 25, 2026	6:00	Official Practice
	12:45	Short Program – PAIRS (International), WOMEN, MEN
		Team Leaders Meeting 2
		Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting (Ice Dance)
		Individual Technical Panel Meetings (Ice Dance)
		Initial Judges Meeting (Ice Dance)
Saturday, September 26, 2026	6:00	Official Practice
	12:30	Free Skating – PAIRS (International)
	15:00	Rhythm Dance - ICE DANCE
	17:30	Free Skating – MEN
		Round Table Discussion
	21:30	Victory Ceremony – PAIRS, MEN
Sunday, September 27, 2026	6:00	Official Practice
	11:30	Free Skating – WOMEN, Free Dance - ICE DANCE
		Round Table Discussion
	18:30	Victory Ceremony – WOMEN, ICE DANCE

Please note:

International – Please note that the Pairs event is not a part of ISU Challenger Series 2026/27
This schedule is subject to changes and will be updated in accordance with the final number of entries.

FORMS AND DEADLINES

Number	Form	Format	Deadline
N/A	Preliminary Entry Form	ORS	August 5 th
N/A	Composition of Delegation	ORS	August 28 th
N/A	Entry Form for Competitors	ORS	August 28 th
N/A	Entry Form for Judges	ORS	August 28 th
N/A	Hotel reservation request	ORS	August 21 st
N/A	Travel Details	ORS	September 4 th
Form	Visa request form		ASAP
N/A	Press Information	ISU Portal	Valid for season 26/27
N/A	Competition Music Information	ISU Portal	Valid for season 26/27
N/A	Planned Program Content	ISU Portal	Valid for season 26/27
N/A	Music File Submission – music.nepela@gmail.com	email	September 14 th