

FIGURE SKATING





Figure skating - a winter sport in which athletes move on ice on ice with the implementation of additional elements, most often to music. In official competitions, as a rule, four sets of medals are played: in women's single skating, in men's single skating, in pair skating, as well as in sports dances on ice. Figure skating is included in the program of the Winter Olympic Games.





The oldest skates were found on the shore of the Southern Bug, near Odessa, dated by the Bronze Age. Such skates were made from the phalanx of the front legs of horses.





It is believed that the homeland of figure skating is the Netherlands. It was there, in the XIII - XIV centuries, the first iron skates appeared. The appearance of skates of a new type gave a powerful impetus to the development of figure skating, which at that time consisted in the ability to draw on the ice intricate figures and maintain a beautiful pose.



- All the mandatory figures were created in the UK. This is explained by the fact that it was here that the first skating clubs arose (Edinburgh, 1742). Then the first official competition rules were developed. In 1882, Vienna hosted the first international competition in Europe. The crowns won a convincing victory. The very first edition of the rules for figure skating, published in England, refers to 1772. An English artillery lieutenant, Robert Jones, published *The Treatise on Skating*, in which he described all the main figures that were then known.





Figure skating in Russia has been known since the time of Peter I. The Russian king brought from Europe the first samples of skates. It was Peter I who invented a new way of fastening skates - directly to the boots and thus created a "proto-model" of today's skating equipment



- he name "skates" arose because the front part of the wooden "runners" was usually decorated with a horse's head. In 1838, St. Petersburg published the first textbook for skaters - "Winter fun and the art of running on skates." The author of it was GM. Pauli is a gymnastics teacher in military schools in St. Petersburg. A surge in interest in figure skating came after the European tour of American figure skater Jackson Gaines. He showed the unexpected possibilities of performing swift figures in the graceful movements of the body.





Russian figure skating, as a separate sport, was born in 1865. Then a public ice rink was opened in the Yusupov Garden on Sadovaya Street. This ice rink was the most well-equipped in Russia and from the very first days became the center of training of figure skaters. On March 5, 1878, the first contest of Russian figure skaters took place.



- Official world championships among women began in 1924. Since 1930, the world championships in figure skating for women and men are held together in the same time. Soon there was also a pair (mixed) skating. The international championship in pair skating was first played in 1908 in St. Petersburg, the winners were German figure skaters.



- At the White Olympics in St. Moritz (1948), American figure skater Dick Button literally made a coup. It was with him in the figure skating "prescribed" jumps in a few turns and other acrobatic elements. The button literally flew over the rink. He won a gold medal in solo skating. The Olympic championship was played out in single (male and female) and pair skating. In 1976, the Olympic program included sports dancing on ice.

