

## PREVIEW WOMEN'S 20KM FREESTYLE FALUN – Sunday 17 Mar 2024

### Overall World Cup

- The overall women's World Cup could be decided in this race. There are a maximum of 130 points up for grabs in this 20km freestyle mass start.
- **Jessica Diggins** - the leader coming into Falun - can win the overall World Cup for the second time, after 2020/21. She is already the only non-European woman to have claimed the overall crystal globe.
- **Linn Svahn** can win her first overall crystal globe. Her best result in the overall World Cup classification was a seventh place in 2020/21.
- Svahn can become the first Swedish woman to win the overall crystal globe. Marie-Helene Östlund finished second in 1987/88, behind only Marjo Matikainen.
- Svahn could become the first woman to win the sprint and overall crystal globe in the same season since Marit Bjørgen in 2014/15.
- Svahn (24 years and 99 days on 17 March) can become the second-youngest woman **this century** to win the overall crystal globe, after Julija Tchevalova in 2000/01 (24 years and 91 days).
- **Each of the last six editions of the women's overall World Cup had a different winner: Heidi Weng (2017/18), Ingvild Flugstad Østberg (2018/19), Therese Johaug (2019/20), Jessica Diggins (2020/21), Natalia Nepryaeva (2021/22) and Tiril Udnes Weng (2022/23).**

### Distance crystal globe (if not already decided)

- **Jessica Diggins** has claimed the women's distance crystal globe once before, in 2020/21 (she also won the overall World Cup that season).
- Diggins could join Therese Johaug (5), Justyna Kowalczyk (4), Marit Bjørgen (3), Heidi Weng (2) and Virpi Kuitunen (2) on multiple distance crystal globes on the women's side.
- Diggins is already the only non-European woman to have claimed the distance crystal globe.
- Coming into Falun, three other women were still in contention for this crystal globe: **Ebba Andersson**, **Victoria Carl** and **Frida Karlsson**.
- Andersson and Karlsson could both become the first Swedish skier to win the distance standings (men's or women's). They have both finished second in the distance standings before, in 2020/21 (Andersson) and 2021/22 (Karlsson).
- Carl could become the first woman representing Germany (including East and West) to win a World Cup classification. The best ranking in the distance standings by a German woman is fifth, achieved by Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle in 2005/06 and Claudia Nystad in 2007/08.

## Jessie Diggins

- Jessica Diggins has won five of the eight individual freestyle distance events in the 2023/24 World Cup. She finished second, sixth and third respectively in the other three freestyle distance events.
- Only Therese Johaug (9 in 2019/20, 6 in 2018/19), Elena Välbe (6 in 1994/95) and Marit Bjørgen (6 in 2011/12) have won more than five individual freestyle distance events in a single World Cup season.
- Diggins has won three individual freestyle events of at least 20km in the World Cup, including the last two: in Toblach on New Year's Day (Tour de Ski) and in Goms on 28 January). Only Stefania Belmondo (6) and Julija Tchepalova (4) have won more than three freestyle events of at least 20km in the women's World Cup.

## Other contenders

- Jessie Diggins won five of the eight individual freestyle distance events in the 2023/24 World Cup. **Moa Ilar** (1), **Sophia Laukli** (1) and **Jonna Sundling** (1) claimed one victory each.
- **Frida Karlsson** has won three individual World Cup distance events in the freestyle, most recently in Oberstdorf on 4 January (Tour de Ski).
- The last Swedish woman to win an individual World Cup distance freestyle event on home snow was Charlotte Kalla, when she triumphed in the 10km in Östersund on 15 February 2015.
- **Ebba Andersson** has recorded only one World Cup podium result in a freestyle distance event this season, a second place in Gällivare on 2 December.
- **Kerttu Niskanen** reached the podium in only one of her 93 World Cup starts in individual freestyle distance events, a third place in the 9km pursuit in Val di Fiemme on 8 January 2017 (Tour de Ski).
- The last **German woman** to win an individual World Cup distance event in the freestyle was Claudia Nystad in Falun on 20 March 2009 (World Cup Finals).

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