

PREVIEW MEN'S 20KM FREESTYLE RUKA – Sunday 26 Nov 2023

Pål Golberg

- Pål Golberg won the distance crystal globe last season ahead of Johannes Høsflot Klæbo in second place. Golberg had a 104-point advantage over Klæbo after all 17 events.
- Golberg (8 podiums, including 3 wins) won the distance crystal globe despite having recorded less wins and podiums than Klæbo (10 podiums, including 9 wins) in those 17 events.
- Golberg has won only one individual World Cup event over a distance of 20km or longer: the 20km classic style in Lillehammer on 4 December 2022.
- Golberg's only individual World Cup victory in a freestyle event came in the 10km in Toblach on 4 February 2023.

Other contenders

- Last season, **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** won four of the seven individual World Cup distance events over a distance of 20km or more (2 wins by Simen Hegstad Krüger, 1 by Pål Golberg).
- Klæbo has won four individual World Cup distance events in the freestyle, in contrast to 15 in the classic style (**note:** excluding the 10km classic style in Ruka on 25 November).
- Klæbo tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday 7 November. He was not fit enough to compete in Beitostølen last weekend.
- **Simen Hegstad Krüger** won the only previous men's 20km freestyle mass start in the World Cup: in Davos on 18 December 2022. **Note:** this excludes two 20km freestyle **pursuit** events (both won by Johannes Høsflot Klæbo last season).
- The last non-Norwegian cross-country skier to win a men's individual World Cup distance event over a distance of 20km or more was Alexander Bolshunov in Oslo on 8 March 2020 (50km classic style).

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