

PREVIEW MEN'S 15KM PURSUIT FREESTYLE RUKA – 28 Nov 2021

Alexander Bolshunov

- Alexander Bolshunov won four of the last seven World Cup pursuit events, including each of the last two. Only one of his four wins came in the freestyle, in Val Müstair on 3 January.
- The only male skier to claim three successive World Cup pursuit wins is Bjørn Dæhlie, from 1992 to 1993 and from 1997 to 1998.
- Bolshunov can become the fifth man to claim more than four pursuit wins in the World Cup, after Bjørn Dæhlie (7), Dario Cologna (5), Martin Johnsrud Sundby (5), Petter Northug (5).
- Bolshunov has won seven of the last 11 World Cup distance freestyle events.
- Coming into Ruka, Bolshunov was level with Petter Northug (both 23) in fourth place on the men's all-time list for most World Cup wins in distance events. Only Bjørn Dæhlie (45), Vladimir Smirnov (30) and Gunde Svan (30) have won more.

Other contenders

- **Hans Christer Holund** won the Ruka pursuit in each of the last two seasons. He is the only man to claim multiple World Cup pursuit wins in Ruka.
- The only man to claim more than two World Cup pursuit wins at a single ski resort is Petter Northug (3 in Toblach).
- **Dario Cologna** has achieved five World Cup wins in pursuit events. Only Bjørn Dæhlie (7), Martin Johnsrud Sundby (5) and Petter Northug (5) have won as many.
- Coming into Ruka, all of **Simen Hegstad Krüger** (4) and **Hans Christer Holund's** (2) World Cup distance wins came in the freestyle. Holund won the 15km freestyle world title in 2021.
- The most recent **Russian** man, other than Alexander Bolshunov, to win a World Cup pursuit was Sergey Ustiugov, who won the 15km pursuit freestyle in Oberstdorf (Tour de Ski) on 4 January 2017.

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