

## FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai Slopestyle double for Sildaru at Stubai Freeski World Cup as Ruud rules in the men's

**Kelly Sildaru (EST) and Birk Ruud (NOR) take gold at Tyrolean slopestyle World Cup season opener**

In excellent weather conditions and in the perfectly prepared Snowpark Stubai Zoo on the Stubai Glacier, 24 of the world's best freeskiers dug deep into their bag of tricks in the battle for the first slopestyle points of the World Cup season, but also the last tickets for the Olympics. Although there was no podium for the Austrian team, the hosts can be happy about two absolute top placements with an eighth and a 14<sup>th</sup> place for Laura Wallner and Matej Svancer. In the women's event, Estonian Kelly Sildaru finally got her Stubai double with gold, winning ahead of Sarah Hoefflin (SUI) and Johanne Killi (NOR). It was Birk Ruud (NOR) in a thrilling men's showdown who took the win, flanked by Canadian Max Moffatt and his compatriot Ferdinand Dahl (NOR).

The Stubai Zoo welcomed the freeski athletes on Saturday with bright sunshine and best conditions at 3000m above sea level - perfect conditions for a final day with supportive spectators along the course. It was not only about the first slopestyle points of the World Cup season, but for many riders also about one of the last chances to secure a coveted starting spot for the Olympics.

### Exceptional Estonian talent wins double on the Stubai Glacier

Finally, it worked out with the double for the "wunderkind" from Estonia: In qualification only defeated by Switzerland's Mathilde Gremaud, who got injured in the second final run, the 19-year-old **Kelly Sildaru** seemed unstoppable despite a broken thumb.

After the Estonian hurt herself in last year's warm up before the final, she once again affirmed how much the Stubai snow suits her after victory in 2018. With two near-perfect runs, she left the competition behind in a thrilling final - in addition to the best kicker performances, it was also the absolutely impressive rail lines that put her first spot with an eight-point advantage over the runner-up.

*„I'm super stoked. The last two years haven't been easy for me, I haven't been competing too much. So I'm happy to be back here and even competing with a broken thumb or hand, so I'm more than just happy! Last year I got hurt during the warm-up before the finals, so I was quite pissed because I always like the course here in Stubai. So I'm happy to be here today and I won it.“*

**(Kelly Sildaru, EST)**

She left the Swiss Olympic champion **Sarah Hoefflin** and last year's runner-up, Norway's **Johanne Killi**, behind.

### Norwegian Birk Ruud reins in gripping final

In a final that left everything open until the very end, it was the strong all-rounder Birk Ruud who triumphed in the end. With an almost flawless first run, the Norwegian deservedly took the title on the Stubai Glacier, despite a fall in the second attempt. The 21-year-old collected an important 87.6-point lead with a perfect kicker line in the first run. Hence, the 2-time Big Air X-Games and World Cup winner also proved his class in Slopestyle.

Canada's Max Moffatt, known for his creative rotations and grabs, followed closely behind, and in the second run he once again improved his performance and came in second, just 1.3 points behind the winner. Last year's third-place finisher, Ferdinand Dahl from Norway, seems to feel comfortable on the bottom step of the podium and deservedly took his third podium place overall on the Stubai Glacier with a super stylish kicker performance and perfect rail lines, especially in the second run.

*"It feels amazing. I am very happy with my skiing. Finally, my second win in the Slopestyle, it feels really good, and I'm stoked for all the boys, they killed it up there. The weather's been perfect here in Stubai all days long. I might be on cloud nine with this second podium of the season, but I try to stay grounded; that's very important and there's always the next competition coming up. So now I'll celebrate this one and then it's over to the next one, but I'm super happy and want to thank my team. Much love!"*

**(Birk Ruud, NOR)**

29 women and 57 men had started in the qualification on Friday, the 8 top women and 16 best men made the cut for the final on Saturday. Two runs - with the better one counting- were on the program. A maximum score of 100 points could be achieved. In slopestyle, it is not only the difficulty of the tricks that sets the tone for the evaluation, but also the individuality, versatility and creativity of the runs are considered by the ten judges for the scoring. The quite challenging, 500-meter-long slopestyle course demanded a lot from the athletes, but also made them perform at their best. Creative runs and absolute top performances were on display throughout the thrilling finals.

For the freeskiers there is now a short World Cup break. On January 8, the next stop will be overseas, where the athletes get another chance for more slopestyle world cup points and the last tickets for the Olympics.

## Results FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai 2021, 20.11.2021

### Women

1. Kelly Sildaru (EST) – 88,68 points
2. Sarah Hoefflin (SUI) – 80,30
3. Johanne Killi (NOR) – 78,32
4. Kirsty Muir (GBR) – 74,46
5. Maggie Voisin (USA) – 63,03
6. Mathilde Gremaud (SUI) – 50,79
7. Megan Oldham (CAN) – 36,97
8. Laura Wallner (AUT) – 15,12

### Men

1. Birk Ruud (NOR) – 87,60 points
2. Max Moffatt (CAN) – 86,26
3. Ferdinand Dahl (NOR) – 86,06
4. Hunter Henderson (USA) – 83,74
5. Christian Nummedal (NOR) – 80,23
6. Oliwer Magnusson (SWE) – 79,24
7. Chris McCormick (GBR) – 78,18
8. Jesper Tjader (SWE) – 78,10

More information at [www.stubaifreeskiworldcup.com](http://www.stubaifreeskiworldcup.com)