

October 23, 2021

Beijing, China

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2021/22, Beijing, China - Day One

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating restarted in dramatic style in Beijing as the first medals of the new season were handed out.

Elistratov reels in brave breakaway to claim 1500m gold while Shaolin Sandor Liu rushes to 500m win in Hungarian one-two

Russia and Hungary dominated the opening day of Men's Finals at the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating session in Beijing, bagging both gold medals up for grabs in the Men's events at the Capital Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Semen Elistratov (RUS) took the Men's 1500m gold in a thrilling final that had to be restarted after he crashed out of the race along with An Kai (CHN), Shaolin Sandor Liu (HUN) and Adil Galiakhmetov (KAZ).

The restart saw An storm to a blistering start, with only Stijn Desmet (BEL) being able to follow, immediately putting metres between themselves and the other skaters.

Their strategy took its toll, however, as Elistratov and Galiakhmetov were able to catch up and comfortably overtake the race leaders with two laps to go. Elistratov came out victorious in the end as he held off Galiakhmetov, who secured his maiden medal in an international Short Track competition.

"Today was a crazy day. I'm feeling very happy with this win," said Elistratov.

"After the crash I thought, oh my god we need to go again. My legs were feeling really tired, but the hard work I put into training has paid off."

Silver medallist Galiakhmetov said: "I'm very happy with my first medal. I can't explain what goes through my mind right now. This medal means everything to the people of Kazakhstan. It's also the first step to the Olympic in Beijing for me."

In the final medal event on Saturday, the Men's 500m, Shaolin Sandor Liu came out on top after both Wu Dajing (CHN) and Jordan Pierre-Gilles (CAN) were disqualified from the A Final because of false-start penalties.

Liu and fellow countryman John-Henry Krueger made it a one-two for Hungary, with Liu leading the 500m gold-medal sprint from the start. Denis Nikisha (KAZ) took bronze.

"It's always a really special thing to stand on the podium together, whether that's with my brother [Shaoang Liu] or with John. Hopefully by winning here it will bring me good luck for Beijing 2022."

With his win, Liu claimed top spot in the Special Olympic Qualification Classification for the Men's 500m, which is based on the best three results achieved at the four ISU World Cup Short Track Competitions this season.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Men 500m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Men 1000m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Men 1500m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Men 5000m Relay](#)

Lee secures dramatic first gold of ISU World Cup Short Track season in Beijing, Maliszewska seizes second chance and Dutch break own world relay record

The ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating season got off to a thrilling start as the first medals were handed out in the Women's events at Beijing's Capital Indoor Stadium - venue for February's Winter Olympics Short Track events - on Saturday.

Reigning world champion [Suzanne Schulting](#) (NED) did not get to contest for a medal in the Women's 1500m Final after sliding into the barriers in the quarter-finals on Thursday.

It proved to be an epic final on Saturday. Short Track powerhouse Republic of Korea were seemingly cruising towards a clean sweep, only for [Kim Jiyoo](#) to crash into [Choi Minjeong](#) in the final corner of the race.

Compatriot [Lee Yubin](#) (KOR) moved up to first place and secured gold in dramatic fashion, leaving [Courtney Sarault](#) (CAN) and [Kristen Santos](#) (USA) to claim the silver and bronze medals respectively.

"I feel sorry for them (Kim and Choi), but I'm also really happy with the result. The team has been really supportive and I've worked hard to be in my best form at this competition," Lee said.

Bronze medallist Santos said: "I definitely wasn't expecting that in the final corner. I was just trying to finish as high up in the standings as I could.

"It's definitely a confidence booster. It's really important to get points on the board every race, because we want to qualify as much of a full team as possible for the upcoming Olympics."

There was plenty of drama in the Women's 500m Final too, as [Natalia Maliszewska](#) (POL) crashed while turning to give away her lead. The 2019 ISU European Short Track Speed Skating 500m champion got a second chance, however, as the race had to be restarted following another crash shortly after.

This time around Maliszewska managed to keep her lead from start to finish. Behind Maliszewska, [Arianna Fontana](#) (ITA) took the silver ahead of bronze medallist [Choi Minjeong](#) (KOR).

“I know how fast I am, but it wasn’t exactly full gas any more after the crash. I think I cut my nose and I was also feeling a bit dizzy, but I was still fast enough to win the race,” she said.

“It’s really good to be back racing. Everybody still seems to remember how to race. I’ve been working hard for the past two years to prepare myself for this season, also with the Olympics coming up.”

There was also late drama on Saturday in the Women’s 3000m Relay semi-finals, when the Netherlands broke their own World record to clinch a spot in Sunday’s A Final.

The Dutch formation consisting of Schulting, [Selma Poutsma](#), [Xandra Velzeboer](#) and [Yara van Kerkhof](#) clocked a time of 4:02.809, having previously set a World best of 4:03.471 to win their B Final at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Games.

“We knew it was possible here. When I looked at our lap times during the race, I was convinced we were going to break it if we were able to maintain that pace,” Schulting said.

“I’ve also got a bit of mixed feelings, because we set the previous record together with Lara [Van Ruijven, who died in 2020 after falling ill during a training camp] in PyeongChang. That was a beautiful race which I’ve fond memories of. But today we also showed that we’re very strong. I’m really proud of our effort.”

Racing in Beijing continues on Sunday from 14:02 (local time), including finals in the Men’s and Women’s 1000m, Mixed Team 2000m Relay, Women’s 2000m Relay, and Men’s 5000m Relay.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Women 500m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Women 1000m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Women 1500m](#)

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating [Standings Women 3000m Relay](#)

Where to watch and follow the ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating 2021/22

Viewers will be able to watch the Saturday and Sunday afternoon (local time) World Cup sessions via their national broadcaster/channel. For countries where there are no broadcasters and for the qualification and repechage races, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). You will find the full list in the Where to watch news [here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the “[Where to Watch](#)” news. You can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

Highlights, clips, interviews, behind the scenes:

YouTube: [ISU Skating](#)

IG: [@isuspeedskating](#)

Facebook: [@ISUShortTrackSpeedSkating](#)

Twitter: [@ISU_Speed](#)

Follow the conversation with #ShortTrackSkating.

For further information on ISU Short Track Speed Skating visit: <https://www.isu.org/short-track>.

ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series events 2021:

[Beijing, CHN October 21 – 24, 2021](#)

[Nagoya, JPN - October 28 – 31, 2021](#)

[Debrecen, HUN - November 18 – 21, 2021](#)

[Dordrecht, NED - November 25 – 28, 2021](#)

About ISU World Cup Short Track Speed Skating Series

The World Cup series consists of nine distances 500, 1000 and 1500 meters for Ladies and Men, Ladies 3000 meters Team Relay, Men 5000 meters Team Relay and a Mixed Gender Relay over 2000 meters.

The competitions have a single distance character and are held in separate sessions over four days. Day 1 and 2 are dedicated to all Qualifying Rounds. Days 3 and 4 the last Qualifying Rounds (if necessary) take place, followed by the World Cup sessions.

For the Mixed Gender Relay Teams (2 Ladies & 2 Men), the Ladies 3000 meters Relay races and Men 5000 meters Relay races a maximum of four Skaters shall compete and must belong to the same ISU Member.

During the Olympic season there are four ISU World Cup Short Track events that also serve at the Olympic qualifying events.