

Ski Jumping - World Championships - Bad Mitterndorf - Men's Individual - Ski Flying (26-27 January 2024)

Stefan Kraft

- Stefan Kraft has won three individual world titles in the normal hill and large hill events in ski jumping, but he has yet to win his first world title in individual ski flying. He took bronze in ski flying in 2016.
- Kraft could become the second man to win individual world titles in ski flying and in the normal hill and large hill events in ski jumping, after Hans-Georg Aschenbach (ski flying 1973, normal hill 1974 and 1976, large hill 1974).
- Austrian men have won four world titles in individual ski flying, but not since Gregor Schlierenzauer in 2008.
- Kraft can become the third Austrian man to win the ski flying world title on home soil, after Andreas Felder in March 1986 and Andreas Goldberger in February 1996 (both in Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz).
- Kraft, who will be 30 years and 259 days on the final day of the individual competition, can become the oldest ski flying world champion. Robert Kranjec currently holds that record (30y-224d in February 2012).
- Stefan Kraft has won the World Cup ski flying crystal globe a joint-record three times, alongside Gregor Schlierenzauer and Peter Prevc (both 3). Kraft won the ski flying globe in 2016/17, 2019/20 and 2022/23 .
- Kraft was the only man to finish on the podium in all six World Cup ski flying events in 2023, claiming the victory in Vikersund (March) and Planica (April). He finished second and third in Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz.

Ryoyu Kobayashi

- Ryoyu Kobayashi can become the third Japanese man to win the ski flying world title, after Noriaki Kasai in 1992 (Harrachov) and Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1998 (Oberstdorf).
- Kobayashi has won individual Olympic gold (normal hill 2022), the overall World Cup (2019, 2022), the ski flying World Cup (2019), the Four Hills tournament (2019, 2022, 2024) but he has yet to claim his first world title in ski jumping or ski flying.
- Kobayashi could join five men to have won individual Olympic gold, individual world titles (ski jumping/ski flying), the overall World Cup and the Four Hills tournament: Matti Nykänen, Jens Weißflog, Espen Bredesen, Thomas Morgenstern and Kamil Stoch.
- Kobayashi's best result at the ski flying world championships was a 13th place in Vikersund in 2022. He finished 16th in Oberstdorf (2018) and 19th in Planica (2020).

Germany

- **Andreas Wellinger** can become the first German to win an individual ski flying world title in Austria. The only podium finish was a second place by Rainer Schmidt (East Germany) in Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz on 16 March 1975 (won by Karel Kodejska).
- Wellinger claimed four World Cup ski flying podium finishes in 2017, but failed to reach the podium in ski flying events since. His best result was a fourth place in Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz in January 2023.
- **Karl Geiger** won the individual world title in ski flying in 2020 and can join Walter Steiner (1972, 1977), Sven Hannawald (2000, 2002) and Roar Ljøkelsøy (2004, 2006) as the only men to have won the world title two times.
- Germany, including West and East, have won a record seven individual ski flying world titles. Norway (5) and Austria (4) are next on that list.

Other contenders

- **Anže Lanišek** and **Timi Zajc** hope to become the third man to win the individual world title in ski flying for Slovenia, after Robert Kranjec in 2012 (Vikersund) and Peter Prevc in 2016 (Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz, with a **record jump** of 244 meters).
- Zajc took silver at the 2022 ski flying world championships in Vikersund. Among all Slovenian men, only Peter Prevc claimed multiple individual ski flying medals at the world championships (bronze in 2014, gold in 2016).
- **Marius Lindvik** won the previous individual world title in ski flying in 2022 and can join Walter Steiner (1972, 1977), Sven Hannawald (2000, 2002) and Roar Ljøkelsøy (2004, 2006) as the only men to have won the world title two times.
- Lindvik (25) can become the youngest man to win multiple ski flying world titles. Walter Steiner was 26 years old when he won his second title (Vikersund 1977).
- **Halvor Egner Granerud** won each of the last two World Cup ski flying events in Bad Mitterndorf/Tauplitz (in January 2023). He can become the second Norwegian man to win the ski flying world titles in Austria, after Ljøkelsøy in 2006.