

PREVIEW WOMEN'S GUNDERSEN NORMAL HILL/5KM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Saturday 27 Feb 2021

General

- This is the first-ever women's event at the Nordic skiing world championships.
- Earlier this season, Tara Geraghty-Moats won the first-ever women's World Cup event, the Gundersen normal hill/5km in Ramsau am Dachstein on 18 December.
- Gyda Westvold Hansen won the Gundersen normal hill/5km event at the 2021 junior world championships in Lahti on 10 February.

Tara Geraghty-Moats

- Tara Geraghty-Moats won the first-ever women's World Cup event, the Gundersen normal hill/5km in Ramsau am Dachstein on 18 December.
- The 27-year-old has been the dominant athlete in women's Nordic Combined for much of its development years and won the FIS Continental Cup overall in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- Nordic combined skiers representing the United States have won four world titles in men's events coming into these championships, all between 2003 and 2009: Todd Lodwick (2), Johnny Spillane and Bill Demong.
- The USA has won world titles in women's events in 13 of the 15 sports currently on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games. The exceptions are Nordic Combined and biathlon.

Gyda Westvold Hansen

- Gyda Westvold Hansen won the Gundersen normal hill/5km event at the 2021 junior world championships in Lahti on 10 February.
- She finished second behind Tara Geraghty-Moats in the first-ever women's World Cup event, the Gundersen normal hill/5km in Ramsau am Dachstein on 18 December.
- Westvold Hansen will be 18 years and 313 days old on the day of this event. She can become the third-youngest Norwegian woman to win a world title in an Olympic Winter sport, after Sonja Henie (first title as 14-year-old in 1927 - figure skating) and Laila Schou-Nielsen (first title as 17-year-old in 1937 - speed skating) in the 1920s and 1930s. Helene Olafsen was 18y-332d old when she won the world title in the women's snowboard cross in 2009.
- Norway has won a record 25 gold medals in men's events at the Nordic skiing world championships.

Anju Nakamura

- Anju Nakamura finished third behind Tara Geraghty-Moats and Gyda Westvold Hansen in the first-ever women's World Cup event, the Gundersen normal hill/5km in Ramsau am Dachstein on 18 December.

- Coming into the 2021 Nordic skiing world championships, Japan had won its last world title in Nordic Combined in the men's team large hill/4x5km event in 2009.
- Prior to 2021, Kenji Ogiwara was the only Japanese Nordic Combined skier to have won individual world titles, in the Gundersen normal hill/15km events in 1993 and 1997.
- Coming into the 2021 Nordic skiing world championships, one Japanese woman had won a world title in any sport at the Nordic skiing world championships: Sara Takanashi won gold in the ski jumping normal hill mixed event in 2013, together with Yuki Ito.

Other contenders

- **Lisa Hirner** became the first woman to win gold in an individual Nordic combined event at the Youth Olympic Winter Games, when she won the normal hill/4km event in Lausanne in 2020.
- Coming into the 2021 Nordic skiing world championships, no medal winner in Nordic Combined at Youth Olympic Winter Games had finished on the podium at Nordic World Ski Championships.
- **Marte Leinan Lund** finished second behind Gyda Westvold Hansen in the Gundersen normal hill/5km event at the 2021 FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Lahti on 10 February.
- Leinan Lund came in fourth at the World Cup event in Ramsau this season.
- **Italy** has claimed 25 podium finishes in women's events at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships: 24 in cross-country skiing and one in ski jumping. Its last medals were for Elena Runggaldier (2nd) in the women's ski jumping normal hill event in 2011 and Arianna Follis (2nd) in the women's cross-country skiing sprint freestyle in the same year.