

PREVIEW MEN'S GUNDERSEN NORMAL HILL/10KM WORDL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Friday 26 Feb 2021

Jarl Magnus Riiber

- Jarl Magnus Riiber won the Gundersen Normal Hill/10km at the Nordic skiing world championships in 2019.
- Riiber can win his third world title, after gold in the Gundersen normal Hill/10km and team normal hill/4x5km events in 2019. Eric Frenzel was the other skier to win two world titles in 2019.
- Bjarte Engen Vik (5) and Fred Børre Lundberg (3) are the only Norwegian skiers to have won more than two world titles.
- Riiber is leading this season's World Cup standings. In 2019, he also came into the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships as leader in the World Cup standings.
- Riiber won the most recent individual World Cup event in Oberstdorf, the Gundersen large hill/10km event on 26 January 2020.

Vinzenz Geiger

- Local hero Vinzenz Geiger from Oberstdorf hopes to win his first world title. He has one silver medal at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships: a second place in the team normal hill/4x5km events in 2019.
- Geiger won four individual World Cup events this season, including two normal hill/10km events in Ramsau am Dachstein last December.
- Germany has won the Gundersen normal hill/10km in three of the last five FIS Nordic World Ski Championships: Eric Frenzel in 2011 and Johannes Rydzek in 2015 and 2017.
- Germany failed to claim a medal in this event in 2019. It won all three medals in this event in 2017: Rydzek (1st), Frenzel (2nd), Björn Kircheisen (3rd).

Akito Watabe

- Akito Watabe could win the first world title for Japan since it won the team large hill/4x5km in 2009. Watabe was one of Japan's skiers in that event.
- Watabe could become the fourth Japanese man to win multiple world titles, after Kenji Ogiwara (4), Masashi Abe (2) and Takanori Kono (2).
- Ogiwara is the only Japanese Nordic combined skier to have won individual world titles. He won the Gundersen normal hill/15km events in 1993 and 1997.
- Watabe has won a total four medals at FIS Nordic World Ski Championships (G1-S1-B2). He can join Ogiwara (G4-S0-B1) on a record five medal among Japanese men.

Other contenders

- **Eric Frenzel** has won a record seven gold medals at Nordic skiing world championships, one more than Johannes Rydzek (6).
- Frenzel won the Gundersen normal hill/10km event in 2011. Since this event returned to the programme of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in 2009, only Rydzek (2) has won this event multiple times.
- Frenzel also is the most decorated man in FIS Nordic World Ski Championships history with 15 medals: G7-S6-B2.
- Frenzel can win a medal at seven FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, something that has been achieved by only two men: Björn Kircheisen and Magnus Moan.
- **Johannes Rydzek** has won six world titles, one behind record holder Frenzel (7).
- Rydzek is the only skier to have won the Gundersen normal hill/10km event multiple times FIS Nordic World Ski Championships since it returned to the programme in 2009, in 2015 and 2017.
- **Fabian Rießle** has won three world titles, all in team events. He has also claimed one silver medal, also in a team event.
- Six athletes have won four or more world titles at the Nordic skiing world championships. All six of these men won at least one individual world title.
- **Ilkka Herola** hopes to win the first medal for Finland at the Nordic skiing world championships since Anssi Koivuranta took bronze in the Gundersen normal hill/15km event in 2007.
- The last Finnish Nordic Combined skier to win an individual world title was Hannu Manninen in the sprint large hill/7.5km event in 2007.
- **Johannes Lamparter** can become the second Austrian man to win individual gold at the Nordic skiing world championships, after Bernard Gruber in the Gundersen large hill/10km in 2015.