

## PREVIEW MEN'S INDIVIDUAL NORMAL HILL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PLANICA – Saturday 25 Feb 2023

### Halvor Egner Granerud

- Halvor Egner Granerud hopes to win his first gold medal in a ski jumping event at the (Nordic ski) world championships.
- Granerud has won 10 individual World Cup events this season and claimed 15 podium finishes, but these were all in large hill and ski flying events. He skipped the only normal hill event in this World Cup season, in Râşnov on 18 February.
- Granerud finished fourth in the men's normal hill event at the world championships in 2021. It was Norway's best result in this event since Rune Velta won the world title in 2015.
- Norway has won the men's individual normal hill world title four times (1962, 1966, 2013 and 2015). It won the men's individual large hill event 20 times.

### Ryoyu Kobayashi

- Ryoyu Kobayashi won gold in the men's normal hill event at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. He can become the third man to win the normal hill event at the Winter Games and at the world championships, after Hans-Georg Aschenbach (world championships 1974, Winter Games 1976) and Jens Weißflog (Winter Games 1984, world championships 1985 & 1989).
- Since Weißflog's wins in 1984 and 1985 no man has been able to win the normal hill event at successive major competitions (world championships, Winter Games).
- The last world title for Japan in a men's ski jumping event was the normal hill gold for Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1999.

### Other contenders

- **German** ski jumpers have won the men's normal hill event world title five times, all while representing East Germany. Jens Weißflog was the last German to win this event in 1989.
- **Andreas Wellinger** won the only men's normal hill event in this World Cup season in Râşnov on 18 February. Wellinger took silver in the men's normal hill at the world championships in 2017.
- **Markus Eisenbichler** and won the men's large hill world title in 2019. He could become the second German ski jumper to win world title in the normal hill and large hill events after Hans-Georg Aschenbach (NH & LH in 1974, NH in 1976, representing East Germany).
- Poland's **Piotr Zyla** (2021) and **Dawid Kubacki** (2019) won the last two men's normal hill world titles. The last man who won this event multiple times was their compatriot Adam Malysz in 2001, 2003 and 2007. Malysz's three wins are also a record in this event. The other men who won multiple

world titles in the normal hill event were Hans-Georg Aschenbach (1974, 1976) and Jens Weißflog (1985, 1989).

- **Austria** has won the men's normal hill world title a record six times, most recently with **Stefan Kraft** in 2017.
- Kraft also won the world title in the men's large hill events in 2017 and 2021. He is one of four men to have won at least three world titles in individual events, alongside Birger Ruud (5), Adam Malysz (4) and Aschenbach (3).
- **Manuel Fettner** took silver in this event at the Beijing Winter Games. At the age of 37 he could become the oldest medal winner in this event at the world championships, surpassing Piotr Zyla (34) who won in 2021.

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