

FACTS & FIGURES – Women's Giant Slalom World Championships, Saalbach

- **Women's Giant Slalom World Championship gold medals by nation:** Switzerland (7), France (7), Austria (5), Canada (4), Germany (3), Sweden (3), USA (3), Italy (2), Slovenia (1) Slovakia (1) and Liechtenstein (1).
- In the absence of Mikaela Shiffrin (USA/Atomic) **Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI/Head)** is the only other world championship GS gold medallist in the field, having won in Cortina D'Ampezzo in 2021.
- Any medal in the GS would lift Gut-Behrami into fifth place on all the list of all-time women's world championship medal winners. She currently has nine medals (three golds, three silver, three bronze), including the Team Combined gold she won on Tuesday. Anja Pärson (SWE) and Marielle Goitschel (FRA) sit just ahead of her on the list, with 11 medals each.
- If Gut-Behrami was to win GS gold again, she would be the second Swiss woman to triumph this century, with Sonja Nef (SUI) the nation's only other winner, in 2001.
- The 33-year-old would also become the oldest ever winner of women's GS gold, comfortably over-taking Ossi Reichert (GER) who won in 1956 as a 30-year-old.
- After grabbing four GS World Cup wins last season, and claiming the GS Crystal Globe for the first time, Gut-Behrami has just one podium finish this season, 2nd in the most recent race in Kronplatz (ITA).
- Twice a silver medallist (in 2023 and 2011) **Federica Brignone (ITA/Rossignol)** has the chance to become Italy's first women's GS world champion since Deborah Compagnoni (ITA) won back-to-back titles in 1996/97.
- Compagnoni is currently Italy's only ever women's GS world champion in the 75-year history of the event.
- If Brignone was to win, the 34-year-old would become the oldest ever winner of women's GS gold, comfortably over-taking Ossi Reichert (GER) who won in 1956 as a 30-year-old.
- The women have raced just one World Cup GS in Saalbach since 1988 and Brignone was the victor, finishing ahead of Alice Robinson (NZL/Salomon) at last season's World Cup Finals.
- That was one of four wins for Brignone in her past seven World Cup GS races.
- Five World Cup wins this season (two in GS, two in Downhill and one in Super G) has helped Brignone to the top of the Overall standings.
- Current GS World Cup season standings leader **Alice Robinson (NZL/Salomon)** is aiming to become New Zealand's first ever Alpine skiing world champion.
- The 23-year-old Robinson, a four-time World Cup winner, is already equal with Claudia Riegler as New Zealand's most successful World Cup Alpine skier.
- Robinson won the most recent women's World Cup GS, triumphing in Kronplatz (ITA), her first win since March 2021.
- She has GS form in Saalbach, having finished 2nd in the 2024 World Cup Finals.
- In six career world championship races to date, Robinson has a best finish of 4th in the Cortina D'Ampezzo 2021 GS.

- **Sara Hector (SWE/Head)** can match compatriot Pernilla Wiberg (SWE) by becoming a GS world champion in Saalbach. Wiberg triumphed the only other time the Austrian resort hosted the World Championships, in 1991.
- Hector is the reigning Olympic GS champion but has yet to win an individual world championship medal in 14 attempts. She has two Team Parallel medals (silver in 2021 and bronze this time around in Saalbach).
- Her best finish to date in her favoured GS was 7th back in the 2019 World Championships in Are (SWE).
- Hector has won two World Cup GS races this season, in Killington (USA) and Kranjska Gora (SLO).

- **Thea Louise Stjernesund (NOR/Rossignol)** has the opportunity to be the first Norwegian women's GS world champion.
- The 28-year-old's former teammate Ragnhild Mowinckel (NOR) took bronze two years ago and Andrine Flemmen (NOR) claimed silver in 1999.
- Stjernesund has form in Saalbach, having finished third in the GS at the World Cup Finals in March 2024.
- While she is yet to find the podium this season, she has finished inside the top-10 in all five races, with a best result of 4th in Killington (USA).
- Stjernesund has world championship form too, having won bronze in the Parallel Slalom in 2023, and Team Parallel gold in 2021 and silver in 2023.

- The 21-year-old **Zrinka Ljusic (CRO/Atomic)** may be enjoying the Slalom season of her life (three wins in her past four World Cup races) but she has also enjoyed a breakout GS season, grabbing her first podium, when finishing 2nd in Killington (USA).
- Ljusic could become the first Croatian to win a women's world championship GS medal of any color.

- The 18-year-old **Lara Colturi (ALB/Blizzard)** who has twice finished second in World Cup races this season (2nd in GS in Kranjska Gora and 2nd in Slalom in Gurgl) has the opportunity to become Albania's first ever Alpine world champion.
- Colturi won bronze in GS at both the 2023 and 2024 FIS Junior World Ski Championships. She also took gold in the Super G in 2023.

- **Julia Scheib (AUT/Rossignol)** will head the hometown challenge. She claimed her first, and to date only, individual World Cup podium in the opening GS of this season, finishing 3rd on home snow in Sölden.
- She has finished 6th, again on Austrian snow, in Semmering and 4th, in Kranjska Gora (SLO) since.
- Anna Fenninger (AUT) was the last Austrian GS champion, winning in 2015.

- **Katharina Liensberger (AUT)** was Austria's last GS world championship medallist, taking bronze in 2021.