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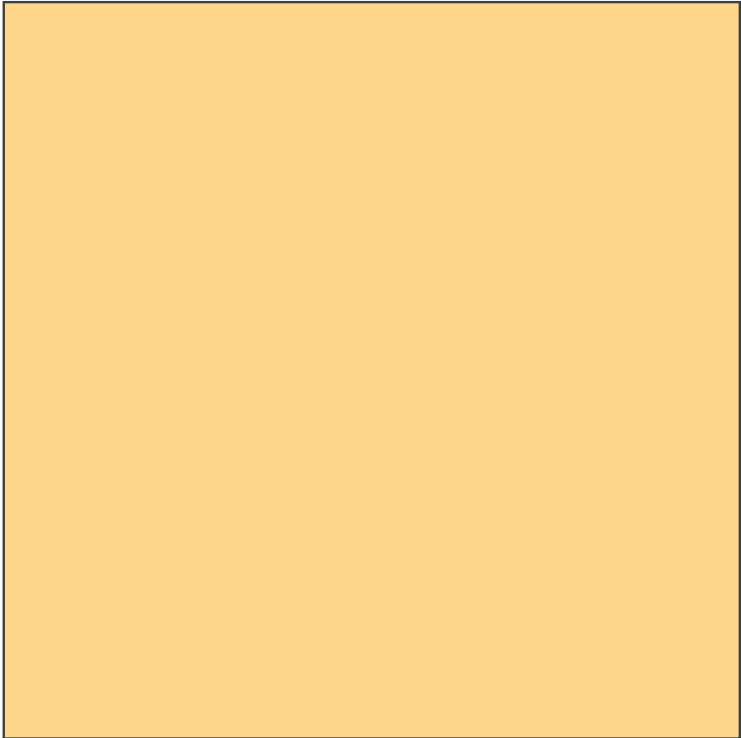
# BULLETIN 2024



**FIS**  
**BULLETIN 2024**

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# INSIDE FIS



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## JOHAN ELIASCH

2024 is a special year for FIS: our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. A century ago, a handful of nations came together to drive snow sports to new heights. Who in 1924 could have predicted how far the federation would go? From 14 members to 140; from three disciplines to 13; from steward of a European sport to champions for a global phenomenon. It has been an incredible journey, and one we have celebrated all year, with FIS100 initiatives across all our platforms and outlets. I am hugely honored to be president of this 100-year-old federation, and will continue to work to ensure that our next century is as successful as our first one.



There's been much else to celebrate this year, not least some spectacular events. One of the most rewarding parts of my role at FIS is to travel to our competitions, seeing firsthand the great job that our staff and organizers have done – and marveling at our athletes' talent and courage. The 2023-24 season provided a feast of memorable moments.

It was a huge pleasure to visit the Winter Youth Olympics in Gangwon, where the South Korean hospitality was as charming as ever. While there, it was great to catch some of the Big Air, Cross-Country, and Nordic Combined competitions, as well as to meet with IOC President Thomas Bach. We talked about how FIS and the Winter Olympic movement can continue to work together to deliver amazing events, as we did so well in Gangwon.

Another highlight was my trip to Bansko for the World Cup. If anyone held any lingering doubts that 'smaller' ski nations like Bulgaria could successfully put on races of this magnitude, Bansko blew those away. While there, I took the opportunity to meet government ministers and discuss our plans for growing snow sports in territories all over the world.

Other standout moments of the season included our Junior World Ski Championships, the Freeride World Tour, the FIS Ski Flying World Championships at Kulm, the Para World Cup, and the FIS Para Biathlon World Championships. These last events were particularly important as they demonstrated just how integral to FIS the Para disciplines are. When we broadened the FIS family to include the Para disciplines, we wanted to



show these events are every bit as compelling as the rest – and this year, that point was certainly proved.

Our work at FIS is about much more than putting on world-leading events. Here, I want to take you through the priorities we've been working on behind the scenes.

The first priority, for me, is protecting our environment. Sustainability is not just a buzzword for us – it is central to our plans for the coming years. Coming from a background of climate action, I know what works, and I have been determined that FIS should make change on this front that is practical, meaningful, and measurable. To that end, this year we published the landmark FIS Impact Programme, our **ROADMAP TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE SPORTS ECOSYSTEM.**

The Impact Programme sets out dozens of ways that FIS will reduce emissions, cut waste, embrace the circular economy, and lead by example. Many of these actions are already underway. At the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Planica, we launched “Snowmorrow”, a programme of online learning sessions to turn young athletes into climate-conscious ambassadors. At the Alpine World Cup Finals in Saalbach, we tested an app encouraging fans to travel in a way that is less damaging to the environment. A Sustainability Guide has been developed for ski resorts to help them to reduce waste and cut emissions, while a new online platform is being developed to encourage climate-friendly behavior in fans' daily lives.

The Impact Programme has timescales for action, and year by year we will set out the progress we have made. For the sake of not just our sports but our planet, I hope you hold us to account on it.

Another top priority for FIS is to look after our athletes. This doesn't just mean ensuring they are able to train and compete at the highest levels or generating the revenue to pay decent prize money. **IT MEANS PROTECTING ATHLETES FROM HARM BOTH ON AND OFF THE SLOPES.**

This is a commitment we take very seriously. It is why we established an Athletes' Health Unit, a central point of contact for health-related topics in all FIS sports. It is why we have joined forces with UNICEF to develop a ground-break-

ing Safeguarding against Harassment and Abuse online training programme. And it is why we have integrated safeguarding training into team briefings at the recent FIS Junior World Championships, ensuring that athletes and officials alike are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to recognize and report abuse. Together, we are working towards a future where every athlete feels safe, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Then there's the priority of expanding snow sports across the world, to all those nations and territories with untapped potential. To make progress on this front, last year we held the first FIS Summit for developing ski nations. Forty-seven countries gathered in Zurich to talk about our hopes and plans for the future – and how all members can play a part.

To show that **EVERY NATION IS EQUALLY SPECIAL TO FIS**, we have been doing important work to support all our members. This includes the launch of Development and Membership Hubs where NSAs can draw from our collective knowledge base through mentoring programmes, opportunities for training camps, coaches' clinics, and more. We have so much expertise and experience across the FIS family; these hubs have been created to harness that wisdom for the good of all. In the same spirit, a new FIS Event Platform was launched to allow World Championship Organisers to learn from each other and ultimately make all FIS events the best they can possibly be.

The final priority I mention here is the one on which all our other work depends: generating financial value. All our events, all our initiatives, all our plans to be the most sustainable sports federation in the world rely to a large extent on our ability to generate significant revenues.

To do this we must be bold, daring – and never complacent. The international sports scene has been undergoing huge change in recent years, with new technologies being pioneered and new expectations raised. **WE NEED TO STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME.**

The FIS Digital Strategy, published last year, is essential to achieving our growth ambitions. With a new app for fans, refreshed website, and the development of FIS TV, we are professionalizing our online output across the board. Already we are reaping the benefits. This year we increased our number of social media followers by 77%, to 2.3 million, while our reach increased by an astonishing 87%, taking us to 206 million users.

Our digital overhaul is just the start. Over the coming years we want to make every aspect of FIS content more compelling and user-friendly, which is why taking control of our media rights is so important. For too long, the FIS approach stopped us from seizing new opportunities. While other sports could create exciting new media products to attract a new generation of fans – such as Formula One's Drive To Survive – FIS was powerless to shape our content and attract more viewers to our sport. That urgently needed to change.

In April 2024 we took a big step towards centralizing our media rights when the FIS Council gave the green light to signing an exclusive agency agreement with Infront. This will enable us to take our sport to the next level, shining a brighter spotlight on our incredible athletes. It provides more stability for World Cup hosts, giving them the certainty and space to plan captivating events. Most importantly, **CENTRALIZATION OPENS THE DOOR TO A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES** in media and content creation. FIS TV will reach into untapped new markets, while the FIS Content Exchange Platform will amplify our social media channels and engage fans like never before.

The critical point about centralization is that it will not only work for our World Cup hosting nations; the entire FIS Family will benefit. The agreement comes with a CHF 30 million payment, which we will distribute equally to all full members. Together, we will harness the power of centralization to propel snow sports into a new and exciting era.

In conclusion, this year has been as much about looking forward to the coming decades as it has been about celebrating our past. We are determined to lead the way on sustainability, to safeguard the well-being of every athlete, to spread a passion for snow sports around the world, and to generate the value we need to invest in our sports and see them thrive.

**ALL THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT.** It's about FIS, our staff, NSAs, athletes, organizers, sponsors and partners, and fans pulling together, converting our passion for skiing and snowboarding into real progress for our sports. I want to thank each and every one of you who has played your part this season, and implore you to keep working with us on this inspiring journey. Let's make sure our future is as brilliant as our past – and let's do it together.



# FIS MEDIA & MARKETING

## A CATALYST FOR VALUE CREATION AND GROWTH

It has been a very busy year for the FIS Media & Marketing division, with a clear focus on (1) the centralization of the FIS World

Cup media rights, (2) developing and enhancing our commercial partnership program, (3) accelerating the transformation of our digital platforms and content, as well as (4) the further improvement of our international broadcast product.



### SPONSORSHIP/PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership team has been dedicated to the maintenance of our existing partners as well as the acquisition of new, more global commercial partnerships. A newly established Client Relationship Management (CRM) structure and the introduction of a professional Key Account Management System is improving partner satisfaction, loyalty, and trust.

The transformation from a discipline-by-discipline sponsorship approach into a Global B2B2C Platform is in progress, extending FIS partnership's ROI to Digital, Business and Purpose driven value. Sales Intelligence has been enhanced and professionalized by leveraging Digital Inventory, Media, and Consumer data.

### MEDIA & BROADCAST RIGHTS TO FIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2027-2029

The team is also currently developing a global tender (ITT) process for the sale of the international media rights to FIS World Championships 2026 to 2029, to be launched in Q3/Q4 2024, inviting broadcasters and agencies around the globe to make offers for the acquisition of the rights, market-by-market as well as a pan-regional basis. This tender will be crucial to create further competition and maximize exposure, as well as media revenues.



## DIGITAL & INNOVATION

As a follow-up to our centralized digital platform strategy, FIS has successfully implemented the first phase of a new content strategy focused on audience growth and community engagement with the help of new content creators, short-form content, vertical video, and lifestyle- and entertainment-oriented formats.

The new FIS app offers a fan-centric user experience and information architecture with a strong focus on better orientation and customization options, as well as the full integration of video services, including livestreaming on FIS TV. In fact, the first phase of our video platform strategy has deployed FIS TV on the web and as an app, with dedicated presence on Apple TV+ and Android TV.

To celebrate its centennial anniversary, FIS launched the #FIS100 campaign, which includes a digital video series of 17 episodes across all FIS disciplines. Targeted at younger global audiences and featuring selected heroes, this campaign has already reached more than 10 million fans and the full episodes have been watched more than 200,000 times on FIS TV, YouTube, and TikTok.



### FIS 100 - For the love of snow sports since 1924

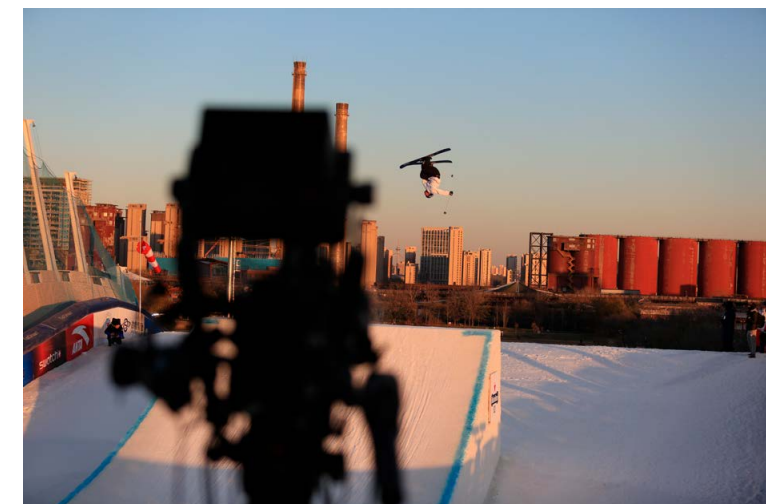
A century ago FIS was born and a journey of growing winter sports around the world began. And what a century it has been: of highs and lows, excitement and emotion, extreme courage and unbelievable drama.

It is a century that has ignited a passion for snow sports across the continents. It is a century that has inspired hundreds of millions around the world to take to the slopes. It is a century which we can all be proud of: federations and fans, athletes and organisers, sponsors and partners.

13 disciplines, 135 member associations, thousands of athletes and their support teams, over 7000 events annually, countless volunteers and one love: snow sports.

On this site we embrace the spirit of togetherness that has brought us here today. And we celebrate some of the best moments of the past 100 years.

#### #FIS100 - Stories from the love of snow sports



## BROADCAST PRODUCTION AND STANDARDS

The overall broadcast production value has been raised for the 2023/24 FIS World Cup season, with a big focus on the collection performance data to generate content before, during, and after each competition. For the upcoming season this will also lead into more extensive use of GPS, motion sensors, and computer vision.

For the first time, a pilot Broadcast Support Manual has been introduced, providing guidelines, for example, for the deployment of drone cameras in our live production. We have also conducted first tests looking at introducing new features in 2024/25, such as on-board video/audio, team radio communications, new camera angles, and enhanced graphic animations.

# A HEALTHY AND FINANCIALLY STRONG ASSOCIATION

REPORT BY STEFAN RUF,  
CHIEF FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

FIS' financial statements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023 were the first ones presented in a consolidated manner, that is, comprising FIS, FIS Travel Service AG, FIS Marketing AG, FIS Academy AG, and Freeride Holding SA. The consolidated and standalone statements were prepared in accordance with Swiss Law and the Swiss Code of Obligation (Accounting Rules) and were audited by PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Bern. They were approved by the Executive Board (the FIS Council), as well as the FIS Congress, in Reykjavik, Iceland, between 4 and 5 June 2024.

## KEY FIGURES

The full remaining revenue of the Winter Olympic Games Beijing 2022 was recognized in 2023, which resulted in a higher operating profit than expected: CHF 31.4 million. After the accounting adjustment for unrealized foreign exchange losses of almost CHF 4 million, some financial gains/losses, as well as some extraordinary and non-recurring income/expenses, we ended the year with a profit of CHF 28.3 million. The profit after special distribution will be carried forward to the next years. Since 2020, the cash position, including all financial investments, has almost remained flat. This demonstrates a healthy and financially strong association.

## FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION

In 2023, an ordinary distribution of about CHF 5 million was paid out to the National Ski Associations (NSAs). In addition, FIS supported the NSAs with a special distribution of CHF 7.5 million and paid out CHF 5 million in prize money, totaling an amount of CHF 17.5 million. The pay-out regarding the Longines contracts amounted to CHF 2.1 million. On 5 June 2024, the Congress voted for EY (Ernst & Young AG, Bern) as auditors for the financial year 2024, which will end on 31 December 2024. We thank PwC for their audit.

Distribution to NSAs and Athletes (Prize Money) [CHF]

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
12´774	12´803	12´809	12´858	12´855	12´843	10´500	15´622	17´360	17´500





FIS Development Program Cross-Country Coaches Education - Val di Fiemme (ITA)

# NEW INITIATIVES, MAKING MORE AND MORE OF A DIFFERENCE

REPORT BY DIMITRIJE LAZAROVSKI, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**“** At every Camp, it is a great and truly rewarding experience to see the interaction between FIS staff, the teams and the athletes among themselves, sharing their mutual passion, all while naturally establishing long lasting working relationships and friendships. **”**

Martijn Oostijk, Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski Development Coordinator

The season introduced significant enhancements to training and educational opportunities through the initiative known as Free Training Days. As a consequence, an additional 2000 training days were made available for all developing countries, allowing the largest NSAs to also participate in various development and educational activities.

The focus was on four key pillars:

1. Athlete training camps
2. Education at all levels
3. Engagements with the NSAs
4. Support of the Non-Olympic Disciplines (including Para snow sports)

To effectively track all planned activities, facilitate communication, and provide useful information to the NSAs 24/7, the FIS Development Department implemented two dedicated communication tools accessible to all members before the competition season:

1. Development Hub
2. Membership Hub

In total, approximately 500 athletes and 200 coaches attended 40 training and

educational sessions. All Olympic and Paralympic disciplines had tailored development sessions designed to enhance athletes' skills. Inclusive sessions were also successfully conducted, bringing together coaches from both the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

Participation from developing NSAs in training and educational activities was nearly 100%: out of 57 NSAs classified as developing nations, 53 utilized the FIS Development programs. An inclusive approach was primarily applied in Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined and Snowboard/Freestyle/Freeski, where NSAs with varying numbers of votes participated in different activities.

The 2023/2024 season also saw the restructuring and rebranding of two programs into more appealing and fruitful activities:

1. FIS Solidarity was restructured into the FIS Start and FIS Plus programs.
2. The Bring Children to the Snow initiative as divided into three programs, with a special focus on World Snow Day.

Under the Membership Hub, FIS Start and





*Each training camp gives us strong emotions. Good relationships are established between the coaches of the various federations and the FIS staff members. Friendship grows stronger year after year. Many of the participating coaches recognize the value of the education we offer them, both in the training camps and in the education camps, and try to put the knowledge they learnt into practice.”*

Alberto Rigoni, Cross-Country Development Coordinator

FIS Plus programs now have their respective sections. NSAs can follow available activities, guidelines, and application forms. All NSAs are invited to participate, and for the first time, the FIS Development Department has tailored activities for the 59 Associated Members, many of which are very active and deserve FIS' attention.

With the increasing number of activities, meticulous planning is more crucial than ever. Starting this season, we will deliver two-year development program plans. The aim is to align with the Olympic and Paralympic cycles, and to provide, by spring 2025, a development activity plan for four consecutive seasons (2026 – 2030). This holistic approach will allow FIS Members to align their national and regional activities with the development plan, visualizing activities over four seasons to provide more stability to national and regional programs.

We anticipate a reduction in athlete drop-out rates at age 16 and a gradual increase in the number of athletes.

Participation in FIS development activities maintain an average ratio of 60% men and 40% women. To promote female participation and foster gender balance, special sessions have been developed, including training activities for female athletes, female coaches' sessions, and online sessions promoting gender balance. The FIS Development Department enforces strict participation policies, often applying a 50/50 gender ratio in athlete selection.

Post-activity reporting is a critical task. From this season on, each NSA can submit a final report on the respective Hub detailing delivered activities. Special reports for each participant are also privately submitted.



◀ Cross-Country session at FIS Development Summer Camp in Planica (SLO)



▲ Ski Jumping session at FIS Development Summer Camp in Planica (SLO)



◀ FIS Seminar 2024 in Portoroz (SLO)



*In the past few seasons, we have modernized our development programs for evolving NSAs, offering more engaging activities tailored specifically to the needs of FIS Members. In the upcoming seasons, a range of new initiatives will be introduced to all NSAs, including more regional events, educational opportunities for coaches and athletes, as well as NSA's professionals, featuring innovative and inclusive concepts such as joint Olympic and Paralympic camps.”*

Dimitrije Lazarovski, Development Program Director



**“***The 2023 development camp season was packed with valuable summer and winter camps, coach training and various opportunities for young ski jumpers and Nordic Combined athletes to get a taste of competition. The experience at different, sometimes world-famous, ski jumping venues is valuable for athletes and coaches. Networking, ski jumping skills on and off the hill, but also emotions and ski jumping lifestyle are at the centre, as well as safety and safe access to our sport.*

*Planica, Rasnov, Bad Freienwalde and Predazzo were the locations at the centre of our development activities. At each location, we were able to count on professional support from the respective organising committees, ski jump crews and hotels. Valuable memories will remain in our development backpack.*

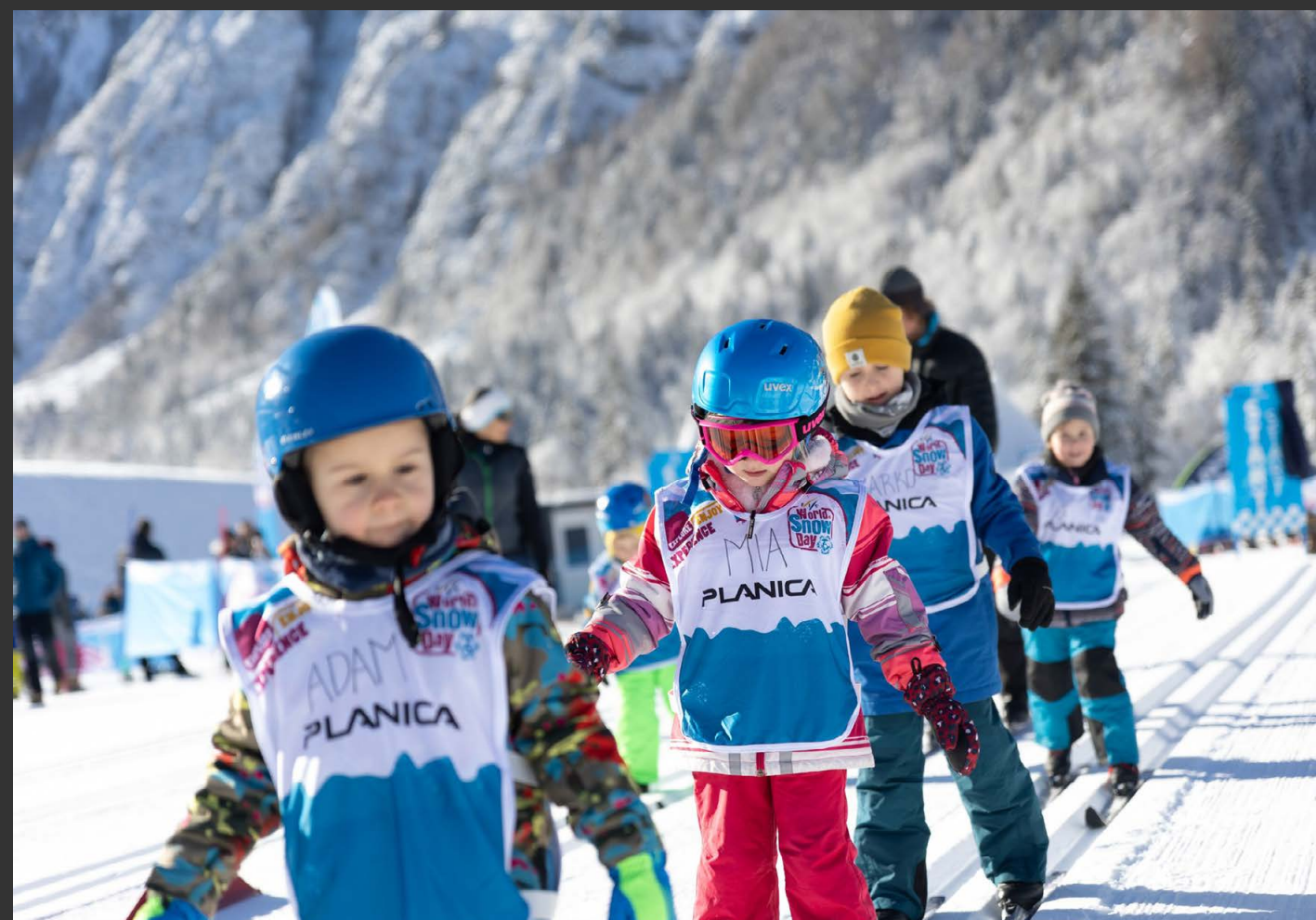
*Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined can rely on great personalities who lead and manage our camps and make great camps possible for all participants. Thank you and keep up the good work in 2024.”*

Berni Schödler, Nordic Development Coordinator

## BRING CHILDREN TO THE SNOW

Over the past decade, the “Bring Children to the Snow” initiative has explored numerous ideas and possibilities to promote snow sports among children, eventually reaching its limits. Active changes and restructuring were necessary to explore new approaches and deliver more appealing activities.

The Snow Kidz program remains open to all NSAs, including Associated Members. Engagement with new stakeholders will introduce innovative ideas to promote snow sports in developing regions. This program will be part of the FIS Start Program, available from September 2024.



“Snow Kidz Shred Parks”, in collaboration with three main partners, will continue to be delivered to NSAs on a larger scale. Currently, Alpine Skiing/Snowboard and Nordic Parks are available. The FIS Development Department is exploring the possibility of increasing the number of available parks due to growing interest from NSAs.

With new additions for Snow Kidz projects and World Snow Day in recent years, we now have over 400 organizers worldwide, between NSAs, ski clubs, ski schools, ski resorts, and other local entities.

The next edition of World Snow Day is confirmed for January 19, 2025.



FIS EDUCATION

Recognizing the importance of education and structuring it appealingly, the FIS Development Department selected Learning Suits out of ten platforms to deliver educational content for all FIS disciplines and NSAs. Furthermore, to manage the education agenda more efficiently, FIS hired a new FIS Education Manager effective May 1, 2024.

These additions will make the FIS Education program available to the FIS family by September 2024, with full implementation expected by spring 2025. The programs will include training for Technical Officials, Coaches, Athletes, and NSA

professionals. FIS is currently exploring opportunities of certifying programs to ensure a stable knowledge base for developing NSAs and their professionals, increasing their overall capacities.

Other activities under the FIS Education agenda include the FIS Seminar and the FIS Summit.

The first FIS Summit took place in September 2023, coinciding with the FIS Technical Committee Autumn Meetings in Zurich. Forty-five NSAs participated in various presentations from different FIS departments. The goal was to bring all developing countries together and provide a platform for active participation in FIS initiatives and the implementation of the newly approved FIS Strategic Plan.

The first FIS Seminar was held during the FIS Technical Committee Spring Meetings in Portoroz, introducing a new engagement format between FIS and the NSAs. This new format replaced the three separate seminars previously held in different locations. Over 80 participants from 70 NSAs attended the first FIS Seminar, organized by the FIS Integrity Department.

The FIS Summit and FIS Seminar will now be held annually during the FIS Technical Committee Autumn and Spring meetings, ensuring a sustainable approach for FIS and all NSAs.

FIS MEMBERS

At the Congress held in Reykjavik on 5 June, FIS was delighted to officially welcome two new Associate Members to the ever-growing snow sports family: Qatar and Guinea-Bissau.



# A LONG-TERM, 360-DEGREE VIEW ON SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT BY SUSANNA SIEFF, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

In January 2024, we announced the release of our newly developed FIS Impact Programme, a sustainability action plan to guide FIS and its key stakeholders through the current and future global sustainability challenges. The Impact Programme has been designed to be a holistic, 360-degree approach to sustainability. Alongside its environmental elements, FIS has also recognized the equal importance of social and economic change and has included several action points and goals on these fronts.

The Programme, which is available [here](#), covers the period 2024-2026 and includes short-, mid-, and long-term projects and goals. It will serve as a roadmap for the coming years, helping FIS to ensure that the next generation can continue enjoy winter snow sports in their natural environment.

The key priorities and goals included in the document will help to engage and lead winter sports stakeholders. At the heart there is the universal principle that we are all a part of nature – and that every decision we make has an impact on the planet. Only by working together can we reduce our impact on the climate, share solutions, and embrace regenerative practices.

A key element of the programme is for FIS to calculate and reduce its direct carbon footprint and – in addition – to support and work with its National Ski Associations (NSAs) and Local Organising Committees (LOCs) to reduce their emissions and minimise their environmental impact. A specific calculation tool and support will be provided starting from October 2024 to help members calculate their carbon footprint, with sustainability options and toolkits developed to then reduce these numbers.

Sport is one of the few global, cultural mechanisms that can drive the social transformation to ensure a safer, fairer future. There is a massive opportunity to use sports' enormous transformative potential and FIS aims to maximize this rare chance to be a positive and inspiring leader in social as well as environmental matters.

Education plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and organisations to address and find solutions to climate crisis-related issues in a consistent and meaningful manner. Through the Impact Programme, FIS has committed to an inclusive approach to developing solutions that ensure future generations can continue enjoying snow sports in their natural environment.

Ongoing projects such as 'Snowmorrow' – a forum held during the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Planica (SLO) – initiate efforts to increasingly involve the younger generation in sustainability issues. The Sustainability Webinar Series addresses various aspects of sustainability with significant impacts on sports event organization. Open and free of charge to NSAs and LOCs, each episode focuses on a different topic with contributions from high-level experts in their respective fields.

Additionally, the Sustainability Training Course Working Group, a core group of 16 experts from 9 different countries, includes representatives from FIS, NSAs, LOCs, former athletes, and sustainability experts. This group provides expertise, validates content, and offers strategic direction for the global delivery and implementation of a sustainability training course available to the FIS snow sports community from summer 2024.





## FIS SPORTS INTEGRITY

# A COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUSIVITY, AND A CLEAN SPORT

REPORT BY SARAH FUSSEK, INTEGRITY DIRECTOR

## SPORT & HUMAN RIGHTS

FIS convened its first human rights seminar in Portoroz, Slovenia, aligning with the FIS Technical Committee Spring meetings. This landmark event was a direct response to member requests, highlighting the growing recognition of human rights perspectives within the global snow sports community.

### A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The seminar, organized by the FIS integrity and development teams, included a comprehensive two-day programme featuring athletes, expert guest speakers, and FIS professionals who engaged in in-depth analyses of case studies, delivered compelling key-note speeches, and shared impactful testimonies. The objective was clear: to foster meaningful, human-centric discussions on creating a safer, fairer, and more inclusive environment in snow sports. Topics ranged from leadership and development to climate justice and safeguarding, as well as safe online spaces.

Throughout the event, FIS specialists collaborated with external speakers to bridge topics between theory and practice, with insights from the Center for Sport and Human Rights, a specialist in diversity and inclusion in sports, as well as from safeguarding and ethics experts. Their experiences and knowledge further enriched the seminar's discourse, emphasizing the importance of these issues within snow sports.



The initiative to organize this seminar originated from a survey conducted by FIS among its member associations. The feedback catalyzed FIS' decision to integrate this platform for awareness, idea exchange, and collaborative efforts across all FIS disciplines. The success of the event signals a promising future for the intersection of snow sports and human rights. As FIS continues to lead by example, it is anticipated that such discussions will become an integral part of its activities, continually driving progress and awareness.



*I thoroughly appreciated the comprehensive approach of the seminar on Strategic Leadership Topics. The incorporation of case studies in Culture, Safeguarding, Fair Play, and Athlete Representation provided invaluable insights into responsible sports leadership. The keynote on Sport & Human Rights was particularly enlightening and thought-provoking. The event's structure, from background and development to reflections on case studies and preparation for the bar camp, was well-paced and engaging. Overall, it was encouraging to see such a concerted effort to address critical issues in sports leadership, and I left feeling inspired to contribute positively to the sporting community."*

Participant to the FIS Seminar



Participants' quotes - FIS Seminar 2024



Mathilde Grenet, safe sport specialist and founder of En Garde, leading a group work



CLEAN SPORT ACTIVITIES AND TESTING  
IN NUMBERS

PROMOTING CLEAN SPORT: Anti-Doping Education  
at the 2024 FIS Nordic World Junior Championships  
in Planica (SLO)

As the Junior Nordic World Championships took place in February 2024 in Planica, a crucial component of the event was dedicated to clean sport awareness and education. This year, efforts were made to educate young athletes and their entourage about the importance of anti-doping measures, a mandatory element of the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standard for Education by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency).



Anti-doping educational booth in Planica

The International Testing Agency (ITA), in collaboration with FIS, led the initiative through education ambassador Florence Schelling, a former winter sports athlete.

The main learning objectives for the education booth were to:

- Raise awareness of the most important anti-doping rule violations, understand why they exist, and to whom they apply;
- Understand the Prohibited list and know how to check medications;
- Be familiar with key doping control terms and roles and understand the key steps of doping control;
- Have a good overview of the urine and blood sample collection process;
- Know what a Therapeutic Use Exemption is and how to apply for one if needed.

ANTI-DOPING IN NUMBERS  
(May 2024 – April 2025)

1213 in-competition tests

2656 out-of-competition tests

# MAJOR EVENTS



# MILESTONES

from

# 1924 – 1973



## 1924 – 1933

**2nd February 1924**

**Chamonix (FRA) : The official birth of FIS**

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS), originally named Fédération Internationale de Ski, was officially established at the 8th International Ski Congress in Chamonix, France, on 2nd February, 1924, that took place during the first Winter Olympic Games.

**1924**

**Meet the President:  
Ivar Holmquist**

Lieutenant General Carl Axel Fredrik Ivar Holmquist was a pillar of the establishment, a chief of the Swedish Army, a passionate supporter of skiing and the first FIS President. Holmquist steered FIS through its first ten years, a tumultuous decade in which the Nordic status quo was challenged by the new Alpine discipline. While he may have started out as an Alpine sceptic, in his role as Vice President of the Swedish Ski Association (1923-46) he was one of the pioneers who introduced

Alpine Skiing to his home nation.

After he handed over the reins at FIS to Nikolai Ramm Ostgaard in 1934, Holmquist became Honorary President, a sign of the high esteem he was held in at the Federation.

**1931**

**Mürren (SUI):**

**A women category included in a FIS World Ski Championships**

The 1930s was a time when barriers for female athletes came crashing down. The first time a women's category was included in the FIS World Ski Championships was in 1931 in Mürren, Switzerland. The championships featured events for women in Alpine Skiing, allowing female athletes to compete at an international level and paving the way for greater gender inclusion in the sport.

**February 1932**

**Lake Placid (USA)**

The last Olympic Winter Games to feature only Nordic disciplines.

## 1934 – 1943

**1934**

**Meet the President:  
Nikolai Ramm Ostgaard**

N.R. Ostgaard was a highly-decorated military officer, star soccer player and passionate skier, showing talent in both Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping.

As a young man he spent several winters as a ski coach in central Europe before beginning a long period of service in sports administration, a journey that culminated with the presidency of FIS. Meanwhile Ostgaard was also carving out a successful military career.

His connection with the Norwegian Royal family meant that when the country was invaded in April 1940, he fled with them to England, thus forcing him to hand the FIS leadership reins to Swedish representative Graf Hamilton.

At the first post-war FIS Congress, held in 1946 in France, Ostgaard expressed regret that he had been unable to fulfil his duties as President during the war years, but rallied the delegates with a call for the Federation to stay neutral on international politics, and the stirring sentiment that "FIS is a big family".

**1936**

**Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER): Alpine Skiing became an Olympic discipline**

Alpine Skiing was included in the Winter Olympic Games for the first time in 1936, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The events served as both the Olympic competition and the FIS World Ski Championships, representing a major milestone in the recognition and global reach of the sport.



## 1944 – 1953

1950

Giant Slalom (GS) is authorized by FIS as a new Alpine Skiing event.

1951

**Meet the President:**

**Marc Hodler**

For almost a century, Marc Hodler was at the heart of the FIS story: fighting corruption, bringing the ski family together, using his diplomatic flair to negotiate with the Olympic movement.

Over the 47 years he helmed FIS, Hodler won an army of fans impressed by his lawyerly eloquence, tough negotiating skills and passion for fighting corruption, as shown most dramatically in his exposure of the bribery scandal surrounding Salt Lake City's bid for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

Reappointed to his post 23 times, Hodler steered FIS through periods of great change, through Cold War tensions and technological revolutions, through the adoption of numerous disciplines and into the very beginning of the internet age, all with great wisdom.

1953

**Germany and Austria: The first edition of the Four Hills Tournament**

The first official Ski Jumping tournament, the famous Four Hills Tournament, took place in the 1952-1953 season, around New Year's. The inaugural events were held in Oberstdorf and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and Innsbruck and Bischofshofen, Austria. The tournament quickly became one of the most important and traditional events in the ski jumping calendar

## 1954 – 1963

1956

**Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA): The first Olympic Games in Italy**

The 1956 Winter Olympic Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo were the first Olympic Games to be held in Italy. After the 1960 Summer Olympic Games in Rome and the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, the Olympics will come back to Italy for the 25th edition of the Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

## 1964 – 1973

1966

**Portillo (CHI): The FIS Alpine Ski World Cup was born**

In 1966 the FIS Family travelled to Portillo, Chile, for the first – and only – Alpine World Ski Championships held in the Southern Hemisphere. The occasion was notable for another reason: it was there that the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup was born. By accumulating points over a whole season, the new World Cup would reward all-arounders, not just specialists. It would allow FIS to establish its own global event, aside from the Winter Olympics. And it would engage viewers around the world like no other skiing competition.

**March 1972**

The first World Ski Flying Championships are held in Planica (SLO).



Gina Del Rio (AND) won a medal in all three individual events.

# JWSC PLANICA 2024

REPORT BY MADELINE NAPPEY

## NORDIC YOUNGSTERS REKINDLE THE WSC SPIRIT IN PLANICA

Twenty-four titles were at stake in the Valley of World Champions, in Planica, for the Nordic Junior & U23 World Ski Championships

### CROSS-COUNTRY

The U20 Sprints opened the competitions and saw Gina Del Rio win the first FIS Junior World Ski Championship title ever for Andorra. Samantha Smith (USA) claimed the silver medal while Mila Grosberghaugen Andreassen (NOR) completed the podium. In the men's race, Lars Heggen (NOR) dominated, with Swedish athletes Anton Grahm and Jonatan Lindberg finishing second and third, respectively.



*Winning three medals in Planica was a big accomplishment for Gina and Andorra. The biggest goal of the week was to do a good race at the skate sprint. After winning the first medal, being on the podium two more times was a bit of a surprise.”*

Xabier Del Val Blanco, coach of Gina Del Rio (AND)

Sonjaa Schmidt (CAN) was crowned U23 World Champion, while Hilla Niemela (FIN) claimed silver and Maria Melling (NOR) held onto third position. A tight fight for the win between the Norwegian athletes Aleksander Elde Holmboe and Matz William Jenssen saw the first one take the victory, while John Steel Hagenbuch secured the bronze medal.

In the 20km Classic, Maria Gismondi brought gold to Italy, while Anniken Sand secured silver and Gina Del Rio (AND) demonstrated her versatility taking bronze. Jørgen Nordhagen (NOR) provided an incredible performance winning ahead of Italians Aksel Artusi and Davide Ghio.

For her first year competing in the U23 category, Marina Kaelin (SUI) took home the gold medal in front of Haley Brewster (USA). Securing the bronze medal, Maelle Veyre (FRA) inspired her compatriot Mathis Desloges to win the Men's competition ahead of Martin Kirkeberg Moerk (NOR) and Fabrizio Albasini (SUI).

The 10km Interval Start brought two titles to Sweden with the victories of Evelina

Crusell and Alvar Myhlback. Perfecting her success, Gina Del Rio (AND) completed her collection of medals obtaining silver, while Anniken Sand (NOR) came in third. Isai Naeff (SUI) secured the silver medal and Mons Melbye (NOR) completed the podium.

For the second year in a row, Helen Hoffmann (GER) took home the gold medal in the U23 category while Nadja Kaelin (SUI), inspired by her sister Marina, came in second position and Maerta Rosenberg (SWE) third. In the men's race, Norway sept the podium with Mathias Holbaek, Martin Kirkeberg Moerk, and Edvard Sandvik.

Finally, in the Junior Relay, Sweden won a thrilling race ahead of Norway and Italy. Canada concluded the Cross-Country U23 World Championships in the best way possible, winning ahead of the French, who snatched the silver medal by a mere 0.1 second ahead of Sweden.





► Jørgen Nordhagen (NOR) escaping from the group to win the 20km Mass Start.

▼ Bernat Selles Gasch (10<sup>th</sup>) is one of the two athletes from Spain qualified for the Sprint Finals U23.



43 nations in total

699 athletes in total

14 nations on the podium

= Equal number of competitions for men and women for the first time in Nordic JWSC

NORDIC COMBINED

The Mixed Team event kicked off the week for Nordic Combined and crowned Germany, already leading after the Jumping event. Japan showed a strong performance, increasing the gap to maintain its second position ahead of Norway.

In the Individual Gundersen Women, the new Youth Olympic Champion from Finland Minja Korhonen took home the gold medal, resisting to the impressive skiing performance of American athlete Alexa Brabec, who was in the 10th position before the Cross-Country race. Ronja Loh from Germany completed the podium.

A bronze medalist in 2023, Paul Walcher (AUT) climbed to the top of the podium while Tristan Sommerfeldt from Germany took home silver and

Jen Dahlseide Kvamme secured another bronze medal for Norway.

The first-ever Women Team Sprint promised a thrilling event, in which Japan delivered an incredible fight against the USA to win the title. Austria demonstrated very strong abilities on the Cross-Country tracks to secure the bronze medal.

Finally, the Team Sprint Men saw the two favorite nations fight for the title until the very last lap. Ultimately, Germany was crowned ahead of Austria, while Norway won its fight against Japan for the bronze medal.





The joy of Hauzki Ikeda and Yuzuka Fujiwara (JPN) winners of the Women Team Sprint Nordic Combined.

## SKI JUMPING

The Individual Women's event opened the week for Ski Jumping, and local athlete Tina Erzar secured the first medal for Slovenia, while her compatriot Taja Bodlaj earned the bronze medal, and Julia Muehlbacher (AUT) got hold of bronze.

On the men's side, the tough fight between two World Cup athletes – Erik Belshaw (USA) and Stephan Embacher (AUT) – crowned the latter for 0.8 points while Adrian Tittel from Germany went home with bronze.

The Slovenian team won the women's team event with a strong lead ahead of Japan and Germany. Austria took home the title in the men's competition while Germany took the silver medal and Poland bronze. The Mixed Team concluded the week with an impressive Austrian team winning gold, Slovenia silver, and Germany bronze.



◀ Stefan Embacher (AUT) concluding the Men Team Event, claiming the victory for Austria.

▼ Taja Bodlaj (SLO) jumping on home soil.





# THE NEXT GEN IS KNOCKING!

REPORT BY LUKAS BRAWAND



Women's Giant Slalom Winner Britt Richardson (CAN) in full motion

The picturesque French region of Haute-Savoie hosted the 2024 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships from January 30 to February 3, 2024, welcoming approximately 600 athletes from 54 nations across five different ski stations. Perfect weather conditions contributed to an excellent atmosphere for the competitions.

This year, six medal events were held for both genders, covering the disciplines of Downhill, Super-G, Team Combined, Team Parallel, Giant Slalom, and Slalom.

Swiss skiers continued to demonstrate their prowess at the junior championships. However, in the women's downhill, Victoria Olivier (AUT) took the gold with bib number 30, finishing 0.01 seconds ahead of Malorie Blanc (SUI). In the women's super-G, Malorie Blanc emerged victorious with an impressive run on World Cup-worthy slope conditions in Châtel (FRA).

On the men's side, the first day of downhill racing also set the tone for a thrilling week. Livio Hiltbrand (SUI) claimed the men's downhill gold, defeating both Italian speed specialists with a perfect run. The men's super-G saw an Italian comeback, with downhill silver medalist Max Perathoner (ITA) topping the podium. Ander Mintegui (ESP) made history for Spain Snow by winning the silver, the first-ever male medal in Alpine

Skiing at the Junior World Championships, while Livio Hiltbrand took bronze.

Both team events showcased exceptional talent and teamwork, turning into spectacular night events with thousands of spectators. In the team combined event in Morzine (FRA), Switzerland Team 1 won the women's gold, while Italy Team 1 secured the men's gold in a closely fought battle with France. The mixed team parallel event in Les Gets (FRA) was another highlight, featuring a Nordic nation showdown in the final. Team Norway took top honors, with Sweden finishing second and Team USA third, beating Canada.



Livio Hiltbrand (SUI)





◀ D. Germane writes history for Latvia with Slalom gold

▼ A. Mintegui (ESP)

▼▼ Team Combined Winner: Norway



The giant slalom and slalom events concluded the championships with thrilling performances. Britt Richardson (CAN) won the highly anticipated giant slalom battle against Lara Colturi (ALB), securing Canada's first and only gold medal. In the women's slalom, Dzenifera Germane (LAT) made history for Latvia with the first-ever Alpine Junior gold medal, capping off a fantastic season as one of the Top 20 slalom skiers worldwide.



The men's slalom was won by Lenz Haechler (SUI), who claimed gold after a challenging week that began with a crash during downhill training. In the men's giant slalom, American Ryder Sarchett delivered a surprising victory from bib number 17, just ahead of Frenchman Alban Elezi Caninaferina and Fabian Ax Swartz (SWE).



▲▲ Malorie Blanc (SUI)

▲ French Boyz after clinching the silver medal in Team Combined.

► Morzine Night Spectacle: Team Combined

► Sunnyboy Max Perathoner (ITA)

Switzerland defended the Marc Hodler Trophy as the best-performing nation at the championships. Despite the swift conclusion with double race days at two different destinations, the organizers and athletes delivered a week of top-class competitions, providing a glimpse of future stars in the world of alpine skiing. Take note of these names, as the next generation is knocking on the door of the World Cup circuit!

▲▲ Ryder Sarchett (USA) from bib 17 to victory in men's Giant Slalom.

▲ Siuuuuu Team Combined Power Couple (A. E. Caninaferina & A. Azzolin).

► Lenz Haechler (SUI) taking Slalom gold



► Highlights Super G Men & Women

► Highlights Downhill Men & Women





# FIS FREESTYLE JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

REPORT BY MATEUSZ KIELPINSKI

Following the thrilling World Cup and European Cup finals, the spotlight returned to Chiesa in Valmalenco (ITA) for the 2024 FIS Freestyle Junior World Championships, held from April 4 to 6.

Chiesa in Valmalenco has a long-standing reputation as the most experienced host in the history of the FIS Freestyle Junior World Championships, marking its ninth time hosting the event this year.

In 2024, the event in Chiesa in Valmalenco showcased an exciting three-day competition program, featuring Moguls, Dual Moguls, Aerials, and the Aerials mixed team event. This set the stage for some incredible sporting battles, deep emotions, and outstanding performances.

Initially, the schedule included the Dual Moguls mixed team event. However, due to challenging weather conditions and significant snowfall, a course rebuild was necessary, leading to the Moguls' competition being rescheduled. As a result, the jury decided to cancel the Dual Moguls team event.

Despite this change, the event remained packed with excitement, featuring the world's most talented young athletes. Fans on-site and those watching the live stream were treated to exceptional performances.

Anhelina Brykina (UKR)  
caught mid-air during  
the aerials competition at  
JWSC in Chiesa in  
Valmalenco



## AERIALS

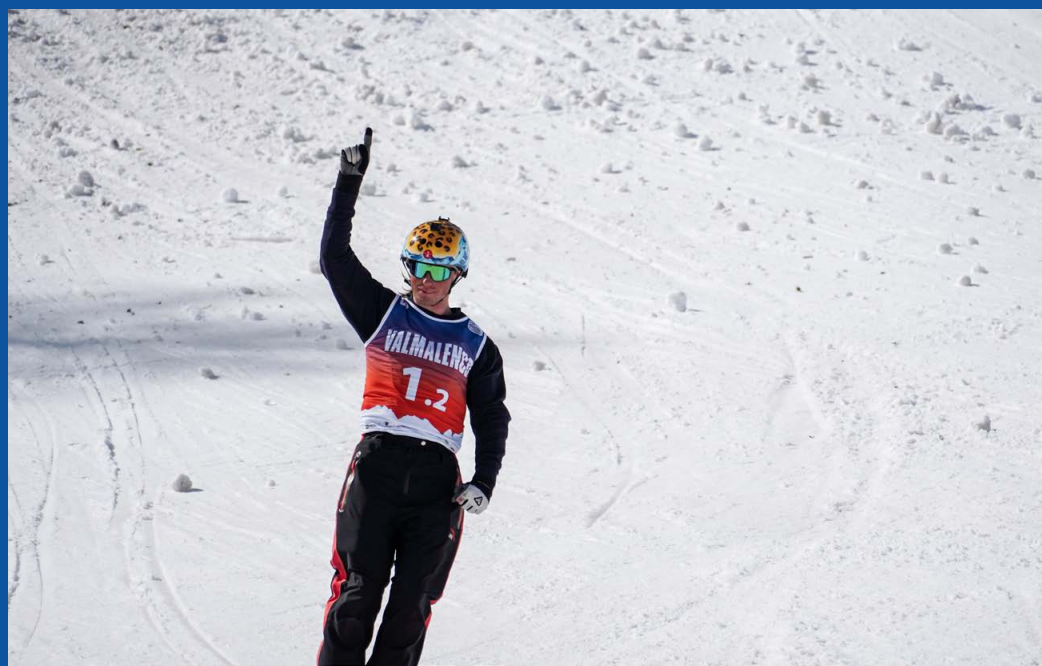
In the women's Aerials event, Jinyi Shen from China won the gold, showcasing exceptional skill on her back Full-Full. Her teammate Xinyi Yang secured the silver medal, making it a great day for the Chinese team.

Anhelina Brykina from Ukraine claimed the bronze with a determined performance.

The men's aerials competition saw Alexandre Duchaine from Canada take the gold with an impressive double Full double Full. Fellow Canadian Miha Fontaine captured the silver with a similarly strong performance.

Connor Curran from the USA earned the bronze, rounding out the podium.

Miha Fontaine putting  
Team Canada in the lead  
in the aerials team event





In the Aerials team event, Canada clinched the gold thanks to the outstanding performances of Alexandra Montminy, Miha Fontaine, and Alexandre Duchaine. The Chinese team, consisting of Jinyi Shen, Yuheng Yang, and Neng Li, took the silver, while the Ukraine's team of Anhelina Brykina, Zakhar Maksymchuk, and Maksym Kuznietsov secured the bronze, adding to the day's excitement.



Aerials podium at JWSC in Chiesa in Valmalenco

MOGULS

In the women's Moguls, Anastassiya Gorodko from Kazakhstan won the gold with impeccable runs. Japanese skiers Marin Ito and Yuma Taguchi earned the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

The men's Moguls' competition saw a surprising victory from Mateo Jeannesson of Great Britain, highlighting the global reach of freestyle skiing. Daeyoon Jung from South Korea took the silver, and Asher Michel from the USA rounded out the podium with the bronze.

In the women's Dual Moguls, Kylie Kariotis of the United States, who narrowly missed the podium in the single Moguls, clinched the gold medal. She edged out Anastassiya Gorodko of Kazakhstan, who had won the single Moguls the previous day. Yuma Taguchi of Japan claimed her second bronze in two days by outperforming her teammate Marin Ito in a closely contested small final.



Anastassiya Gorodko (KAZ) performing a cork 720 during her winning run in single moguls

On the men's side, Ikkei Fujimura of Japan showed remarkable consistency, overcoming Mateo Jeannesson of Great Britain, the previous day's singles winner, before triumphing over Daeyoon Jung of South Korea. Jung secured his second silver medal of the championships, while Mateo Jeannesson added a bronze in the Duals, following a closely fought victory over Asher Michel.



Mateo Jeannesson (GBR) storming to victory in Chiesa in Valmalenco



Dual Moguls podium at JWSC in Chiesa in Valmalenco





# PARK & PIPE JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

REPORT BY CHAD BUCHHOLZ

Photo: Livigno 2024 JWCs Opening Ceremony

**“** Although the weather certainly did not work with us, the OC did a fantastic job providing the events for our young talented athletes. From their side, the athletes showed great performances, defining a bright future for our sports.”

Martijn Oostdijk, Continental Cup and Development Coordinator Park & Pipe

The 2023/24 FIS Park & Pipe Junior World Championships took place at Livigno’s (ITA) Mottolino Fun Mountain from 22 to 30 March 2024 in Big Air and Slopestyle events, where tough weather conditions throughout the week made things difficult for organizers and athletes alike.

However, results were awarded in almost all of the JWCs competitions scheduled for Livigno, with Slopestyle finals taking place in full, Snowboard Big Air podiums awarded based on qualification results from the phases leading up to a cancelled finals session, and women’s Freeski Big Air finals able to take place in full.

Unfortunately, men’s Freeski Big Air medals could not be awarded, as weather got in the way of holding any competition phases at all for that competition.

## SNOWBOARD

On the snowboard side of things, it was Czechia’s Laura Zaveska taking home the gold medal in Slopestyle, followed up by Yura Murase of Japan in silver medal position and Rebecca Flynn of the USA claiming bronze.

For Slopestyle men we saw Flynn’s USA compatriot Brooklyn Depriest stepping up for the Slopestyle gold, with France’s Romain Allemand taking silver and Rocco Jamieson of New Zealand rounding out the podium with the bronze medal.





Laura Zaveska (CZE)

For Big Air it was more good news for the U.S. squad, as Flynn claimed her second medal of Livigno 2024 by taking women's gold, followed by Momo Suzuki in silver medal position and Emily Rothney in bronze.

New Zealand claimed their second Livigno 2024 snowboard medal when Txema Mazet Brown was awarded men's Big Air gold, while silver medalist Elias Lionel Lehner of Switzerland and bronze medalist Eli Bouchard of Canada rounded out the men's podium.

## FREESKI

Over on the Freeski side of things, we saw Germany's Muriel Mohr taking home the gold medal win in women's Slopestyle competition, with Eleanor Andrews of the USA and Canada's Avery Krumme rounding out the podium in silver and bronze medal positions, respectively.

The men's event saw Norway's Frank Walhlstrom stepping up to the top spot of the podium for Slopestyle gold, with the USA's Henry Townshend claiming silver and Henry Sildaru of Estonia taking the bronze in a Henry- heavy top-3.

Finally, women's Freeski Big Air Junior World Championships competition saw rising star Flora Tabanelli (ITA) claiming the gold medal, with Mohr earning her second Livigno 2024 podium in silver medal position, and Mariia Aniichyn making history for her nation, claiming Ukraine's first-ever FIS Freeski Junior World Championships top-3 with a bronze medal performance.

FIS would like to extend our gratitude to the organizers in Livigno for taking on these Park & Pipe Junior World Championships under short notice and putting in a huge effort to facilitate competition under some extremely difficult weather circumstances.

The courses were perfectly built there in Mottolino, and the good-weather training days we enjoyed starting the week showed a venue worthy of many more top-level competitions moving forward.

## THE EVENT HOSTED

79 men and

19 women in **FREESKI**

66 men and

29 women in **SNOWBOARD**



# SNOWBOARD JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

## SNOWBOARD ALPINE

REPORT BY MATEUSZ KIELPINSKI

As the FIS Snowboard World Cup was coming to a close, featuring exhilarating Snowboardcross and Slopestyle final events in Mt. St. Anne, Canada, and Silvaplana, Switzerland, the future stars of Snowboard Racing were making their mark at the FIS Snowboard Alpine Junior World Championships 2024 in Lachtal, Austria. This prestigious event is a cornerstone competition for the upcoming generation of athletes and was the first of the 2024 Junior World Championships among snowboard and freestyle disciplines.



Hana Optikova (CZE) launches with an explosive start

From March 22 to 24, athletes from around the world gathered to compete in Parallel Giant Slalom, Parallel Slalom, and the Parallel mixed team event, showcasing the impressive depth of talent among junior snowboarders. The excitement was palpable as these young athletes demonstrated their skills and determination on the challenging courses of Lachtal.

The event kicked off on Friday with the Parallel Giant Slalom. In the women's competition, Aurelia Moisan of Canada delivered a stellar performance, narrowly defeating Poland's Weronika Dawidek to claim the gold medal. Switzerland's Xenia von Sibenthal exhibited great skill and composure to secure the bronze medal by beating Austria's Marie Gams in a tightly contested small final.

On the men's side, the competition was fierce as Germany's Samuel Vojtasek disrupted Bulgarian dominance by capturing the gold medal. Last year's champion, Tervel Zamfirov of Bulgaria, put up a strong fight but had to settle for silver. The bronze medal match saw Bulgaria's Petar Gergysovski edging out his compatriot Kristian Georgiev in a thrilling showdown.

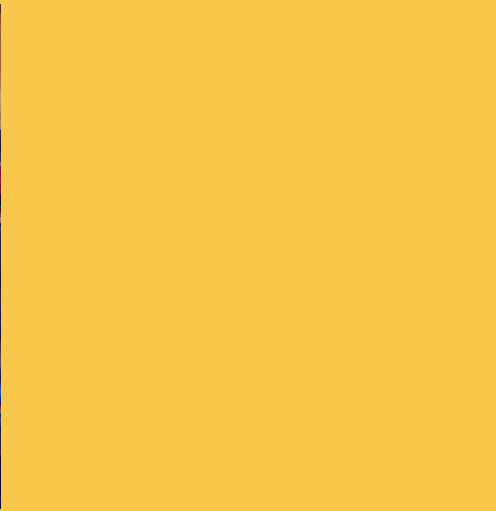




Marie Gams (AUT) celebrates her bronze Parallel Slalom medal with her team



Parallel Slalom Mixed Team - USA, Germany and Italy



Weronika Davidek (POL) races towards a silver medal in parallel giant slalom



The championships concluded on Sunday with the highly anticipated Parallel Slalom mixed team event. The German pair of Benedikt Riel and Salome Jansing delivered an outstanding performance to claim the gold medal, showcasing excellent teamwork and synchronization. The American team of Walker Overstake and Grace Domina put up a strong fight to secure the silver medal, while Italy's Mike Santuari and Fabiana Fachin earned the bronze, demonstrating their prowess and resilience on the international stage.

Overall, the FIS Snowboard Alpine Junior World Championships 2024 in Lachtal were a resounding success, highlighting the bright future of snowboard racing. The young athletes not only competed at the highest level but also inspired audiences with their passion and dedication to the sport.



Linda Jechova (CZE) battles for the best time in the 16th finals of the parallel mixed team event



Salome Jansing (GER) clinches gold for Germany in the parallel team event



# FIS SKI CROSS JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IDRE FJÄLL 2024

REPORT BY SANNA LÜDI

The Junior World Championships in Idre Fjäll (SWE) provided an excellent stage for young athletes to showcase their skills on the big stage. With no times available during training days, anticipation grew, with rumors favoring the strong German team. However, the first day of the championships saw Canadian athletes dominate, leaving even World Cup head coach Stanley Hayer speechless. "I knew they were fast, but I didn't know they were so good on a big course like that," he remarked.

Emeline Bennett (CAN), 20 years old, clinched victory on the women's side, followed by Germany's Veronica Redder (19) and Sweden's 16-year-old YOG champion Uma Keen. Meanwhile, the Canadian men's team achieved a double sweep with Kaleb Barnum (19) and Nicholas Katrusiak (19) taking gold and silver. The final heat included a dramatic moment when British Scott



Veronika Redder (GER), Emeline Bennet (CAN) and Uma Kruse Een (SWE)



Marc Holder Trophy won by Team Canada



Nicholas Katrusiak (CAN), Kaleb Barnum (CAN) and Till Hugenroth (GER)

Johns, then in second place, crashed on the dragon back, dropping to fourth place, while Germany's Till Hugenroth (20) seized the bronze medal.

Both newly crowned champions expressed surprise at their victories. Emeline, securing her second consecutive title in her second year of Ski Cross, remarked, "I didn't expect to win last year either, so I came in with the same mentality to work hard and





Team Canada 1, Team Germany 1, Team USA 1, Team Germany 3, Team Sweden 1 and Team Switzerland 1

do the best I could." For Kaleb, in his first season of Ski Cross, the transition from alpine skiing was possible thanks to great coaching and support. "I didn't expect winning at all coming here. It's definitely a pretty tough field, and I didn't know what to expect." Sharing the podium with his teammate Nicholas, Kaleb expressed his admiration, stating, "Nik and I are on different teams back home, so we race against each other, but it's always a battle."

The second day of the competition featured the Team Event, with Germany emerging victorious ahead of Canada and a jubilant Team USA claiming bronze. German athletes Till Hugenroth (20) and Veronika Redder (19) fulfilled a promise made the previous year and marked an unforgettable day. Till stated, "We didn't expect this win, but last year after the Junior Worlds, we said to each other that next year something is gonna be possible and we'll go get it together."

The season ended on this high note, celebrating young talents from 15 different countries. Idre Fjäll has become a landmark in the exciting world of Ski Cross, and we eagerly await what's in store for 2024/25.



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# SNOWBOARD JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SNOWBOARD CROSS

REPORT BY MATEUSZ KIELPINSKI



Action at the Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships in Gudauri 2024



After successfully hosting the FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships in 2023 and various World Cup races this winter, Georgia organized yet another grand event to close out the season. The world's best young Snowboard Cross athletes gathered in the Caucasus Mountains at the Gudauri resort for the FIS Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships of 2024.

"There is a strong commitment from the Georgian Ski Federation, President Zurab Kostava, and the M.T.A. - Mountain Trail Agency, with their CEO Irakli Burchuladze, to our fantastic sport," said FIS Race Director and Snowboard Coordinator, Peter Krogoll.

FIS Race Director Peter Krogoll expressed his satisfaction with the conclusion of the Gudauri 2024 Junior World Championships: "The level of the junior athletes is increasing every year, and they are our future. The course this year was in great shape, thanks to all the volunteers, workers, and our professional shapers. It allowed for exciting riding where the athletes could showcase their skills. We are particularly pleased that we had accident-free competitions, despite the changing snow conditions nearly every day. From very warm spring conditions to new snowfall in the final days, the LOC handled everything in a very professional way. Thank you, Georgia!"

Following the successful organization of the Snowboard Cross World Cup double-header in February, the cross course in Gudauri needed just a few small modifications for the juniors to compete.

The event took place from Friday to Sunday, April 5 to 7. Athletes from 17 different nations competed in both the individual Snowboard Cross race and the mixed team event, underscoring the depth of talent among junior participants.

The Friday racing program consisted of seeding runs for each athlete and bracket racing, with 1/8 Finals for women and 1/16 Finals in the men's category.

On Saturday, the first medalists were crowned in the individual race. In the women's big final, Léa Casta (FRA) dominated to clinch her second consecutive JWSC gold medal. European Cup overall winner Noemie Wiedmer (SUI) finished second, while Lisa Francesia Boirai (ITA) took bronze.

In the men's final heat, all three podium finishers displayed remarkable riding skills. Leon Ulbricht (GER) claimed victory, with Julien Tomas (FRA) securing the silver medal, and Aidan Chollet (FRA) rounding out the podium. Notably, all three athletes already competed in the World Cup tour, achieving impressive results despite their young age. At just 19, Leon Ulbricht has already won a World Cup race.

The championships wrapped up on Sunday with the Snowboard Cross mixed team race. The French duo Léa Casta and Julien Tomas won the gold medal, while their teammates Zoé Colombier and Aidan Chollet secured silver. The bronze medal was clinched by Slovakia's Sara Pitonakova and Samuel Sakal.



◀ Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships Men

▼ Léa Casta (FRA) and Leon Ulbricht (GER)

▼▼ Léa Casta and Julien Tomas (FRA)



► Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships in Gudauri, 2024: Mixed Team Event



# TELEMARK JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PRA-LOUP

REPORT BY SAM DECOUT

Alexis Page (FRA) – The Golden Mercenary who achieved the Grand Slam with 4 gold medals while finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Overall World Cup standings



## A JUNIOR QUADRUPLE HONORING THE RISE OF A NEW GENERATION OF CONTENDERS

The Junior World Championships were held concurrently with the World Cup finals in Pra-Loup, France, in March. Thirty-five juniors from 12 nations competed, many of whom also participated in the World Cup finals.

Alexis Page (FRA), competing in both the World Cup and the Junior World Championships, boldly announced before Pra-Loup that he aimed to achieve a grand slam in his final junior season. After finishing 4th in the Classic World Cup race, he clinched the Junior Classic World Championship title the same day, followed by Swedish silver medalist Alvin Noaksson and Canadian bronze medalist Adrian Ball. On the women's side, Augustine Carliez (FRA) won gold after securing her first-ever World Cup victory the same day. Maria Heggheim Berge (NOR) took silver, while Lenaïg Mansart (FRA) and Emma Araldsen (NOR) shared the bronze.



Alexis Page (FRA) vs. Adrian Ball (CAN) during the Parallel Sprint race



Page continued his winning streak in the Sprint race, earning gold ahead of his compatriot and silver medalist Zian Peccoux, with Swiss bronze medalist Timo Walser completing the podium. In the women's race, Léa Lathion (SUI), one of the favorites, surprised many by taking gold, followed by Augustine Carliez (silver) and Lenaïg Mansart (bronze). The men's top 10 featured a diverse mix of nations, including Andorra, Austria, Canada, France, Italy, Norway, and Sweden.

In the final events, the Parallel Sprint and Team Event, Page completed his grand slam. He won gold in all the junior races: Classic, Sprint, Parallel Sprint, and the team event with his French teammates Augustine Carliez and Zian Peccoux. In the Parallel Sprint, Timo Walser claimed silver and Alvin Noaksson bronze. In the women's race, Léa Lathion secured her second gold medal, followed by Augustine Carliez (silver) and Norwegian bronze medalist Emma Araldsen. Notably, Léa Lathion also won the World Cup Parallel Sprint Globe, while Alexis Page finished third in the overall World Cup standings.



▲ Léa Lathion (SUI), Parallel Sprint Junior World Champion and Parallel Sprint World Cup Globe winner

◀ Adrian Ball (CAN), bronze medalist, during the Junior Sprint race



*It's a dream come true. This year, I set my goals on this grand slam and finishing in the top 5 overall in the World Cup. I started the week with a lot of pressure because everything would be decided in 5 days. On the first day, I won my first title in the Classic, but the pressure remained until the Sprint Junior and World Cup races, where I finally secured my first overall World Cup medal. This freed me to focus on the parallels, allowing me to win the last two medals needed to complete the grand slam. I don't think I've fully realized it yet; it doesn't feel like I've done anything extraordinary. The mental load over the seven races this week was immense."*

Alexis Page reflecting on his achievement



Junior women podium of the Parallel Sprint race.  
1. Léa Lathion (SUI) - 2. Augustine Carliez (FRA) -  
3. Emma Araldsen (NOR)



Junior men podium of the Parallel Sprint race.  
1 Alexis Page (FRA) - 2. Timo Walser (SUI) -  
3. Alvin Noaksson (SWE)



# SPEED SKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 IN VARS

REPORT BY RICARDO ADARRAGA

As a non-Olympic FIS discipline, the FIS Council approved in 2023 the FIS Speed Skiing Committee's request to host FIS World Championships every year (except during FIS Games years). This was a very important decision for the discipline. The ultimate goal of Speed Skiing is to achieve a world record at each World Championship. Generally, it is possible to host fast races, but there is never a guarantee for world record conditions. These conditions – snow, weather, and track – must be optimal. With a major championship event every season, there is a better chance of utilizing ideal conditions when they occur.

The ski resort in Vars, France, with its long history and tradition in Speed Skiing, accepted the challenge to organize the FIS Speed Skiing World Championships in March 2024. This was the most important FIS event of the year and served as a perfect conclusion to the 2023/24 season. The goal was, of course, to set a new speed world record. The bar was set very high after French skier Simon Billy set a

new world record at 255.55 km/h in March 2023, breaking a seven-year streak without a record. Thanks to heavy snowfalls during the winter, Vars had outstanding snow conditions in 2023/24. A solid snow base is crucial for creating a track as smooth as an airport runway. Once again, Vars demonstrated its experience and expertise in preparing the perfect Speed Skiing track.



Simon Billy at the Speed Masters Vars 2024

The Speed Skiing track in Vars is 1.4 km long, with a vertical drop of 460 m and a 100% steepness during the first 200 meters. Starting from the top is like jumping into the void, with speed skiers experiencing sensations similar to those of base jumpers. A speed skier accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 3 seconds and needs just 8 seconds to reach 200 km/h; the rest depends on the aerodynamic setup and the

skier's skills. At 200 km/h and higher, the competition becomes a battle against air drag. Aerodynamic engineering, airflow awareness, good gliding skills, and a considerable amount of courage are key factors in becoming one of the fastest.

In March 2024, the five-day FIS Speed Skiing World Championships began with perfect conditions: sunny, windless, and



on a fast, even track. As the start position ascended with each run, it became clear that the track was faster than ever. Each run saw a new start position record. Unfortunately, as the days passed, the weather became cloudy. On the last day, the racers were prepared to start from “above the rock,” with expectations of surpassing 240 km/h from a position where the best speed usually ranges between 230 and 235 km/h. However, the light grew flat, making the run very dangerous. All competitors waited a long time for optimal weather conditions at the top of the track. Ultimately, the race had to conclude using the best speeds from the previous day. In Speed Skiing, safety also always comes first. As the saying goes among veteran speed skiers, “This time the mountain won.” Despite ideal track conditions, no world record was set in 2024.

The race was won by world record holder Simon Billy from France, with an impressive speed of 231 km/h achieved from “below the rock.” Although not a world record, it was the highest speed ever reached from that start position and the fastest speed achieved by a skier in 2024. The top 15 competitors all exceeded 220 km/h. Simon Billy’s victory marked his third FIS Speed Skiing World Championship title, confirming his status as the world’s number one speed skier.



▲ Simon Billy at the start

◀ Simon after the race



“Winning the World Championship for the third time is incredible. Unfortunately, despite the fast track conditions, the weather didn’t allow us to start from the top to attempt a new world record. Achieving over 230 km/h from below the rock shows that the track was ready for a new world record,” Simon Billy said after the competition.



▲ Valentina Greggio’s winning run

► Valentina before the start

On the women’s side, current world record holder Valentina Greggio from Italy won her fourth World Champion’s title. Speed Skiing is unique in that men and women compete together on the same day, on the same track, from the same start positions. Valentina Greggio not only won the women’s category but also placed seventh overall, a remarkable achievement. If a man is faster than Valentina, he usually ranks in the top 10 in the men’s category.



Valentina Greggio commented after the competition, “I am very happy for the title, but I am disappointed we couldn’t start from higher up. The track was very fast, but this is an outdoor sport, and we don’t control the weather.”



After the high speeds achieved in 2024, we eagerly look forward to the 2024/25 season to chase new records. Vars and the world's fastest skiers are ready for the next challenge!



◀ Vars Speed Ski World Championships 2024



◀ Men´s Podium of the Speed Masters Vars 2024

▼ Women´s Podium



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# FIS SKI FLYING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

REPORT BY HORST NILGEN

## SKY-HIGH TENSION IN KULM

The first two days of the Ski Flying World Championships – when the individual world champions are crowned after going through four rounds of jumps – were particularly intense in Kulm, Styria, Austria.

After the first day, which included the first two competition rounds, Timi Zajc from Slovenia was leading, followed by Stefan Kraft from Austria and Johann Andre Forfang from Norway. However, strong winds on the second day allowed for only one round instead of the planned two. This single round dramatically altered the overall standings. Ultimately, local hero Stefan Kraft triumphed, much to the delight of the 20,000 spectators. Andreas Wellinger from Germany also surpassed Timi Zajc, resulting in an extremely close finish.



Andreas Wellinger (GER), Stefan Kraft (AUT) and Timi Zajc (SLO)



*I was brutally nervous on this jump. Luckily, I managed everything I had planned. It's great that it was enough to win title,”* explained Kraft.

### RESULTS WORLD SKI FLYING CHAMPIONSHIPS INDIVIDUAL 2024 KULM (AUT)

Gold: Stefan Kraft (AUT) 647.4 points  
Silver: Andreas Wellinger (GER) 645.2 points,  
Bronze: Timi Zajc (SLO) 642.7 points.



On Sunday, the numerous spectators witnessed an intense three-way battle between the teams from Slovenia, Austria, and Germany. Ultimately, the fight for the World Championship title came down to Slovenia and Austria. The Slovenian team, comprising brothers Domen and Peter Prevc, Lovro Kos, and Timi Zajc, emerged victorious, successfully defending their World Championship title from 2022, in Vikersund. "It was an extremely exciting and high-class competition. We are absolutely happy and proud to have achieved this success and defended our title," said Peter Prevc.

**RESULTS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SKI FLYING TEAM 2024 KULM (AUT)**

Gold: Slovenia (Domen Prevc, Peter Prevc, Lovro Kos, Timi Zajc)  
Silver: Austria (Michael Hayböck, Daniel Fettner, Jan Hörl, Stefan Kraft)  
Bronze: Germany (Pius Paschke, Karl Geiger, Stephan Leyhe, Andreas Wellinger)

Norway, Japan, Switzerland, Finland and the team from Poland completed the top eight.



Slovenian Team - Domen Prevc, Peter Pevc, Timi Zajc and Lovro Kos

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*„Für uns gibt es nichts Überzeugenderes als den Erfolg, den der anderen und den eigenen.  
Unsere Pokale sind die Krönung des Könnens, gemacht für die Gewinner dieser Welt.“*  
Lennart Kagerbauer, Geschäftsführung

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# SEASON REVIEW





# MILESTONES

from

# 1974 – 2024



## 1974 – 1983

**1977**

**Sainte-Croix (SUI): The first FIS Junior World Ski Championships**

In 1977 the first Nordic Junior World Ski Championships began in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland, a gathering at which East Germany topped the table. The Alpine Juniors followed five years later in Auron, France."

**1983**

**Sydney (AUS): The Siitonen's skating style was officially permitted**

When Finn Pauli Siitonen used the wrong wax at the Lienzer Dolomitenlauf in 1974, he was forced to leave one ski in the prepared track and the other outside it to propel himself forward. This emergency measure proved highly successful, winning him the race. Soon Siitonen's new skating style had been picked up by more and more athletes. Tensions between traditionalists and innovators grew. At the 1983 International Ski Congress in Sydney, Australia, all forms of the "Siitonen step" were permitted (except in the starting and finishing areas for relay races).

## 1984 – 1993

**1986**

**Tignes (FRA): First FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships**

In 1986 the first FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships took place in Tignes, France, featuring both men's and women's events in Moguls, Aerials, Acroski and the Combined. In the decades since, Freestyle Skiing events have been established as a spectacular part of the FIS calendar, with crowds of thousands gathering to watch a range of events, namely Aerials, Moguls, Dual Moguls, Ski Cross, Halfpipe, Slopestyle, and Big Air.

**1987**

The first Telemark World Championships are held in Hemsedal, Norway.

**February 1988**

**Calgary (CAN): 15th Olympic Winter Games**

where Freestyle was a demonstration event, and Super-G and Ski Flying became medal events.

**1991**

The "V" form in Ski Jumping was adopted by FIS.

## 1994 – 2003

**1996**

**Lienz (AUT): The first FIS Snowboard World Championships**

In the 1960s American engineer Sherman Poppen fastened two skis together to invent a toy for his daughters. Seeing how popular this "snurfer" (snow surfer) was with other children, Poppen sold the idea to a manufacturer, who started mass-producing them. The popularity of snowboarding was then infectious. By the 1980s competitive races were held; by 1994 FIS had recognized it as a discipline. The first FIS Snowboard World Cup was held that year and the first FIS Snowboard World Championships took place in Lienz, Austria, in 1996.

**1997**

**Snowboard World Championships**

included GS, Parallel GS, Halfpipe and Snowboard Cross

**1998**

**Meet the President: Gian Franco Kasper**

Gian Franco Kasper had already worked at the highest levels in FIS for two decades when he was accepted as Marc Hodler's successor in 1998.

Kasper began his presidency with a bracing message about the need for FIS to stay ahead of the curve: "We all know that the world of sports has changed and that it will continue to change even faster." Over the next 23 years he would continue to challenge his colleagues to think bigger, turning FIS from a relatively small federation to the undisputed leader in winter sports.

This transformation was possible in large parts thanks to Kasper's vision and work ethic, as well as his excellent connections at the highest levels of international sports. In particular, as a member of the IOC for almost 20 years, Kasper helped nurture relations with the Olympic movement.

After his passing, Kasper was hailed by the National Ski Associations he had worked closely with as "a visionary decision maker", a "valuable source of inspiration" and "the personification of FIS". His legacy endures to this day.



## 2004 – 2013

**2006**

**Germany, Italy and Switzerland:  
First edition of the FIS Tour de Ski**

A multi-stage event modeled after cycling's Tour de France, the Tour de Ski was introduced by FIS in 2006. The inaugural Tour de Ski took place from December 31, 2006, to January 8, 2007. It was held in various locations across Europe, primarily in Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. In this first edition, there were a total of nine stages. The men's overall winner was Tobias Angerer (GER) and the women's overall winner was Virpi Kuitunen (FIN).

**2008**

**46th FIS Congress Cape Town (RSA):  
The FIS Family had grown to 110 nations**

For too long snow sports were seen as the preserve of a few countries – and for decades, FIS has been determined to change that. By the 2008 International Ski Congress in Cape Town – the first in Africa – the FIS Family had grown to 110 nations. Much of this growth was down to the FIS Development Program – established in the 1990s – which promotes skiing and snowboarding in parts of the world that snow sports had barely touched.

## 2014 – 2024

**2020**

For the first time, the FIS Congress (the 52nd) is held online due to the Covid pandemic.

**2021**

**Meet the President:  
Johan Eliasch**

In 2021, the fifth President of FIS was elected in almost a century. Johan Eliasch, an Anglo-Swedish industrialist, financier, statesman, environmentalist and philanthropist, began a long and successful career in business in 1984. From 1995 until his election as FIS President in 2021, Eliasch led the sporting goods company HEAD, building it into a major global brand and advancing the HEAD World Cup Rebels racing team into a leading position. This experience now informs the leadership of FIS, with a sharp focus on generating more value for all involved in snow sports: National Ski Associations, athletes, organizers, partners and sponsors.

Eliasch's presidency is also shaped by his longstanding experience in climate action. For him, sustainability is the passion of a lifetime. He is determined to show that hosting great global sporting events can be achieved in a way that is both environmentally responsible and spectacular.

Working with all stakeholders of the FIS family, President Eliasch is firmly committed to taking snow sports to the next level, making skiing and snowboarding the most sustainable, inclusive and exciting sports on earth.

**2022**

**Para snow sports joined the FIS Family**

In 2022, FIS took over the full governance and management of Para Alpine Skiing, Para Cross-Country Skiing and Para Snowboarding. FIS now represents the majority of the medals on the Paralympic Winter Games program. The dream of FIS is to grow and strengthen these Para disciplines, showing the world that the slopes are open to all athletes with the requisite guts and spirit.

**2024**

**Happy Birthday, FIS!**

What a century it has been: of highs and lows, excitement and emotion, extreme courage and unbelievable drama.

It is a century that has ignited a passion for snow sports across the continents. It is a century that has inspired hundreds of millions around the world to take to the slopes. It is a century which we can all be proud of: federations and fans, athletes and organizers, sponsors and partners.

13 disciplines, 135 member associations, thousands of athletes and their support teams, over 7000 events annually, countless volunteers and one love: snow sports.





# COOP FIS CROSS-COUNTRY WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY SYNNE DYRHAUG

This season was marked by smooth execution, enthusiastic crowds, new venues, and numerous personal achievements. It set a high standard and generated anticipation for the upcoming seasons, proving that even without the biggest events like the World Championships or the Olympic Games, the sport can deliver unforgettable moments.

## RECORDS AND CAREER MILESTONES

From the very first race weekend, the season began with significant milestones. Jan Thomas Jenssen (NOR) and Moa Ilar (SWE) secured their first World Cup victories in the cold woods of Finland. Michal Novak (CZE) achieved a remarkable second place in the 20km Mass Start race, earning his first-ever podium and the first podium for the Czech team in a decade. These early successes set the tone for a season filled with memorable achievements and promising performances. By the end, we counted 16 new milestones for men and four for women.

*“Even though it was a season with no World Championships or Olympic Winter Games, it really has been a great season for Cross-Country, maybe one of the best. We had zero cancellations, a lot of great crowds, and some amazing athlete performances.”*

Michal Lamplot, Race Director

There was much talk about Jessie Diggins (USA) before the season started. She publicly disclosed over the summer that she was again struggling with an eating disorder, raising questions before the season opener in Ruka (FIN) at the end of November. However, she quickly dispelled any doubts, enjoying a career-best and historic



Gus Schumacher writing history by winning the 10km in Minneapolis (USA).



season by winning the overall and distance Globe and the Tour de Ski. She won six World Cups and landed 12 podiums in total. Along with the rest of the U.S. ski team, they had their best season ever.

Linn Svahn (SWE) made a remarkable comeback this season after being sidelined by an injury for almost two years. Last season, she managed to participate in only five races, but this season she returned stronger than ever. Svahn secured six individual victories and claimed the globe for the best Sprinter of the Year. In a thrilling contest for the overall title, she battled hard with Jessie Diggins throughout the entire season. Despite this, Svahn's performance firmly established her as a formidable competitor and a key athlete to watch in the upcoming seasons.

▼ The World Cup in Minneapolis was the first one ever in the USA for Jessie Diggins. A moment she will never forget.



Harald Østberg Amundsen (NOR) had an outstanding season, participating in all World Cup weekends and demonstrating remarkable consistency and endurance. His efforts culminated in the final weekend in Falun (SWE), where he stood at the top of the podium to receive

the Crystal Globe, signifying his victory in the overall Cross-Country World Cup. Amundsen's season was marked by relentless determination and hard-fought battles. In addition to his overall World Cup triumph, he also claimed victory in the prestigious Tour de Ski.

FACTS & FIGURES

15 race weekends

38 competitions

0 cancellations

MEMORABLE MOMENT

The most remarkable moment of the season came in the fourth period with a historic return to North America. For many athletes, the highlight was competing in Canada and the USA again. It had been over 20 years since the last World Cup event in the United States, making this a much-anticipated comeback. The excitement was palpable, with 30,000 enthusiastic spectators purchasing tickets for the two-day event in Minneapolis. In front of an electrified home crowd, Gus Schumacher (USA) delivered a standout performance in the 10km race in the park just outside Minneapolis. With an early bib, Schumacher used the energy and support from the fans and had an amazing race through the park. As he sat in the leader's chair, athlete after athlete fell short of his time, making it increasingly clear that he was going to win this race. Schumacher's triumph marked his first World Cup victory and was a historic moment as it became the first U.S. men's Cross-Country World Cup win since 1982.

RETIREMENTS

- Maurice Manificat (FRA)
- Anna Svendsen (NOR)
- Scott Patterson (USA)
- Coralie Bentz (FRA)





▲▲ The Swedish rocket, Linn Svahn was outstanding in the Sprints this season - she secured the red bib and fought until the end for the overall, but ultimately saw the big globe go to Jessie Diggins.

▲ Harald Oestberg Amundsen (NOR) competed in almost every race throughout the season, which allowed him to step on top of the overall World Cup podium.

◀ Schumacher sends home fans wild with maiden World Cup win



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# VIESSMANN FIS SKI JUMPING WORLD CUP

## SEASON 2023/24

### MEN

#### START-TO-FINISH VICTORY

From the very first competition of the season in Ruka (FIN), Stefan Kraft from Austria made it clear that he would be the man to beat this winter. Kraft not only won the season opener but also the first four competitions of the winter: twice in Ruka and twice in Lillehammer. This put Kraft in the lead with 400 out of a possible 400 points, a lead he maintained until the end of the season.

Despite Stefan Kraft's outstanding performance, the season was anything but boring, as both Germany's Andreas Wellinger and Japan's Ryoyu Kobayashi constantly challenged Kraft's lead in the

22. 3. 2024, Planica (SLO)-  
Ryoyu Kobayashi (JPN),  
Stefan Kraft (AUT),  
Andreas Wellinger (GER)



REPORT BY HORST NILGEN



24. 3. 2022, Planica (SLO):  
Daniel Huber (AUT)

overall standings whenever he did not finish at the top of the daily rankings. The overall World Cup was not decided until Vikersund (NOR), the penultimate stop of the winter.

Kraft collected 2149 points in the overall World Cup, with Ryoyu Kobayashi (JPN) securing second place with 1673 points, and Andreas Wellinger (GER) finishing third with 1488 points.

#### ALL 38 COMPETITIONS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

A total of 38 World Cups took place in the 2023/24 Ski Jumping season, including 32 individual events, three team events, and three super team events. All 38 planned competitions were successfully held, with the competition in Szczyrk (POL) having been held in Lahti (FIN). In these 38 competitions, there were 13 winners from five nations, and 21 athletes from seven nations landed on the podium.

#### OVER 3,5 MILLION IN PRIZE MONEY

Total prize money amounted to CHF 3,514,300. The top earner was Stefan Kraft with CHF 373,150. Even the 13th place finisher, Pius Paschke (GER), earned over CHF 100,000.



SKI FLYING WORLD CUP

With outstanding performances at the final Ski Flying events in Vikersund (NOR) and Planica (SLO), Daniel Huber from Austria secured the overall World Cup victory in ski flying. At the age of 31, this was the biggest individual success of his career.

FOUR HILLS TOURNAMENT

Ryoyu Kobayashi from Japan won the Four Hills Tournament, coming second in all four competitions and clearly winning the overall tour ranking ahead of Andreas Wellinger (GER) and Stefan Kraft (AUT). There were four different winners in the four competitions: Wellinger (GER), Lanisek (SLO), Hoerl (AUT), and Kraft (AUT). The extra prize money was CHF 100,000.

RAW AIR TOURNAMENT

Stefan Kraft won the Raw Air Tournament, finishing over 100 points ahead of second-placed Slovenian Peter Prevc and his teammate Daniel Huber. The extra prize money was CHF 60,000.



*The 2023/2024 season has not been the easiest. Weather conditions affected all winter disciplines. However, Ski Jumping can be proud to confirm its role as an ambassador of winter sports worldwide. All the World Cup events were exciting, filled with drama and passion. The highlights of the season were the Ski Flying World Championships in Kulm, the Four Hills Tournament, and the Raw Air Tournament, along with the great events in Willingen, Lahti, and Planica.*

*The events in Sapporo (JPN) and Lake Placid (USA) confirmed the strong global development of the discipline with the aim of becoming even more attractive to more countries in the near future. Unfortunately, we also have to note the retirement of Peter Prevc, one of the role models of our discipline. We wish him all the best and look forward to seeing him again soon. The new season will start soon, and we are deeply motivated to reach even higher goals."*

Sandro Pertile, Ski Jumping World Cup Men Race Director



Eva Pinkelnig (AUT), Nika Prevc (SLO) and Alexandria Loutitt (CAN)

WOMEN

SURPRISE WINNER

The 2023/24 season got off to an exciting start in Lillehammer (NOR). The winner of the first competition was Yuki Ito from Japan, but she did not wear the yellow bib for long. Sunday's competition was won by Josephine Pagnier of France, marking her first victory since 2013! Canadian Alexandria Loutitt also showed her strength, reaching the podium in each of the two competitions.

The entire season was filled with incredible competition and beautiful long jumps. The series was extremely close, and the fight for the victory lasted until the end. Josephine Pagnier (FRA), Eva Pinkelnig (AUT), Yuki Ito (JPN), Alexandria Loutitt (CAN), and Nika Prevc (SLO) were all in contention for the Crystal Globe until the end, showcasing an incredible level of sportsmanship.

Nika Prevc won her very first World Cup competition this season and claimed the overall title with 1454 points. Eva Pinkelnig took second place with 1305 points, and Alexandria Loutitt from Canada rounded out the podium with 1030 points. The women com-



peted in 24 events across Europe and Asia. Two competitions in Rasnov (ROU), one in Zao (JPN), and one in Vikersund (NOR) were canceled due to bad weather conditions. The competition from Zao was moved to Planica on HS102, coinciding with the final weekend of the men's World Cup. In these 24 competitions, there were 9 winners from 5 countries.

2 NIGHTS TOUR

This season, fans witnessed the premiere of the 2 Nights Tour, a preview of the women's Four Hills Tournament. The competitions took place in Germany on the hills in Oberstdorf and Garmisch Partenkirchen. The overall winner of the series was Nika Prevc, who won the first competition in Garmisch. Eva Pinkelnig from Austria finished second, and Abigail Strate from Canada finished third. The extra prize money was 10,000 CHF.

RAW AIR TOURNAMENT

This year's edition of the Raw Air Tournament was special for the women, as flying competitions were included in the World Cup series for the first time. The overall winner was Erin Maria Kvandal from Norway, followed by her teammate Silje Opseth in second, and Eva Pinkelnig in third. The extra prize money was 60,000 CHF, the same as for the men.



17.03.2024,  
 Vikersund,  
 Norway (NOR):  
 FIS World Cup Ski  
 Flying Women,  
 individual HS240



We had a very good season with many unforgettable moments, including our first competitions in Switzerland and the inaugural 2 Nights Tour, which is a sneak peek of the Women's Four Hills Tournament.

A lot of spectators shared exciting moments with teams and athletes in Willingen and Ljubno, and Ski Flying at Vikersund was included as a World Cup event for the first time.

We celebrated the World Cup Final in Planica, with an additional competition in Slovenia, creating a great and emotional moment for our athletes.

This season, we struggled significantly with weather conditions. Many organizing committees faced a lack of snow and bad weather, but their efforts led to the success of the series, and we sincerely thank them for all their hard work."

Chika Yoshida, Ski Jumping World Cup Women Race Director

FACTS & FIGURES



Equal Prize Money for the Raw Air Tournament

100%

of the Men World Cup events took place

1st

edition of the 2 Nights Tour



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# VISSMANN FIS NORDIC COMBINED WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY SOPHIE HARGESHEIMER



Men's Best Skier, Vinzenz Geiger (GER)

## NEW FORMAT, NEW RIIBER RECORDS, AND A NEW RISING QUEEN

With 15 individual events for women and 21 individual events for the men, as well as a Team Sprint and a Mixed Team competition, Nordic Combined celebrated the biggest World Cup season since its inception 100 years ago.

### NEW THIS SEASON

The men's season started with a premiere at the traditional Ruka Tour (FIN). For the first time, an Individual Compact was held, which after the Ski Jumping part consisted of a 7.5 km cross-country race with fixed starting times. The beaming winner was Jens Luraas Oftebro (NOR).

The women celebrated their Compact premiere a few weeks later in Ramsau (AUT), where Ida Marie Hagen (NOR) celebrated her first World Cup victory with the new format.

For the first time this season, the women were also part of the German Trophy, the maiden edition of which had been held the previous season comprising only the men. After four individual competitions in Oberstdorf and Schonach (GER), Ida Marie Hagen won

the women's trophy, while Jarl Magnus Riiber (NOR) won the men's classification.

Another first was the fact that the season finals for both genders took place together in Trondheim. The test event for the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2025 was not only the World Cup premiere for the Nordic Combined women, but also the first joint final since Schonach 2022.

### BIGGEST WINNERS

On the women's side, Ida Marie Hagen won nine of the 15 Individual events, after claiming her maiden World Cup win in Ramsau, in December 2023. She collected a total of 1440 points and won the Overall World Cup for the first time in her career. Hagen also won the In-





Men's Overall Winner, Jarl Magnus Riiber (NOR)

dividual Compact Trophy as well as the Best Skier ranking, while Cyda Westvold Hansen (NOR) scooped the Best Skier Trophy.

Among the men, Jarl Magnus Riiber had the most successful World Cup season of his career, crowned by his 5th Crystal Globe as the Overall

World Cup winner with 1870 points. He broke the all-time record with 10 victories in a row, as well as his own record by winning 16 of 21 Individual events. Riiber also claimed the Individual Compact Trophy and the Best Jumper Trophy, while Vinzenz Geiger (GER) won the men's Best Skier Trophy.



Women's Overall Winner, Ida Marie Hagen (NOR)

FACTS & FIGURES



BEST NEWCOMERS

With her first World Cup victory in Oberstdorf, Mari Leinan Lund (NOR) celebrated the most successful season of her career. With a second victory in Schonach and a total of 10 podium spots, she placed third in the Overall World Cup.

With an Individual and Mixed Team gold medal at the Youth Olympic Winter Games in Gangwon as well as gold in the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Planica (SLO),16-year-old Minja Korhonen (FIN) claimed the biggest victories in her still young career this season.

Joanna Kil (POL) won the Overall Continental Cup, being the first Polish athlete to reach this big achievement, while Alexa Brabec (USA) won the first-ever medal for the USA in Women's Nordic Combined at the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Planica.



On the men's side, Stefan Rettenegger had the most successful season of his career with 10 podium spots and second place in the Overall World Cup ranking.

David Mach (GER) reached his first World Cup podium in Otepää (EST) this winter, while Andreas Gferrer (AUT) won the gold medal at the Youth Olympic Winter Games in Korea and Paul Walcher (AUT) claimed gold at the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Planica.



*The 2023-24 season was the biggest World Cup season in the history of Nordic Combined. We never had more competitions and are very proud of the great development. Not a single competition was cancelled, also due to the great support from our LOCs.*

*With the Individual Compact we were able to introduce a new, exciting format that was very well*

*received by everyone and crowned by the awarding of a mini globe for the best male and female athlete. Additionally, the successful JWSC in Planica, where eight nations won medals, shows the great commitment of our NSAs to youth work and makes me very proud as Race Director. Overall, it was a great winter for Nordic Combined.”*

Lasse Ottesen, Nordic Combined Race Director

#### RETIREMENTS

Samuel Costa (ITA)  
Levi Mutru (FIN)  
Tomas Portyk (CZE)  
Fabian Riessle (GER)

◀ [Nordic Combined season recap](#)



Women's Best Jumper, Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR)

## GREATEST MOMENT

At the premiere of the Individual Compact, Ida Marie Hagen celebrated her first World Cup victory in Ramsau, breaking the winning streak of her teammate Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR), who won every single competition in both winters 2021/22 and 2022/23, crowning herself the unbeatable queen of Nordic Combined for two consecutive seasons.

Hagen's victory meant a change for the entire sport and every single athlete, including Hansen, who came second that day, was happy for and celebrated with the emotional 23-year-old, who finished second behind Hansen in eight competitions during her career.

The compact format paved the way for her first win and gave her so much confidence that she went on to win eight more times this season. In Trondheim, the Norwegian, who is popular with fans and colleagues alike due to her cheerful and open nature, accepted the Crystal Globe as overall winner for the first time.

A moment for the history books, when the “eternal second” finally won and proved that consistency and ambition always bear fruit – even if you have to wait a little longer.



# AUDI FIS SKI WORLD CUP

## SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY GIULIA CANDIAGO AND CHARLOTTE CHABLE



Cornelia Hütter (AUT) holds her dream in her hands.



The 2023/24 alpine skiing season was a roller-coaster of triumphs and challenges, marked by record-breaking performances and notable adversities like extreme weather and injuries.

## SWISS DOMINANCE

Switzerland topped the 2023/2024 nations ranking with 6,238 points, spearheaded by Marco Odermatt and Lara Gut-Behrami, who captured seven out of ten men's and women's World Cup Crystal Globes. The world-beating duo deservedly generated reams of coverage this last winter, but consistently successful programs rely on much more than just the headline-grabbers.

### LARA GUT-BEHRAMI

Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI) confirmed her position as the standout women's skier of 2023/24 by winning the Overall, the Giant Slalom, and the Super-G Globes.

The 32-year-old started the last Giant Slalom day of the season with almost insurmountable leads of 95 points in the GS and 282 points in the Overall rankings, both over Brignone. That meant that she knew that whatever the irrepressible Italian did, she just had to be inside the top-15 to first secure her maiden GS Globe.

That is precisely what she did. "It's unbelievable. I mean GS has always been so important to me and to win this Globe, it's just unbelievable," a smiling Gut-Behrami said after replicating childhood hero Sonja Nef's GS Globe wins back in 2001 and 2002.

Gut-Behrami also joined the ranks of Lindsey Vonn and Katja Seizinger as a five-time Super-G World Cup champion and matched Vreni Schneider's 1994/95 feat of winning three Globes in a season.



Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI)  
when she realised she  
had won the  
Giant Slalom globe



Marco Odermatt (SUI) conquered  
Adelboden's crowd

### MARCO ODERMATT

After conquering the Overall with four event weekends to go, Marco Odermatt was not satisfied and racked up the next three discipline globes

Odermatt secured his third consecutive overall Crystal Globe and won his 10th straight Giant Slalom race. After a race cancellation, he clinched the Downhill Crystal Globe, making him the first man to win four globes in a season since Hermann Maier in 2000/01. His accomplishments also included the Downhill, GS, Super-G, and Overall globes, a feat last achieved by a Swiss racer in 1986/87, with Pirmin Zurbriggen.

### OTHER SWISS STANDOUTS

Loïc Meillard finished second overall and in the Giant Slalom, while Niels Hintermann and Daniel Yule also enjoyed podium finishes. On the women's side, Jasmine Flurry claimed her first World Cup triumph, and Michelle Gisin continued her consistent performance.



*"I talked to Hermann Maier two years ago in summer, when I won my first Globes, and he told me: 'It's cool when you can't hold all the Globes'. So, I think this will be a good feeling in some minutes,"*

said Odermatt after  
winning the last of the four globes.

This season, Odermatt fell just short of reaching 2,000 points in the overall World Cup standings, finishing with a third-highest of all-time – 1,947 – and a massive 874 point differential ahead of runner-up Loïc Meillard. This is the biggest winning margin ever seen in the fight for the overall World Cup crown.



# GLOBE WINNERS

## MIKAELA SHIFFRIN

Mikaela Shiffrin (USA) wrote another remarkable chapter of her illustrious career with a triumphant return to World Cup racing on a glorious day in Åre, Sweden. In absolute supreme fashion – after sitting out six weeks of racing while rehabilitating a knee injury since suffering a nasty Downhill crash in Cortina d’Ampezzo on January 26 – Shiffrin locked up her eighth career World Cup Slalom title. Shiffrin’s supreme performance in Åre, where she equalled Swedish legend Stenmark’s Slalom crowns, highlighted her resilience and skill. Åre holds a special place in Shiffrin’s career, being the site of her first World Cup victory in 2012 and her record-breaking 87th World Cup triumph in 2023.

## MANUEL FELLER

After years of perseverance and overcoming injuries, Feller won his first Slalom Crystal Globe. His consistency throughout the season led to victories in multiple Slalom events. Feller’s season was marked by his determination and hard work, culminating in triumphs in Gurgl, Adelboden, Wengen, and Palisades Tahoe. His top-five finishes in all ten men’s World Cup Slalom events underscored his reliability in a challenging discipline.

## CORNELIA HÜTTER

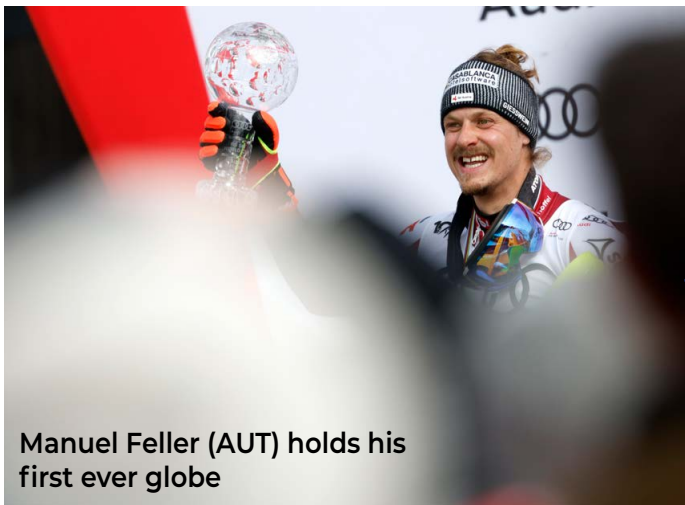
Hütter clinched the Downhill title in dramatic fashion, winning the final race of the women’s season on home snow in Saalbach, Austria, and securing her first Crystal Globe. Her victory was a highlight of the season, showcasing her resilience and skill, particularly in the face of fierce competition from Gut-Behrami. Huetter’s first Downhill win in six years and her dramatic climb to the top of the standings were testaments to her tenacity.



Lara Gut-Behrami (SUI) with her three globes



Mikaela Shiffrin (USA) holding her 8th Slalom Globe



Manuel Feller (AUT) holds his first ever globe



Cornelia Hütter (AUT) is daydreaming after winning the downhill title

# BEST STORIES OF THE SEASON

## CYPRIEN SARRAZIN

Sarrazin had an impressive season, marked by victories in iconic locations like Bormio, Wengen, and Kitzbuehel, largely attributed to his mental preparation and hard work. His transformation from a relatively unknown racer to a dominant force in Downhill and Super-G was one of the season’s standout stories. Sarrazin’s emphasis on mental training and consistent effort paid off, resulting in a career-best performance.

## FEDERICA BRIGNONE

Brignone enjoyed her best season ever with 13 podiums, including six wins. Her success stemmed from rigorous summer training and a focused mindset. Brignone’s ability to find the right sensations during training and replicate them in races was key to her remarkable performance.



Cyprien Sarrazin (FRA) became the king of Kitzbühel



Federica Brignone (ITA) in all her glory.

## FACTS & FIGURES



Mikaela Shiffrin becomes the female skier with the most World Cup podiums **(152)**



## SURPRISES OF THE SEASON

Elvedina Muzaferija of Bosnia and Herzegovina broke new ground with two top-10 finishes and five top-20 finishes, becoming the first from her country to score World Cup points. Muzaferija's historic appearance at the World Cup



Elvedina Muzaferija (BIH) made Bosnian skiing history

Finals in Saalbach was a proud moment for her nation. Joan Verdu from Andorra emerged with podium finishes in Giant Slalom, showcasing his aggressive skiing style. American skiers AJ Hurt and Jacqueline Wiles made significant impacts, with Hurt grabbing podiums in GS and Slalom, and Wiles achieving her best-ever World Cup result in Downhill. Stephanie Venier's return to form and Zrinka Ljutic's successive second places in slalom added to the season's surprises.

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*It was an intense, exciting, and challenging season.*

*Although the weather wasn't always in our favor, we still managed to bring home a season full of emotions, exciting victories, tight races, and close decisions until the end. Despite the unfortunate injuries among the sport's big names, new records were broken, and new champions emerged.*

*I am satisfied with the past season but nevertheless motivated for the next one. Maintaining high standards and continuing to improve ourselves and the sport are our primary goals."*

Peter Gerdol,  
Women's World Cup Chief of Race Directors



*It's unbelievable. I mean GS has always been so important to me and to win this Globe, it's just unbelievable,"*

a smiling Gut-Behrami said after replicating childhood hero Sonja Nef's GS Globe wins back in 2001 and 2002.

Lara Gut-Behrami becomes the oldest woman to win an Alpine skiing World Cup overall title.

## RETIREMENTS

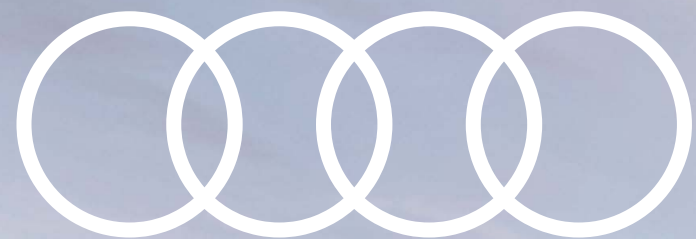
The conclusion of the 2023/24 Alpine skiing season saw the retirement of several prominent athletes. Norwegian Ragnhild Mowinckel retired at 31, ending a career highlighted by four World Cup wins and multiple Olympic and World Championship medals. Despite excellent form last season, Mowinckel decided to retire, reflecting on her many firsts and the highs and lows of her career. On the men's side, German speed racers Thomas Dressen and Josef Ferstl also announced their retirements. Dressen, hampered by injuries, ended his career after winning five World Cup downhill races, including the prestigious Kitzbuehel downhill in 2018. Ferstl, at 35, also stepped away from the sport after a long and storied career.

## SPECTACULAR RETURNS

In an exciting twist, Lucas Braathen, Marcel Hirscher, and Tamara Tipler announced their returns to competitive skiing. Braathen, the Norwegian-born talent, will now represent Brazil, aiming to continue his success after winning the Slalom globe in the 2022-2023 season. Hirscher, the Austrian legend, surprised fans by returning to the slopes under the Dutch flag, seeking to reclaim his dominance after a five-year hiatus. Tipler, balancing motherhood and professional skiing, made a triumphant return, driven by her support system and determination. These comebacks added a thrilling dimension to the upcoming season.

In summary, the 2023-24 alpine skiing season was a blend of extraordinary achievements, remarkable comebacks, and poignant farewells, showcasing the resilience and dedication of the athletes.





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# FIS SKI CROSS WORLD CUP

SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY SANNA LÜDI



Crystal Globe winner David Mobaerg (SWE) flying high in Bakuriani (GEO)



The 2023/24 Ski Cross season was nothing short of thrilling, featuring the largest World Cup calendar yet. With 17 individual races for men and 16 for women across 11 exciting destinations, it was a season to remember. The season saw 10 new World Cup winners and welcomed 8 fresh faces to the podium.

SIBLING SUCCESS STORY

At the beginning of the season, the Schmidt siblings, from Canada, captured everyone's attention. Jared Schmidt confirmed his surprising first win in Val Thorens (FRA) with another victory in Arosa (SUI) shortly thereafter. But that wasn't all – his sister Hannah, two years older and inspired by her brother's success, also clinched her first win on the same evening. With this sibling double victory, they made history as the first brother-sister pair to win a World Cup race on the same day.



Simone Deromedis (ITA) wins the World Championship Test Event in St. Moritz (SUI)

Double Victory by the Schmidt Siblings (CAN), Hannah and Jared at the Nightrace in Arosa (SUI)



TOP PERFORMERS – MEN

Jared Schmidt's winning streak continued with a hat-trick in Innichen (ITA), securing a long-term lead in the overall World Cup standings. However, his winning spree ended with these three victories. In the battle for the overall World Cup, he soon had to make way for his teammate and last year's overall winner, Reece Howden; 38-year-old Swiss skier Alex Fiva, returning from ACL rehab; the wild Youri Duplessis Kergomard (FRA), known for his stunning last-minute overtakes (ending the season with a record 45 overtakes!); the speedy German Florian Wilmsmann, who gained momentum mid-season after a rough start; the elder Mobaerg brother (SWE), Erik, who celebrated his first win of the season mid-way through; and an unleashed World Champion, Simone Deromedis (ITA), who scored his first World Cup win in St. Moritz (SUI).

A record amount of prize money – CHF 510,000 for the men and CHF 480,000 for the women — marked a significant step in supporting athletes.

In the end, it was the younger Mobaerg brother, David, who delivered an incredible turbo finish in the final races. In a nail-biting finale where everything was still up for grabs, he showed nerves of steel and relegated the formidable Reece Howden (CAN) to second place in both the race and the overall World Cup standings. This magnificent Swedish triumph was celebrated in Idre Fjäll (SWE) in front of a home crowd, and to top it off, David shared the podium with his brother.





Marielle Thompson's (CAN) 30th victory in Veysonnaz (SUI); Brittany Phelan (CAN) 2nd, India Sherret (CAN) 3rd;



*When they told me I had won the Crystal Globe just by making it to the Big Final, I kind of just felt free. It's kind of been looming over me."*

Marielle Thompson (CAN)

► Thompson and D. Mobaerg are SX Queen and King

RETIREMENTS

- Alizé Baron (FRA)
- Johanna Holzmann (GER)
- Brant Crossant (USA)
- Robert Winkler (AUT)

10 NEW WORLD CUP WINNERS

- Tristan Takats (AUT), 28, in Val Thorens (FRA), first career podium
- Daniela Maier (GER), 28, in Val Thorens (FRA)
- Jared Schmidt (CAN), 27, in Val Thorens (FRA)
- Hannah Schmidt (CAN), 29, in Arosa (SUI)
- Sixtine Cousin (SUI), 24, in Innichen (ITA), also first career podium
- Simone Deromedis (ITA), 24, in St.Moritz (SUI)
- Erik Mobaerg (SWE), 26, in Alleghe (ITA)
- India Sherret (CAN), 27, in Alleghe (ITA)
- Brittany Phelan (CAN), 32, in Reiteralm (AUT)
- Youri Duplessis Kergomard (FRA), 28, in Reiteralm (AUT)

WOMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

On the women's side, the Ski Cross Queen Sandra Naeslund (SWE) sparked discussions. In her usual fashion, she started the season with a win in Val Thorens and continued her incredible streak, building on her record for the most consecutive World Cup victories in any ski discipline, finishing with 19 (surpassing Ingemar Stenmark's 14 consecutive wins). She now holds a record of 39 victories in total in Ski Cross. However, her winning streak came to an end, and the rumored knee problems were confirmed, forcing her to forfeit the season and undergo surgery.

With Naeslund out, the stage was set for a new overall World Cup champion. Hannah Schmidt (CAN) took an early lead with a remarkable start to the season but was sidelined by an injury in Bakuriani (GEO). This set up a duel between the two Marielles. French skier Marielle Berger-Sabbatel, who reached the finals in every race despite one DSQ but didn't secure a win, put up a fierce fight for her first Crystal Globe. In the end, it was the relieved and tearful Olympic champion Marielle Thompson from Canada who claimed the victory, securing her fourth career Globe with her impressive 31st career victory.

A special story also emerged with the first career win of the highly decorated Canadian skier Brittany Phelan, who, returning from an injury, finally claimed her first victory on her 17th career podium.

BEST NEWCOMERS

Nicolas Raffort (FRA) and Margaux Dumont (SUI)

NATIONS CUP

Team Canada

FIRST TIME PODIUM

- Christina Foedermayer (AUT), 3rd in Arosa (SUI)
- Nicolas Raffort (FRA), 2nd in Innichen (ITA)
- Saskja Lack (SUI), 2nd in Alleghe (ITA)
- Johannes Aujesky (AUT), 3rd in Alleghe (ITA)
- Melvin Tschiknavorian (FRA), 3rd in Reiteralm (AUT)
- Margaux Dumont (SUI), 3rd in Reiteralm (AUT)

PRIZE MONEY

A record amount of prize money – CHF 510,000 for the men and CHF 480,000 for the women – marked a significant step in supporting athletes.





# FIS FREESKI WORLD CUP 2023/24

REPORT BY CHAD BUCHHOLZ

Photo: Colby Stevenson (USA)

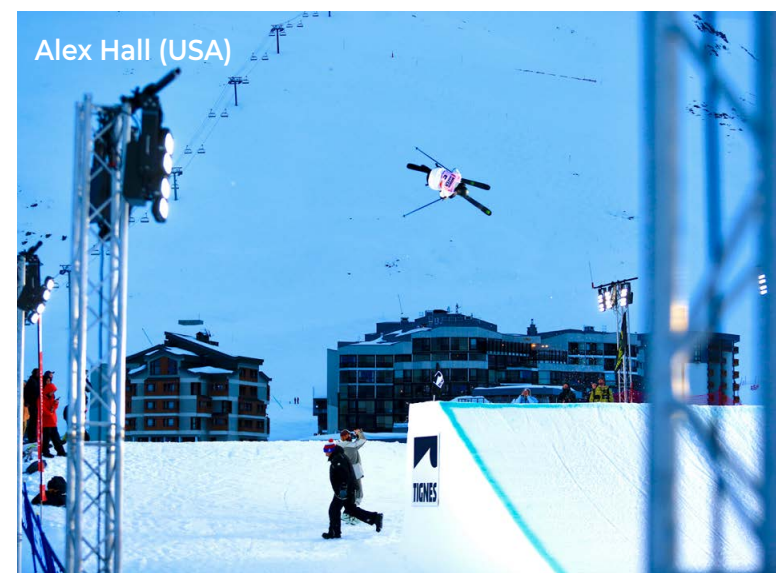
Featuring five Halfpipe, five Slopestyle and four Big Air competitions over the course of five months, which in turn facilitated some incredible, record-setting individual performances on both the women's and men's side of things, the 2023/24 FIS Freeski season was one to be remembered.

From the season opener at the Big Air Chur (SUI) to the finale in Silvaplana (SUI), with stops in between at Stubai (AUT), Beijing (CHN), Secret Garden (CHN), Copper Mountain (USA), Laax (SUI), Mammoth Mountain (USA), Calgary (CAN) and Tignes (FRA), the 2023-24 FIS Freeski World Cup tour saw some mind-blowing action, week in and week out.

Amongst all the outstanding athletes and performances we saw in 2023-24, tops on the list was Mathilde Gremaud (SUI), who became the first woman to win three Freeski crystal globes in a single season by claiming the Slopestyle, Big Air, and Overall trophies.

Along the way, Gremaud set new benchmarks for most

Freeski victories in a season (six), most podiums in a season (nine, out of nine starts) and total points (840), and with 13 career victories she now sits behind only Eileen Gu (CHN), Birk Ruud (NOR) and Tess Ledeux (FRA) on the all-time Freeski World Cup wins rankings.



**MATHILDE GREMAUD (SUI)**  
2023/24 SEASON  
9 World Cup starts -  
6 Wins (single season World Cup record)  
9 Podiums (single season World Cup record)  
3 Crystal Globes (first time in women's FIS Freeski history)



When you throw in the fact that the 24-year-old also stands as the reigning Olympic gold medalist and World Champion in Slopestyle, it's clear we're truly witnessing the prime years of a skier who already has a place amongst the sport's all-time greats.

On the men's side of things, it was the USA's Alex Ferreira putting together a season for the ages, as the 29- year-old halfpipe ace went a perfect five-for-five in World Cup victories, while also adding X Games and Dew Tour wins, making for the first perfect season in Halfpipe competition history.

Ferreira would walk away from 2023-24 with his second career Halfpipe Crystal Globe, while also becoming the first pipe skier on the men's side to win the Freeski overall title. On top of that, with his nine career victories, Ferreira now sits tops on the men's rankings and behind only Gu on the all-time Freeski Halfpipe World Cup wins list.

Speaking of Gu, she claimed the women's Halfpipe Crystal Globe in 2023-24 on the strength of four wins and a runner-up finish, while ending up just behind Gremaud on the overall standings. Had we not seen qualification results stand as final results in Mammoth, where Gu ended up in second place, there's a



Eileen Gu (CHN)

high likelihood she would have matched Ferreira with a perfect World Cup season.

Finally, a huge shout-out to the Freeski Nations Cup-winning U.S. squad as a whole. With Ferreira, Alex Hall, and Mac Forehand sweeping the men's Freeski overall podium, Hall taking the Big Air Crystal Globe, and Forehand nabbing the Slopestyle trophy, the rest of the world was shut out from the men's awards in 2023-24.

Along with Jay Riccomini (USA) emerging as a consistent Slopestyle podium threat, Nick Goepper (USA) successfully reinventing himself as a Halfpipe skier, and a half-dozen other cool stories we can't get to here due to space restrictions, it was a good a year to be a U.S. freeskier.



Mathilde Gremaud (SUI)

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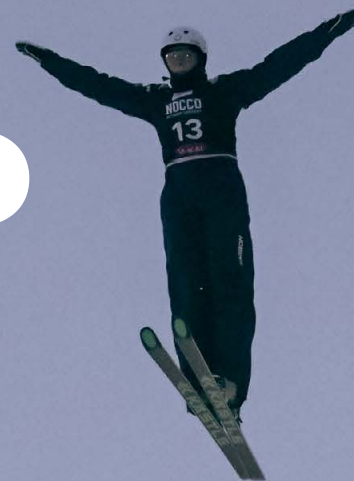
Planning and provision of grandstand, event, and media structures for the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Final 2024. Photo: © saalbach.com / Daniel Roos

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# FIS FREESTYLE WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24



REPORT BY MATEUSZ KIELPINSKI



*Looking back at the 2023/24 season, the record-breaking performances of our Moguls skiers Jakara Anthony and Michael Kingsbury stand out. Congratulations also to Ikuma Horishima for clinching his first Crystal Globe after eight runner-up finishes. Persistence pays off. In Aerials, Danielle Scott defended her Crystal Globe, reclaiming the title on the last day, while Qi Guanpu dominated the men's side, earning his third Aerials World Cup title. The FIS Freestyle World Cup featured 11 stops across nine nations in 2023/24, and we thank the organizers and host nations for their support and efforts to enable our athletes to showcase their talents."*

Michael Kennedy, Chairman of the FIS Freestyle Sub-Committee



Aerials action under the lights in Ruka (FIN)



Starting in the first week of December in Ruka (FIN) and finishing at the end of March in Chiesa in Valmalenco (ITA), the 2023-24 FIS Freestyle World Cup tour showcased the pinnacle of athleticism, skill, and artistry in freestyle skiing. Over four exciting months of top-notch action, the tour visited three continents.

The Moguls tour consisted of nine events in eight different nations, featuring a total of 16 Moguls and Dual Moguls competitions, with almost 140 athletes participating. The Aerials tour hosted five events with six competitions for both women and men, with 70 athletes engaging in high-flying action and fighting for World Cup points.

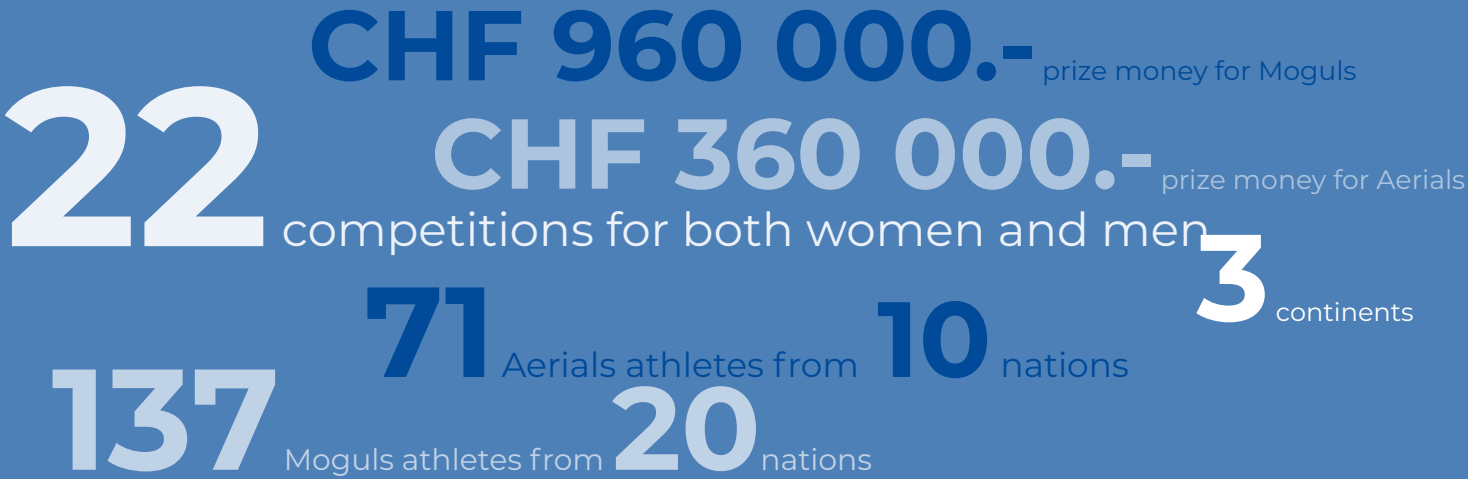
In Aerials, the women's competition was nothing short of thrilling, with the battle for globes going down to the very last competition of the season in Almaty (KAZ). The conclusion of the final competitions brought about significant shifts in the overall World Cup standings. Australia's Danielle Scott reclaimed the lead with her clutch performance, successfully defending her World Cup title and securing back-to-back Crystal Globes.

▲ Qi Guangpu's winning run

On the men's side, China's Qi Guangpu's victory in the final event of the season underscored his dominant season, earning him his third Aerials World Cup title and his first since 2017. In the 2023-24 season, Qi won three competitions and made big final appearances in all six competitions.

Moving over to the Moguls, it's worthwhile to begin with Australia's Jakara Anthony, who dominated this past World Cup campaign, finishing the season with 14 victories and breaking Hannah Kearney's (USA) all-time record for the most victories in a single season. Anthony's season was phenomenal, as the 25-year-old completed an extraordinary Moguls hat-trick, winning all three Crystal Globes by coming out on top in Moguls, Dual Moguls, and Overall Moguls standings. Adding to her impressive record this season, Jakara Anthony earned exactly CHF 192,750 in prize money, setting a new record for any athlete across both Freestyle and Snowboard disciplines.

FACTS & FIGURES



◀ Mikael Kingsbury (CAN) on his way to a record-breaking 87th World Cup victory in Deer Valley  
▼ Overall moguls World Cup winners - Mikael Kingsbury (CAN) and Jakara Anthony (AUS)



► Ikuma Horishima (JPN) rejoicing after winning his career's first World Cup crystal globe in single moguls



►► Qi Guangpu (CHN) celebrating victory in Lac-Beauport



► Men's aerials final podium in Almaty (KAZ)



►► Danielle Scott (AUS) celebrating her clutch victory in Almaty.







Ikuma Horishima (JPN) with a back Full in Waterville    Jakara Anthony (AUS) competing in Idre Fjäll

It was an extremely contested season on the men's side, with Japan's Ikuma Horishima earning his career's first World Cup title. After finishing behind Mikael Kingsbury (CAN) in the season's final standings eight times previously, Horishima finally claimed his first World Cup title this year. He clinched the Single Moguls Crystal Globe thanks to his three victories and a total of six top-3 finishes. This is only the second-ever Moguls title for the Japanese team, coming 16 years after Aiko Uemura's winning campaign in 2008.

Moving over to the "King of Moguls," the men's competition at Deer Valley's Champion Run (USA) was the stage for a monumental feat, with Canada's Mikael Kingsbury achieving his 87th World Cup victory. This victory thrust him past Ingemar Stenmark (SWE), setting a record for the most World Cup wins by a male athlete across any FIS Olympic discipline. Mikael Kingsbury continued to redefine greatness, sealing his 90th World Cup victory at the final event of the season in style and setting a personal record with 10 wins in a single season. Not only did he take home both the Dual Moguls and the Overall Moguls World Cup titles, but he also added his 25th and 26th Crystal Globes to an already legendary collection.

The final events also saw the Rookie of the Year awards in Aerials being presented to Tasia Tanner (USA) and Zhang Yifan (CHN), with the Nations Cup awarded to Team USA. On the Moguls side, Japan's Shiori Asano and Canada's Louise-David Chalifoux received the Rookie of the Year awards, while Team USA claimed the Nations Cup.

▲ Moguls highlights

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# FIS SNOWBOARD CROSS WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY CHAD BUCHHOLZ

Chloé Trespeuch (FRA) and Elliot Grondin (CAN)



The 2023-24 season was a big one for the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup tour, featuring the most action-packed calendar since 2017-18. This past season provided us with a to-the-wire battle leading to a veteran's first Crystal Globe win on the women's side, while on the men's side we were treated to a record-setting individual performance that may not soon - or ever - be matched.

Beginning in December in Les Deux Alpes (FRA), the 2023-24 SBX World Cup saw 14 races (12 individual, two team) take place over the season's four months of action, with stops in Cervinia (ITA), Gudauri (GEO), Sierra Nevada (ESP), Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA), Montafon (AUT), and Mt. St. Anne (CAN), as well as a visit to St. Moritz (SUI) for the 2025 World Championships test event.

Coming out on top of the women's overall rankings this past season was Chloé Trespeuch, as the 30-year-old French rider competing in her 14th season of World Cup action emerged with her first career Crystal Globe after several near-misses over the years.



Elliot Grondin (CAN) leads the pack in Gudauri (GEO)



Trespeuch had finished in the top-5 overall in eight of the last nine seasons leading up to 2023-24 - including two runner-ups - but was finally able to grab the big trophy come season end this past winter with a tally of 792 points.

Second overall for the women went to Great Britain’s Charlotte Banks, who was winner of the previous two SBX women’s globes. With three victories in the final five races of the season, Bankes very nearly pipped Trespeuch down the stretch for a third straight title. However, Bankes would fall just short with 757 points to Trespeuch’s 792.

Meanwhile, 2018 Olympic gold medalist Michela Moioli of Italy had a hugely successful return to competition after missing nearly all of the 2022-23 season due to injury, finishing in third overall behind Bankes.

The biggest story of the SBX World Cup season happened over on the men’s side of things, where Canada’s Eliot Grondin put together the most successful men’s season in World Cup history to claim the first SBX Crystal Globe for Canada in a decade.

Grondin was nearly unstoppable this past winter, earning seven victories and 10 total podiums in his 11 starts, with both those marks setting new men’s SBX World Cup records. Still just 23-years-old, Grondin has all the hallmarks of a future legend in the making.



Chloé Trespeuch (FRA) out front in Les Deux Alpes (FRA)

ELLIOT GRONDIN (CAN)  
2023/24 SEASON  
11 World Cup starts -  
7 Victories (men’s single season  
World Cup record)  
10 Podiums (men’s single season  
World Cup record)  
952 Points (points-adjusted  
men’s single-season World  
Cup record)

Earning 952 points out of a possible 1100, Grondin finished nearly 350 points above second overall rider Alessandro Haemmerle of Austria, while Australia’s Cameron Bolton capped off a career-best season in third place overall.

With just two SBX team races taking place in 2023-24, there would be no Globe awarded at season end. Still, props must be given to the France 1 team of Trespeuch and Loan Bozzolo for runner-up finishes in both of those two races, as well as to Bankes and Huw Nightingale, of Great Britain 1, for their win at the season-opener in Les Deux Alpes, and to the Italy 1 team of Moioli and Omar Visintin for their home-soil win at Cervinia.

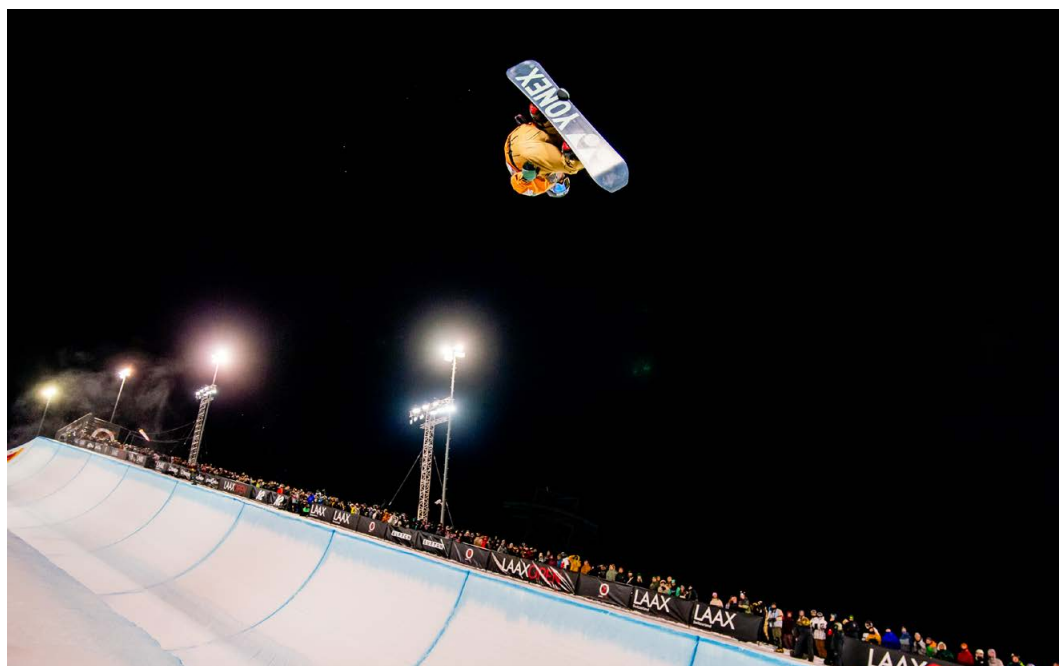


# FIS SNOWBOARD PARK & PIPE WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

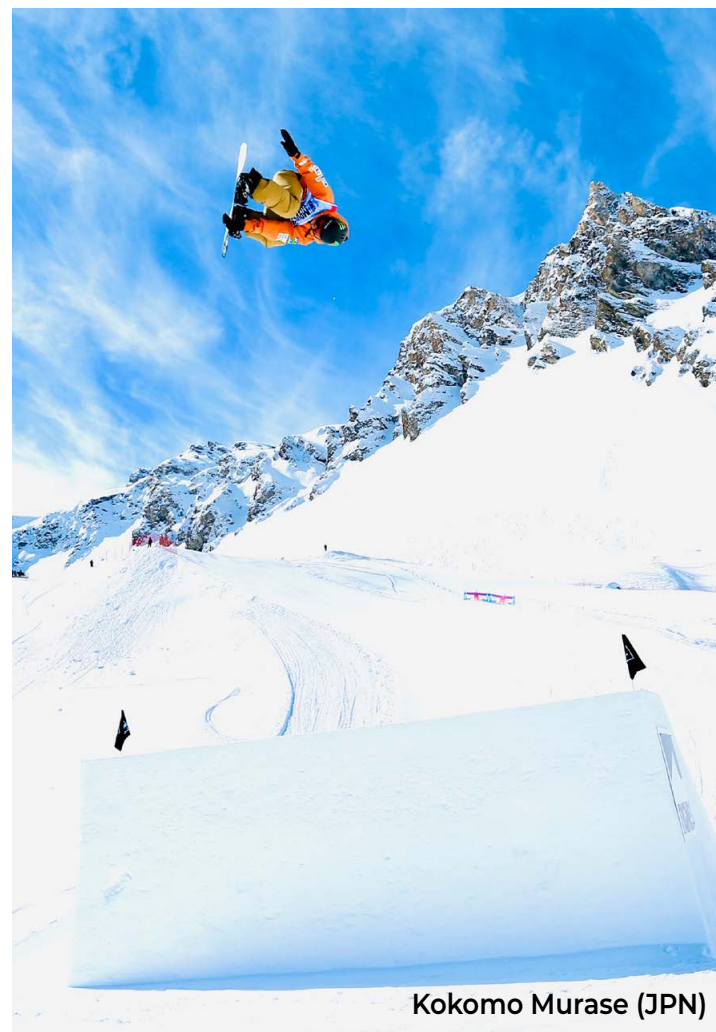
REPORT BY CHAD BUCHHOLZ

The 2023/24 FIS Snowboard Park & Pipe World Cup season was a big one, beginning in October at the Big Air Chur (SUI) and ending back again in Switzerland at the Silvaplana Slopestyle five months later. In total we saw four Big Air, five Halfpipe and three Slopestyle World Cups successfully take place, with Crystal Globes awarded in all three events.

Ruka Hirano (JPN)



Mia Brookes (GBR)



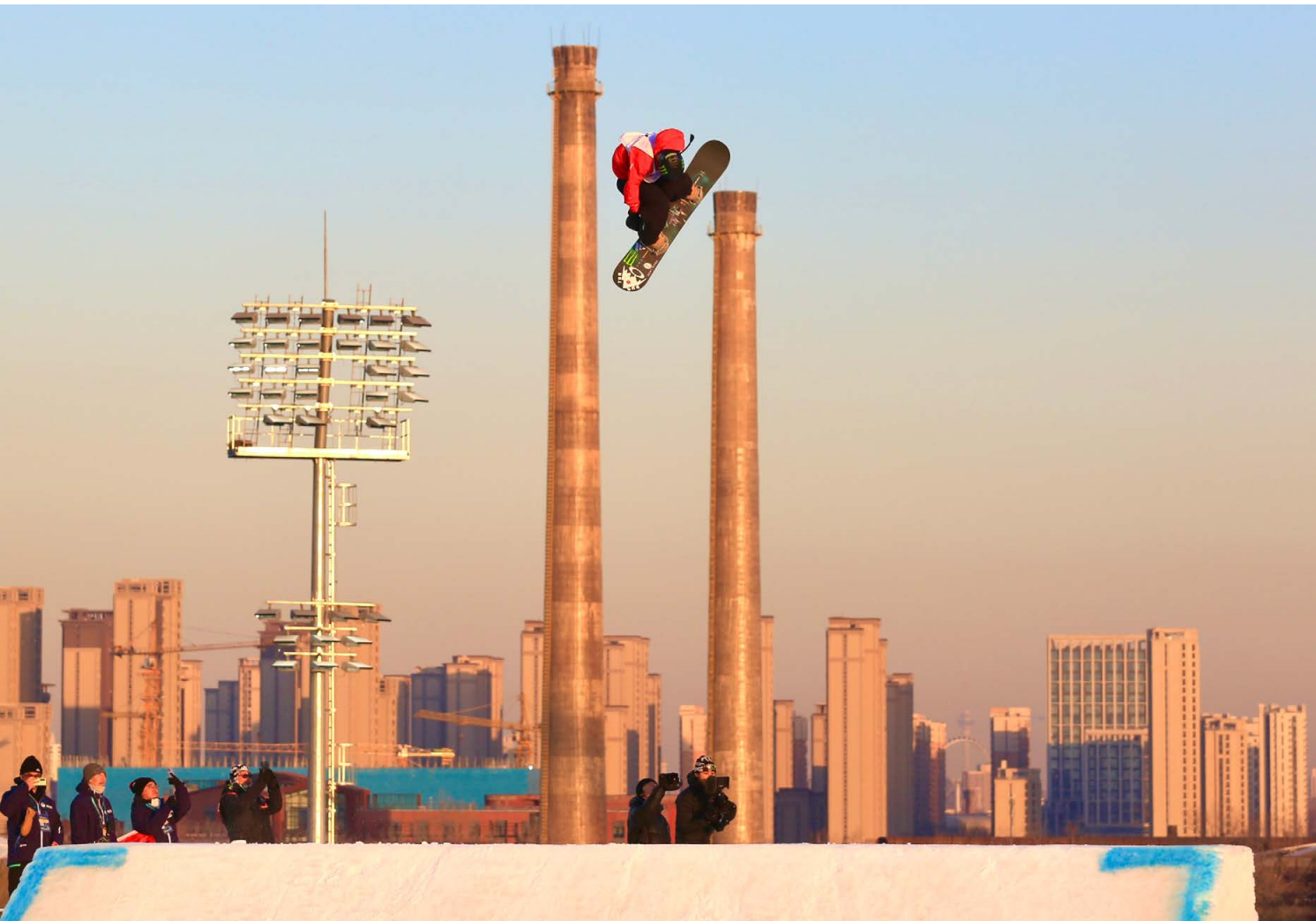
Kokomo Murase (JPN)

While inclement weather forced the cancellation of Slopestyle competitions in Mammoth Mountain (USA) and Spindleruv Mlyn (CZE), a last-minute step-in by the good folks at Tignes (FRA) to add snowboarding to their already busy program ensured a full Slopestyle calendar could be completed and Globes could be awarded.

Tops on the Park & Pipe overall for the women this past season was Japan's Kokomo Murase, who had a groundbreaking 2023-24 campaign that saw her not only claim the Overall and the Slopestyle Crystal Globes, but also put down a number of never-been-done-in-competition tricks that have re-set the standard for women's snowboarding moving forward.

For the men it was Australian three-event weapon Valentino Guseli earning his second-straight overall title, with a gutsy final-competition third-place finish in Silvaplana vaulting him to the top of the rankings.





Su Yiming (CHN)

Guseli also claimed the first Halfpipe victory of his career at the final pipe stop of the 2023/24 season in Calgary (CAN).

The women’s and men’s Big Air Crystal Globes went to reigning Slopestyle World Champion Mia Brookes (GBR) and Kira Kimura (JPN), respectively, with Brookes earning three podiums in four starts and Kimura earning two podiums in his four starts in his first season of full-time World Cup action.

For Halfpipe it was the Japanese tandem of Mitsuki Ono and Ruka Hirano going back-to-back in the Globe department, adding to their 2022-23 triumphs. Ono had one second-place result followed by three straight victories on her way to her repeat Globe, while Hirano had podiums in four of his five starts, bringing his career totals to 16 top-3s in 22 World Cups entered.

In Slopestyle the aforementioned Murase won her second globe of the past three seasons, taking a win, a runner-up and a fifth-

NBDs

(never-been-done in World Cup competition) landed in 2023/24 World Cup competition

Kokomo Murase (JPN)  
Visa Big Air Copper Mountain

backside triple cork  
Weddle grab

1440

switch frontside triple cork  
Indy grab

1440

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZL)  
Style Experience Edmonton

switch backside

1260

tail grab

Kira Kimura (JPN)  
Beijing big air

switch backside quad cork

1980

Weddle grab

Hiroaki Kunitake (JPN)  
Visa Big Air  
Copper Mountain

frontside quad cork  
Weddle grab

1800

Su Yiming (CHN)  
Beijing  
big air

backside  
Indy grab

1980

Marcus Kleveland (NOR)  
Visa Big Air Copper Mountain

nosebutter backside

1800

Indy grab

Nicolas Laframboise (CAN)  
Edmonton

switch

triple

backside rodeo Indy grab





Su Yiming (CHN)



Team Japan

place finish in her three starts. On the men’s side, meanwhile, it was Liam Brearley becoming the first Canadian in World Cup history to claim a Slopestyle title as part of a breakout season that saw him take two victories and a ninth-place finish over the course of the campaign.

By claiming five of the eight Park & Pipe globes up for grabs in 2023-24, Japan left no doubt who the top squad on the tour is, and they would once again be honored with the Nations Cup trophy for their efforts.

Other highlights of 2023-24 included a return to 2022 Olympic venues in Beijing (Big Air) and Secret Garden (Halfpipe), while every other venue from start to finish of the season – Chur (SUI), Edmonton (CAN), Copper Mountain (USA), Laax (SUI), Mammoth (USA), Calgary (CAN), Tignes (FRA), and Silvaplana (SUI) - showed their experience, dedication, and stoke in making each stop special in its own exceptional way.



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# FIS SNOWBOARD ALPINE WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY MATEUSZ KIELPINSKI

The 2023/24 FIS Snowboard Alpine World Cup season saw 15 competitions across Parallel Giant Slalom, Parallel Slalom, and Parallel team events, visiting 10 venues in seven different countries. This year, the tour welcomed three new World Cup venues: Davos (SUI), Pamporovo (BUL), and Krynica (POL). The season kicked off in December with Italian classics in the Dolomites – Carezza and Cortina d'Ampezzo – and concluded after four exciting months in Winterberg, Germany.

Tight racing in Cortina d'Ampezzo



Schoeffmann and Prommegger (AUT) after winning the team event in front of the home crowd in Bad Gastein

The standout story of 2023-24 was the superb performance of Germany's Ramona Theresia Hofmeister, who dominated the women's side by winning all three individual crystal globes in the same season for the first time in her career. Hofmeister clinched five victories, becoming the first woman since Patrizia Kummer (SUI) in 2014 to sweep all three crystal globes. The German snowboarder now has four overall titles, five consecutive PGS globes, and her first PSL globe, making this a memorable season for the 28-year-old.

Japan's Tsubaki Miki also had a remarkable season, challenging Hofmeister throughout the year, especially in Giant Slalom. Miki won head-to-head matchups against Hofmeister four times in 2023-24 and finished with her career-best standing in the PGS ranking, just six points behind Hofmeister.



Also worth mentioning are the strong showings by Austria's Sabine Schoeffmann, who finished second in PSL and third overall, as well as Italy's Lucia Dalmasso, who rounded out the PGS standings in third place for what was undoubtedly her career's best season. Finally, let's not forget about the Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka, who, despite spending most of her season racing on the Alpine World Cup tour, went three-for-three in Alpine Snowboard events she entered, finishing third in the overall PSL ranking.

On the men's side, Austria's Benjamin Karl had another impeccable season, adding to his storied career by capturing the overall and PGS globes. Throughout the 2023-24 season, Karl achieved three victories and five top-three finishes, marking it his second-best season in terms of podium spots and his best since 2010. This season earned him his fourth overall title and his first since 2011, as well as his first career PGS crystal globe.

Korea's Sangho Lee delivered a clutch performance in the final PSL race of the season. Entering the race 27 points off the lead for the PSL globe, Lee posted the fastest qualifying time and dominated the competition to win in Winterberg. Consequently, Lee clinched his first PSL globe and second career globe after winning the overall title in 2021/22.



Ramona Theresia Hofmeister (GER) in action at Scuol, Switzerland.

*“I must say that this year's World Cup was exceptional. I can't recall a year with fewer issues and more positive feedback about the race quality and slope preparation. A big thank you to all the LOCs for making this possible.”*

Alexander Payer (AUT),  
FIS Athletes' Representative

► Hofmeister and Karl:  
The new Alpine Snowboard  
Queen and King

▼ Benjamin Karl (AUT) racing to victory in Rogla

▼▼ Ramona Theresia Hofmeister (GER) and Benjamin Karl (AUT) with their big crystal globes in Winterberg, Germany

▼▼▼ Sangho Lee (KOR) on his way to clinch the PSL crystal globe in Winterberg





Austria's Andreas Prommegger also had an outstanding season, securing second place in both the PGS and overall standings. The Italian men's team consistently challenged throughout the season, with Maurizio

► Sangho Lee checkmates Bagozza to win the PSL Crystal Globe

Bormolini finishing third in both PSL and overall, Daniele Bagozza achieving a second-place finish in PSL, and Roland Fischnaller completing the PGS top three in third place.

In the mixed team standings, the Austrian duo of Andreas Prommegger and Sabine Schoeffmann won the first two races of the season and maintained their lead to secure the title in Winterberg. This marks back-to-back mixed team titles for Prommegger, who also won last season alongside Daniela Ulbing.



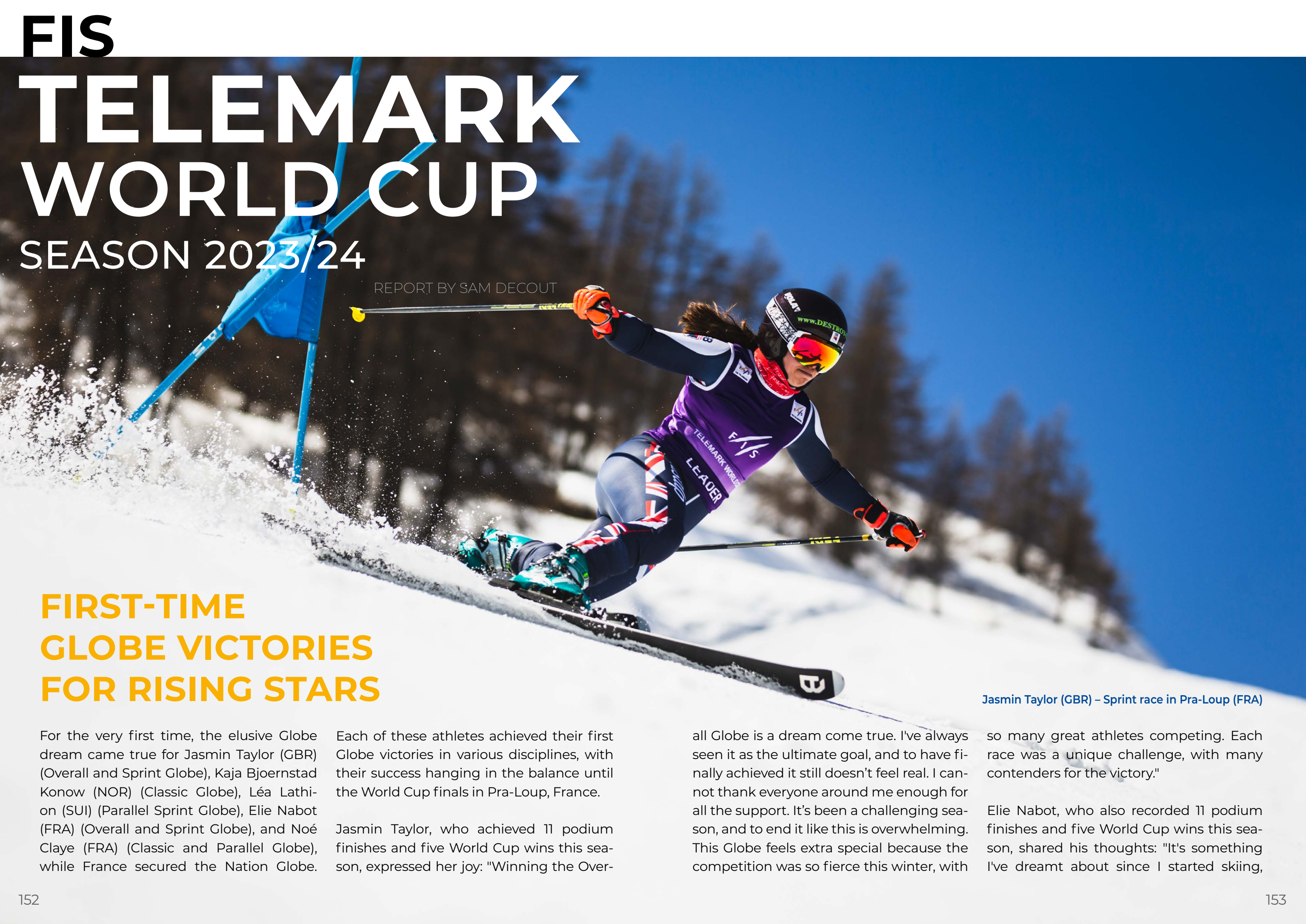
*This World Cup season for Snowboard Alpine was remarkable, with a solid number of high-quality events. Despite the cancellation of two competitions, the season was a huge success thanks to great teamwork. Special thanks go to our organizer teams and long-term partners.”*

Uwe Beier, FIS Race Director Snowboard Alpine

FACTS & FIGURES







# FIS TELEMARK WORLD CUP

SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY SAM DECOUT

## FIRST-TIME GLOBE VICTORIES FOR RISING STARS

For the very first time, the elusive Globe dream came true for Jasmin Taylor (GBR) (Overall and Sprint Globe), Kaja Bjoernstad Konow (NOR) (Classic Globe), Léa Lathion (SUI) (Parallel Sprint Globe), Elie Nabot (FRA) (Overall and Sprint Globe), and Noé Claye (FRA) (Classic and Parallel Globe), while France secured the Nation Globe.

Each of these athletes achieved their first Globe victories in various disciplines, with their success hanging in the balance until the World Cup finals in Pra-Loup, France.

Jasmin Taylor, who achieved 11 podium finishes and five World Cup wins this season, expressed her joy: "Winning the Over-

all Globe is a dream come true. I've always seen it as the ultimate goal, and to have finally achieved it still doesn't feel real. I cannot thank everyone around me enough for all the support. It's been a challenging season, and to end it like this is overwhelming. This Globe feels extra special because the competition was so fierce this winter, with

Jasmin Taylor (GBR) – Sprint race in Pra-Loup (FRA)

so many great athletes competing. Each race was a unique challenge, with many contenders for the victory."

Elie Nabot, who also recorded 11 podium finishes and five World Cup wins this season, shared his thoughts: "It's something I've dreamt about since I started skiing,



and it's become an obsession over the years. Victory is even more beautiful after two consecutive years when the Globes passed me by."

With six stages held primarily in France, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland, and a total of 17 races, the season delivered excitement and drama. For the first time, Pinzolo, Italy, hosted a Telemark World Cup in December, providing a great launch for the season. In Pinzolo, Nicolas Michel (SUI) was widely tipped as a favorite alongside Elie Nabot (FRA), but Michel was injured and missed the entire season. Similarly, Norwegian favorite Trym Nygaard Loeken underwent major stomach surgery in December and only returned to racing in March.

On the women's side, the season featured a close contest between English, French, and Norwegian athletes for podium positions. For the men, the competition was intense, with French skiers Claye, Nabot, Page, and Petex facing high pressure, while contenders like Raphaël Mahlknecht (ITA), Olle Colleberg (SWE), and Romain Beney (SUI) aimed for podium finishes. The season also saw impressive first-time World Cup wins for Augustine Carliez (FRA), Kaja Bjoernstad Konow (NOR), Léa Lathion (SUI), and Charly Petex (FRA).

The World Cup finals in Pra-Loup also marked the farewell of Andreja Jovan after 20 years as the FIS Telemark Race Director. Jovan's two decades of overseeing races with firm and fair guidance have left a lasting impact. Her dedication and leadership are deeply ingrained in the legacy of these Globes. Andreja, may your journey outside the gates be long and fulfilling!



**Women Overall WC podium : 1. Jasmin Taylor (GBR); 2. Goril Strom Eriksen (NOR); 3. Laly Chaucheptrat (FRA)**



**Men Overall WC podium : 1. Elie Nabot (FRA); 2. Noé Claye (FRA); 3. Alexis Page (FRA)**



**Elie Nabot (FRA) – Classic race in Melchsee Frutt (SUI)**

**“** *I have so many good memories that it is difficult to single out one of them. The best thing was meeting all these wonderful people I now consider friends among racers, officials, organizers,... I believe this is priceless and worth all the effort I put in these last two decades. My message to racers: keep on racing, find friends who would like to join, and when you stop racing, stay in this sport. Work with young ones, help organize events, or contribute in any other way to make this interesting sport more popular.”*

Andreja Jovan,  
FIS Telemark Race Director





# FIS SPEED SKI WORLD CUP 2023/24

REPORT BY RICARDO ADARRAGA

Photo: Valentina Greggio (ITA) in Vars

Forty tough men and eleven tough women participated in the FIS Speed Ski World Cup 2023/24. The initial World Cup race calendar included two races in Vars in the French Alps and two races in the Pyrenees: Formigal (Spain) and Grandvalira (Andorra). All three tracks have the potential for speeds of 200 km/h or more, making them the fastest speed tracks in the world.



The FIS World Cup 2023/24 started at the end of January on the world record speed track in Vars, with very fast speeds reaching 190 km/h in the first runs. Heavy snowfalls in December and January created the perfect base for a fast track. The 1.4km-long track with a vertical drop of 460m was the ideal start to the season. After several runs, the two top speed skiers in the world, Simon Billy from France and Simone Origone from Italy, began their personal duel, with each run showing a difference of just 1 km/h. Simone won the first round at 224 km/h, edging out Simon by 1.5 km/h.



Unfortunately, heavy snowfalls did not arrive in the Pyrenees in February. As track preparation must start three weeks before the competition, it was not possible to work on the speed tracks. Consequently, the race organizers in Formigal and Grandvalira had to make an early decision in February to cancel the scheduled World Cup Speed Ski races. Although the snow finally arrived in the Pyrenees in March, it was too late to resume preparations.

Once more, Vars stepped in to host the World Cup Final, thanks to the excellent conditions of the speed track. In the final race, Simone Origone left no chance for the competition, securing his 15th Crystal Globe and furthering his outstanding personal record of Crystal Globes in a single FIS discipline.

In the women's category, world record holder Valentina Greggio from Italy showcased her exceptional skills, winning all the World Cup races of the season and claiming her sixth Crystal Globe.

The World Cup was a fast-paced season, with all races being won at speeds exceeding 200 km/h. Simone



Origone's fastest speed in the men's category was 224 km/h, while Valentina Greggio's fastest speed in the women's category was 219.6 km/h.

Once again, the FIS Speed Ski World Cup proved to be not only the fastest ski discipline, but also the fastest non-motorized sport.

◀ Vars Speed Ski World Cup 2024

FACTS & FIGURES

224 km/h  
men's fastest speed 2023/24

219.6 km/h  
women's fastest speed 2023/24



- ◀ Team France, Team Italy and Team Australia
- ◀ Men's podium - Vars (FRA)
- ◀ Women's podium - Vars (FRA)
- ◀ Valentina Greggio and Simone Origone (ITA)



# FIS PARA SNOW SPORTS WORLD CUP SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY LOUISE SEPPEY

Disciplines governed by FIS since only 2022, Para Alpine Skiing, Para Cross-Country, and Para Snowboard experienced a 2023-24 season marked by new challenges as well as new successes. In terms of schedules, like all snow sports disciplines, the weather and snow conditions played spoilsport, requiring some program changes and, unfortunately, a few cancellations.

The Para Alpine Skiing World Cup started in mid-December with two downhills held in St. Moritz (SUI), on the same course and track as the women's World Cup and ended in Sella Nevea (ITA). Following the cancellation of the Pokljuka (SLO) races, the Para Cross-Country World Cup season began with an Italian tour and concluded in Prince George, Canada. Para Snowboard athletes started their season in early December in Landgraaf (NED) before a long break until February with two more stops in Europe, before also heading to Canada, to Big White, and then Mt. Sima for a grand finale.



Brenna Huckaby Clegg (USA) at the start of the Snowboard Cross in Pyha (FIN)

## COMEBACKS, FIRSTS, AND FAREWELLS

For several seasons, we have seen an increase in performance levels across all three FIS Paralympic disciplines. Experienced athletes with already impressive track records continue to push their limits, while a new generation of athletes and underdogs hungry for success emerge.

In Para Cross-Country, the 2023-24 season was marked by the return of multiple Paralympic and world champion Oksana Masters (USA), who tasted victory again at her first race in Toblach, Italy. After maternity leave, Ukrainian Oleksandra Kononova also made a competitive comeback, winning the 7.5km Sprint in biathlon in Martell (ITA) in the Women Standing category.

Kononova's teammates, Serafym Drahun and Vasyl Kravchuk, celebrated their first World Cup victories, the former

Podium of the first Inclusive Team Event in Snowboard Cross in Grasgehren (GER) - Italy 1st and 2nd, Switzerland 3rd





in the Sprint finals in Prince George (CAN) in the Men Standing category, and the latter in the 10km biathlon event in Martell (ITA) in the Men Sitting category. A strong and consistent Ukrainian team ultimately won the Nations Cup. Other notable firsts included Simona Bubenickova (CZE) securing her first World Cup victory in the 10km Interval Start in Toblach (ITA) in the Women Vision Impaired (VI) category, and Derek Zaplotinsky (CAN) winning the 5km Classic at home during the finals in Prince George in the Men Sitting category.

In the Para Alpine Skiing World Cup, Nicolas Bisquertt Hudson (CHI) made history by becoming the first Chilean (able-bodied and disabled athletes included) to podium in an Alpine Skiing World Cup with a third place in the Super-G in Veysonnaz (SUI) in the Men Sitting category.

The young Chilean repeated the feat, confirming his status as a serious podium contender by finishing third in the first slalom in Wildschönau (AUT) in February. A few weeks earlier, in the same category, the most competitive in the Para Alpine Skiing World Cup, Frenchman Lou Braz Dagand celebrated his first World Cup victory in slalom in Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA). The strong French team won the Globe for the best men's team but also bid farewell to one of its leading figures and a sport legend at the end of the season: Marie Bochet, a true medal and title collector, with 8 Paralympic gold medals and one silver, as well as 22 World Championship golds, six silvers, and one bronze. Bochet retired after securing two specialty Globes this season (Downhill and Super-G in the Women Standing category) after more than 15 years at the highest level.



▲ Team France celebrating Marie Bochet's last World Cup race in Sella Nevea (ITA)

◀ Johannes Aigner and his guide Nico Haberl (AUT) in action in Sapporo (JPN)

In Para Snowboard, several athletes celebrated their first World Cup victories this season. At the season opener in Landgraaf (NED), Aron Fahrni (SUI) won his first Banked Slalom in the Men Upper Limb (UL) category. Versatile, the young Swiss climbed to the top of the podium again in Pyha (FIN), this time in Snowboard Cross. In the same category, at Big White (CAN), Italian Riccardo Cardani tasted victory for the first time in Snowboard Cross, though he unfortunately injured his shoulder on the same course the following day. A few weeks earlier, in Grasgehren (GER), the popular Takahito Ichikawa (JPN) finally stood atop the Snowboard Cross podium in the Men Lower Limb 2 (LL2) category.

▲ Multiple Paralympic champion and world champion Marie Bochet took her bow in Sella Nevea

There were also firsts in winning the coveted globes. In Para Alpine Skiing, Alexandra Rexova (SVK) in the Women VI category, Ebba Aarsjoe (SWE) in the Women Standing category, and Jeroen Kampschreur (NED) in the Men Sitting category all secured their first Overall Globe. The Slovak excelled in speed disciplines, the Swede dominated in technical disciplines, and the Dutchman showed great consistency across all disciplines. In Para Cross-Country, Giuseppe Romele (ITA) in the Men Sitting category and Jake Adicoff (USA) in the Men VI category both lifted the famous globe for the first time, distinguishing themselves as the



Anja Wicker (GER), Oksana Masters (USA) and Kendall Gretsche (USA) finishing the first Sprint race of the season



Cristian Westemaier Ribera (BRA) - Winner of the first Sprint race of the season in the Men Sitting category



best athletes of the season. The most consistent athletes in their categories, Romy Tschopp (SUI) (Women LL2), Elliott Noah (USA) (Men LL1), and Emanuel Perathoner (ITA) (Men LL2) also claimed their first Overall Globe at the end of this season.

NEW VENUES AND INCLUSION

During the 2023-24 season, Para athletes had the chance to discover new competition venues. In Italy, Toblach and Martell were new hosts for the Para Cross-Country and Para Biathlon World Cup. For the Para Snowboard World Cup, the horizon extended to Mt. Sima (CAN), host of the Banked Slalom finals.

Inclusion being a fundamental principle of Paralympic disciplines, new competition formats and synergy opportunities with able-bodied disciplines emerged this season. St. Moritz (SUI) and Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA) both hosted the Para Alpine Skiing World Cup right after the women's Alpine Skiing World Cup.

This allowed Paralympic athletes to race on the same course as the able-bodied women, the famous Olimpia delle Tofane



Renè De Silvestro (ITA), Jeroen Kampschreur (NED), Jesper Pedersen (NOR) - Men Sitting Overall top 3

in Cortina d'Ampezzo, and to race in the exact same setting as them on the St. Moritz World Cup course. On each occasion, the Para athletes demonstrated very high technical skills and impressive commitment. In Germany, at Grasgehren, the organizers of the two Para Snowboard Cross World Cup races also created and tested the first-ever Inclusive Team Event of Snowboard Cross. Teams composed of one able-bodied athlete and one disabled athlete from the same nation competed in a great atmosphere, much to the delight of the present audience. In the Para Cross-Country World Cup, the "Para Mass Start" format was implemented for the first time this season and was successful. This promising new format allows real-time tracking and racing, which is very exciting for both athletes and spectators.

FACTS & FIGURES

118 Para Snow Sports World Cup races

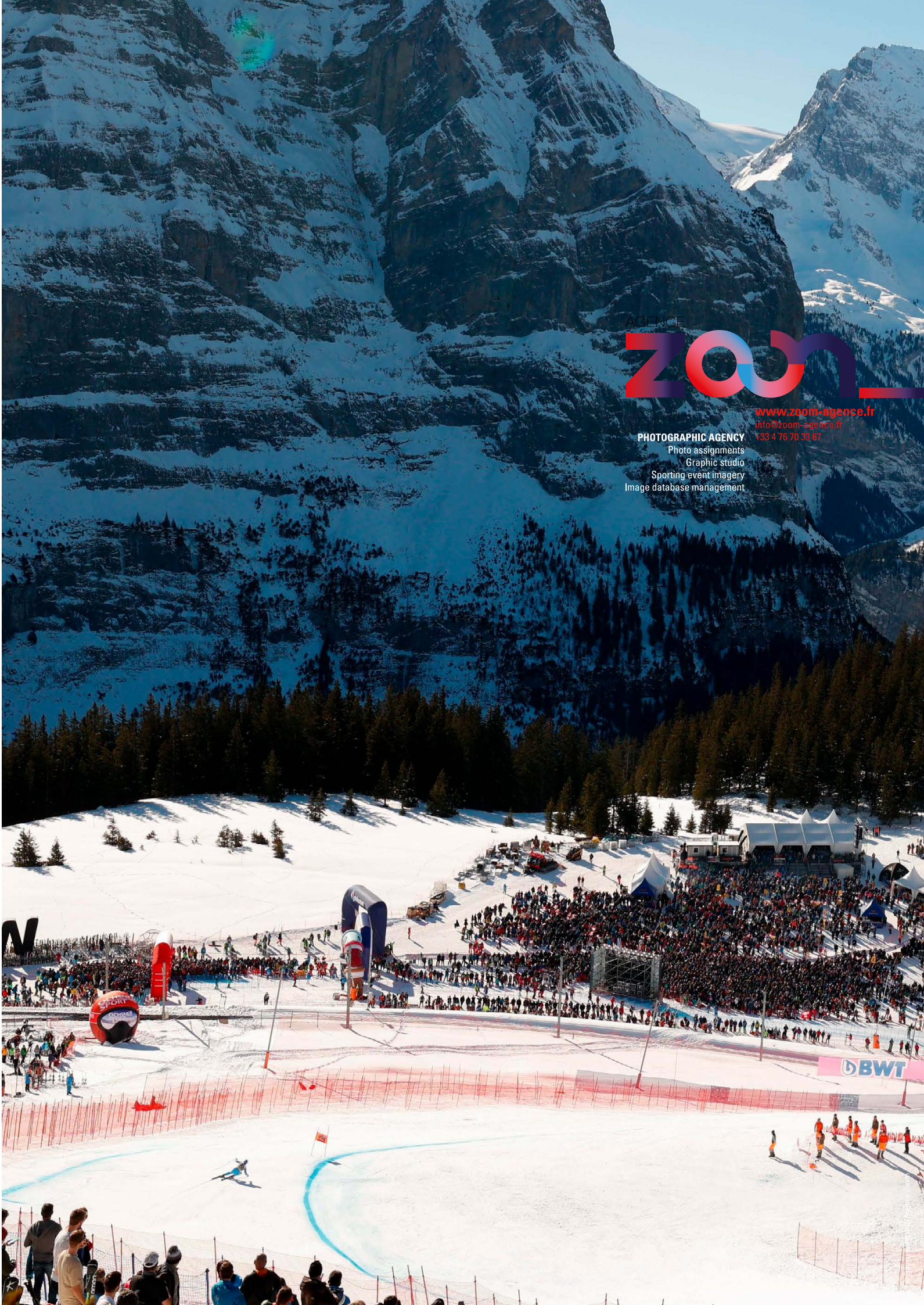
16 Para Snow Sports World Cup venues

2 common venues with the able-body Alpine Skiing World Cup

724 licensed Para athletes and 132 licensed guides

The youngest Para World Cup athlete is 16 years old (born in 2008), competing in Para Cross-Country.

The oldest Para World Cup athlete is 60 years old (born in 1964), competing in Para Snowboard.



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# FIS

# GRASS SKIING

# WORLD CUP

## SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY FAUSTO CERENTIN

The highlight of the Grass Skiing 2023 season was the World Championships held in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, which replaced the originally planned location of Dizin, Iran. The championships saw participation from 10 nations, and athletes from Japan, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Italy achieved the most notable results.

The Grass Skiing World Cup 2023 featured four stages in Europe, hosted by the Czech Republic, Italy, and culminating with the Finals in Switzerland. The Czech Republic dominated, clinching all the final rankings in the men's, women's, and nations' categories.

Throughout the season, several races included dedicated rankings for the Junior category. Along with the Junior World Championships, these races contributed to the final standings of the Junior Cup. Austria hosted the Junior World Championships in Rettenbach and, drawing on their extensive experience, provided an ex-



Eliska Rejchrtova (CZE)

ceptional competition track. Local athletes performed impressively against favorites from Italy and the Czech Republic. The Junior Cup races witnessed continuous competition among young athletes, with Austria achieving a hat-trick in the final women's rankings and securing the top two positions among the men.

### FACTS & FIGURES

**98** Grass Skiing races at **10** different venues  
**155** licensed athletes from **16** nations

The youngest World Cup winner is Lenka Knorova (CZE). She was **15** years old when she claimed her first Super-G World Cup win in June 2023.

The youngest 2023 World Champions are **18** years old when they won their title.  
Lara Teynor (AUT) and Andrea Iori (ITA). They were



In recent years, efforts to increase the visibility of grass skiing have included live streaming of major events. A dedicated YouTube channel archives these events, allowing for review and increasing accessibility. The number of views has been promising, often exceeding a thousand live viewers, suggesting this approach could attract more interest and resources for the sport's growth.

Additionally, the work with young athletes remains promising. The annual Children Camps, hosted in different countries each year, consistently attract over 70 participants. This initiative ensures a steady influx of talent into the upper categories.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the success of these events, particularly the nations committed to nurturing young talent, which is vital for the continuity of top-level teams. It is also gratifying to see new nations embracing grass skiing and recognizing the sport's potential for growth and development.



Lara Teynor (AUT)



Martin Bartak (CZE)



Margherita Mazzoncini (ITA)



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# FIS MASTERS CUP

## SEASON 2023/24

REPORT BY STEFANO ARNHOLD

## RECORD-BREAKING SEASON FOR ALPINE MASTERS RACING

The 2023/24 season was another record-breaking year for Alpine Masters Racing, with a total of 8,725 starts, despite the cancellation of 17 races due to bad weather or lack of snow.

In total, 69 races were held across 20 different venues in 15 nations on three continents, with 18 different nations organizing Masters races. The Masters competition is divided into 23 age classes (each spanning five years), with competitors in the last World Cup season ranging from 30 to 91 years old. Several age classes saw more than 100 participants throughout the season, with impressive numbers in the older categories, such as the 80-84 age group, which had over 30 participants.

The World Cup began in September at the Catedral Resort in Bariloche, Argentina, and concluded in April with the Finals in Reiteralm, Austria. The Northern Hemisphere portion of the season started in November with three indoor events in Wittenburg (GER), Amneville (FRA), and Oslo (NOR).

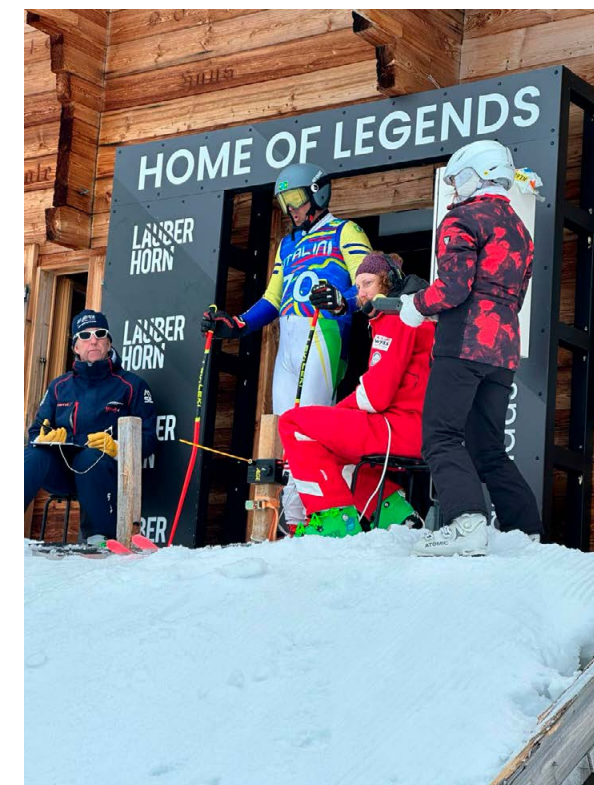
Highlights of the World Cup season included the World Winter Masters Games in Lombardia, Italy, in January, which featured over 900 starts, and the Finals in Reiteralm, in April, which set a record for the number of participants. The World Championships took place in March at Kimberley, Canada, which also hosted Masters races in Nakiska, bringing the total number of races in Canada to seven for the season.



Overall Masters World Cup Champions Category B-10  
Ages 75-79

Looking ahead to the 2024-25 season, the calendar features 86 races, presenting the exciting possibility of reaching 10,000 starts for the first time.

Masters Racing continues to be an excellent motivation for our skiers to



Three Masters Races were held on the legendary Lauberhorn track in Wengen (SUI)

stay fit and train hard, promoting a healthy lifestyle. It also fosters a unique blend of camaraderie and competition, creating a special environment that bridges distances worldwide and forges lasting friendships.

### FACTS & FIGURES

**69** races at **20** different venues  
**2008** **18** local Organizing Committees  
licensed athletes  
The oldest Masters athlete competing in the World Cup is **91** years old.





**NordicFocus**  
photo agency

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