

FACTS & FIGURES – Men’s Giant Slalom World Championships, Saalbach

- **Men’s Giant Slalom World Championship gold medals by nation:** Austria (8), Switzerland (7), Norway (6), USA (5), Italy (4), France (4), Sweden (2), Germany (1)
- **Marco Odermatt (SUI/Stöckli)** is looking to become the first Swiss skier to successfully defend a men’s Giant Slalom world championship title.
- He also has the opportunity to continue Switzerland’s clean sweep of the men’s gold medals at these World Championships.
- Ted Ligety (USA) is the last skier to have won successive GS golds, the American winning three titles 2011, 2013, 2015.
- If Odermatt is successful, he will join six other men who have won two GS golds, including the great Ingemar Stenmark (SWE). Ligety leads the way with his three golds.
- Should he win a fourth world championship gold medal (after claiming GS and Downhill gold in 2023, and Super G gold in these Championships) Odermatt will join a host of male skiers with four titles, including his storied compatriots Pirmin Zurbriggen and Rudi Rominger.
- Odermatt is the reigning Olympic, world championship, and three-time World Cup GS champion. He is also currently leading this season’s World Cup GS standings.
- In the 34 GS World Cup races Odermatt has competed in since the start of the 2021/22 season, the Swiss skier has won 24. Within that run, he won nine out of 10 World Cup GS races last season.
- This season Odermatt won three World Cup GS races in succession, in Val d’Isere, Alta Badia and Adelboden.
- He does not, however, have a great record in the GS in Saalbach, having recorded DNFs in his two races, in 2018 and in last season’s World Cup Finals.
- **Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR/Van Deer)** was crowned GS world champion in 2019 and is aiming to join Stein Eriksen (1952 and 1954 champion) as Norway’s only two-time men’s GS world championship gold medal winners.
- If he wins a third world championship gold (after also claiming Slalom gold in 2023) he will join the likes of Lasse Ljus (NOR) and Hermann Maier (AUT) as a three-time world champion.
- It has been almost three years since Kristoffersen claimed the last of his seven World Cup GS wins (back-to-back triumphs in Kranjska Gora in March 2022).
- Since those wins, Kristoffersen has been on a World Cup GS podium 10 times, finishing second eight times.
- Two of those second places came this season, both on Austrian snow (Sölden and Schladming).
- Kristoffersen’s compatriot **Alexander Steen Olsen (NOR/Rossignol)** won the first GS of the season in Sölden and the most recent World Cup GS, in Schladming. He is currently Odermatt’s closest challenger in the GS season standings.
- This is the 23-year-old’s second world championship. He finished 22nd in both the GS and Slalom in Courchevel Meribel, although he did win Team Parallel silver.
- He was 9th in the GS at the World Cup Finals in Saalbach last season.
- Alongside Odermatt, **Loic Meillard (SUI/Rossignol)** offers Switzerland another excellent chance of continuing their clean sweep of the men’s events at these World Championships.
- The 28-year-old has a brilliant record in Saalbach. In December 2018, he claimed his first World Cup podiums in both the GS and Slalom in Saalbach, finishing 2nd in both

races. Then in last season's World Cup Finals, he won the GS and came 2nd in the Super G.

- In total, in his six World Cup races in Saalbach he has a win, three 2nd places, a 4th and a DNF.
- Meillard also has world championship GS form, having won silver behind Odermatt in Courchevel Meribel in 2023. He now has a world championship gold (Team Combined 2025), silver (GS 2023) and two bronzes (Alpine Combined and Parallel 2021).
- Meillard won the only World Cup GS race Odermatt did not win last season.

- Compatriot **Thomas Tumler (SUI/Stöckli)** is another Swiss contender.
- The 35-year-old claimed his first and to date only World Cup win in the GS this season, triumphing in Beaver Creek in December.
- He also has form in Saalbach, having finished 3rd behind Meillard in the GS at last season's World Cup Finals.
- If he does win, he will comfortably overtake Hermann Maier (AUT) as the oldest ever GS world champion. Maier was 32 years 2 months and 3 days old when he won gold in Bormio in 2005.
- Tumler was 18th in the GS at the 2023 Worlds but he did win silver in the Team Parallel at the start of these Championships.

- **Lucas Pinheiro Braathen (BRA/Atomic)** has the opportunity to become the first Brazilian skier to win a World Championship medal of any colour.
- In December Pinheiro Braathen became the first Brazilian to finish on a World Cup GS podium, coming 2nd in Beaver Creek in the second race of the season. Since that race however, he has failed to finish twice and has a best finish of 12th.
- Braathen has won two World Cup GS races, in 2020 and 2022, when he was skiing for Norway.

- **Zan Kranjec (SLO/Rossignol)** also has the opportunity to become the oldest GS world champion. The Slovenian will be 32 years 2 months and 30 days old on Friday.
- Kranjec also has the chance to become the first Slovenian to win a men's world championship GS medal.
- Kranjec has form in Saalbach, having won the GS World Cup race in 2018.
- This season he has one GS World Cup podium (3rd in Beaver Creek) and four other top-10 finishes.

- **Marco Schwarz (AUT/Atomic)** may offer the best chance of home success in the GS. Schwarz won GS bronze in both the past two world championships (2021 and 2023).
- The Austrian is edging back towards his best form after returning from long-term injury earlier this season. He has finished 9th and 11th in his two most recent World Cup GS races.

- **Luca De Aliprandini (ITA/Salomon)**, the 2021 World Championship GS silver medallist, has enjoyed a return to form this season after struggling for the previous two seasons.
- The Italian finished 3rd in Adelboden, his first World Cup podium for more than three years, and has three other top-10 finishes.
- The great Alberto Tomba was the last Italian to win GS world championship gold, in 1996.

- **Filip Zubcic (CRO/Atomic)** could become the first Croatian to win a men's world championship GS medal.

- Zubcic, who won Parallel silver in 2021, is a three-time GS World Cup winner and has eight other GS podium finishes to his name. But his last victory came in February 2021, while his last podium was in January 2024.
- His best World Cup result this season was 4th in Alta Badia in December.