

## PREVIEW MEN'S 2 X 15KM SKIATHLON PLANICA – Friday 24 Feb 2023

### Norway

- Norway has won 12 world championships medals in the men's skiathlon event, including a record three wins.
- Norway won only one world title in the men's skiathlon in the last five world championships; for **Sjur Røthe** in 2019.
- Røthe could join Per Eloffsson (2) and Petter Northug (2) on a record two world titles in this event. He can also equal Martin Johnsrud Sundby (G0-S2-B1) on a record three medals in the men's skiathlon.
- **Simen Hegstad Krüger** took silver in the skiathlon at the world championships in 2021, after having won gold in this event at the Olympic Winter Games in 2018. The only two men to have won the skiathlon at the world championships and the Winter Games are Dario Cologna (2013 WCh, 2014 OG) and Alexander Bolshunov (2021 WCh, 2022 OG).
- The men's skiathlon and the men's 50km (freestyle/classic style) are the two events in which **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** has started but in which he never finished on the podium at the world championships or Winter Games.
- No country has won gold, silver and bronze in the men's skiathlon at a single world championships. Norway finished in 2nd-3rd-4th-5th-6th place in 2021, behind winner Alexander Bolshunov.

### Other contenders

- **Iivo Niskanen** took bronze in the men's skiathlon at the Winter Games in Beijing. He could become the first man to win a world championships medal in the men's skiathlon for Finland.
- **Sweden** won the first two world titles in the men's skiathlon when it was a 2x10km event (2001, 2003). It claimed its last podium finish in the men's skiathlon in 2009: silver for Anders Södergren.
- Only Norway (12) and Russia (6) have claimed more medals in the men's skiathlon than Sweden (G2-S1-B1).
- **Italy** has won three medals in the men's skiathlon, but not since Giorgio Di Centa finished third in 2009.
- **Canada** took bronze in the men's skiathlon in 2015 (Alex Harvey).

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