

PREVIEW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN'S INDIVIDUAL SKI FLYING PLANICA – 11-12 Dec 2020

General

- The ski flying world championships will be held for the 26th time. Walter Steiner won the inaugural edition in 1972.
- Planica will host the ski flying world championships for a record seventh time, surpassing Oberstdorf on six.
- Planica host the ski flying world championships for the first time since 2010, when Simon Ammann took the gold medal, ahead of Gregor Schlierenzauer (silver) and Anders Jacobsen (bronze).
- The other winners in Planica are Walter Steiner (1972), Armin Kogler (1979), Matti Nykänen (1985), Jaroslav Sakala (1994) and Roar Ljøkelsøy (2004).
- Robert Kranjec (30 years and 224 days) became the oldest world champion in ski flying when he triumphed in 2012 (Vikersund).
- The youngest ski jumper to win the world title in ski flying is Gregor Schlierenzauer, who was 18 years and 47 days old in 2008 (Oberstdorf).
- Germany (including East and West Germany) lead the medal table on most victories (6). Austria and Norway follow on four wins.

Daniel-André Tande

- Daniel-André Tande is looking to defend his title, after he was crowned world champion in Oberstdorf in 2018.
- Tande can join Roar Ljøkelsøy, Sven Hannawald and Walter Steiner as only ski jumpers with two world titles in ski flying. Peter Prevc (2016), Severin Freund (2014), Simon Ammann (2010) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (2008) also could join the trio.
- Hannawald (2000, 2002) and Ljøkelsøy (2004, 2006) both won their two titles in back-to-back editions.
- Apart from his victory in 2018, Tande finished 18th on his debut in 2016 (Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf).
- Tande finished third in the World Cup ski flying event in Planica on 25 March 2018, his best result in ski flying at this venue.

Peter Prevc

- Peter Prevc aims for his second world title in ski flying, after he emerged victorious in Bad Mitterndorf in 2016.
- Of the previous six times Planica hosted the ski flying world championships, the home nation failed to win a medal on all six occasions. The best result was Robert Kranjec's fifth place in 2010.
- Only three ski jumpers have claimed the ski flying world title on home soil: Hans-Georg Aschenbach (Oberstdorf 1973), Andreas Felder (Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf 1986) and Andreas Goldberger (Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf 1996). In 1973, then East German Aschenbach won the title in what was then West Germany.

- Apart from his victory in 2016, Prevc finished third at the world championships in 2014. Matti Nykänen (5), Janne Ahonen (4), Walter Steiner (3) and Sven Hannawald (3) are the only athletes to have finished on the podium at least three times.
- Nykänen (G1-S1-B3) is the only ski jumper to have completed the medal set at the ski flying world championships.
- Prevc has won seven World Cup events in ski flying, second most all-time behind Gregor Schlierenzauer (14). Three of those wins came in Planica.

Kamil Stoch

- Kamil Stoch can become the second man to win all five major individual ski jumping trophies, after Matti Nykänen.
- These five are: the Olympic Games, the world championships, the ski flying world championships, the Four Hills Tournament and the individual overall World Cup.
- Stoch is 33 years old and could become the oldest world champion in ski flying, taking over the record from Robert Kranjec (30-224).
- The oldest athlete to finish on the podium of the ski flying world championships is Anders Bardal, claiming a second place at the age of 31 years and 203 days in 2014.
- Stoch took the silver medal in the previous edition. This is the best result by a ski jumper representing Poland at the world championships in ski flying.
- The only other individual medal for Poland at the ski flying world championships was claimed in Planica: bronze by Pjotr Fijas in 1979.
- Stoch has won five ski flying World Cup events, most recently in Oberstdorf on 3 February 2019.

Stefan Kraft

- Stefan Kraft still is the current ski flying world record holder, jumping 253.5 metres at Vikersundbakken on 18 March 2017 during the inaugural Raw Air tournament which he also won.
- Kraft can become the fifth Austrian to claim the ski flying world title, after Armin Kogler (1979), Andreas Felder (1986), Andreas Goldberger (1996) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (2008).
- Germany (including East and West Germany) is the only other country to have five different winners of the ski flying world championships.
- Kraft finished third at the world championships in 2016.
- Kraft won the most recent ski flying event in the World Cup, in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf on 16 February 2020.

Other contenders

- **Piotr Zyla** won one of the two ski flying events in last season's World Cup, in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf on 15 February 2020. Stefan Kraft won the following day.
- This marks Zyla's only individual World Cup victory in ski flying. His best result at the ski flying world championships is a 17th-place finish in 2018.
- **Timi Zajc** was the only ski jumper to finish on the podium in both ski flying World Cup events in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf in February. He finished second on the first day, third on the next.
- Zajc claimed one individual ski flying World Cup victory in his career, in Oberstdorf on 1 February 2019.
- Zajc will make his debut at the ski flying world championships. The last ski jumper to claim the world title in his first participation was Gregor Schlierenzauer in 2008.
- **Halvor Egner Granerud** is the overall leader in the 2020/21 World Cup. Just like Zajc, Granerud will participate at the ski flying world championships for the first time.
- His best result in a World Cup event in ski flying is an eight place in Oberstdorf on 1 February 2019.
- **Ryoyu Kobayashi** won the most recent ski flying World Cup event in Planica, on 24 March 2019.
- Noriaki Kasai (Harrachov 1992) and Kazuyoshi Funaki (Oberstdorf 1998) are the only two Japanese ski jumpers to have claimed the gold medal at the world championships in ski flying.
- **Markus Eisenbichler** was victorious in Planica on 22 March 2019, two days before Kobayashi. This is Eisenbichler's first and only individual World Cup triumph in ski flying.
- His highest finish at the ski flying world championships is 11th place in Oberstdorf two years ago.
- The last German winner of this event is Severin Freund in 2014 (Harrachov).

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