

PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Friday 19 Feb 2021

Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault can become the fourth French skier to win the men's giant slalom world title, after François Bonlieu in 1964, Guy Périllat in 1966 and Jean-Claude Killy in 1968. Bonlieu and Killy's titles came at the Olympic Games which also counted as a world title.
- Pinturault already claimed two world championship medals in this event, bronze in both 2015 and 2019. Among Frenchmen, only Bonlieu (G1-S1-B1) collected more world championships medals in the giant slalom.
- Pinturault also claimed bronze in this event at both the 2014 and 2018 Olympic Games.
- Pinturault won each of the last three men's giant slalom events in the World Cup and finished in the top five in each of the six World Cup giant slalom events this season.
- In all disciplines, only Émile Allais (8) has claimed more world championship medals among Frenchmen than Pinturault (6, excluding team event on 17 February).

Henrik Kristoffersen

- Henrik Kristoffersen won the world title in the men's giant slalom in 2019. He can become the eighth man to win multiple world titles in the giant slalom, after Ted Ligety (3), Gustav Thöni, Ingemar Stenmark, Michael von Grünigen, Rudolf Nierlich, Stein Eriksen and Toni Sailer (all 2).
- Of those seven men, only Von Grünigen (1997, 2001) did not win his giant slalom world titles at consecutive world championships.
- After Ted Ligety's injury and retirement, Kristoffersen (2019) and Carlo Janka (2009) are now the only active skiers who won a world title in the men's giant slalom event.

Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt finished in the top four in each of the six giant slalom events this World Cup season.
- The last Swiss man to win the world title in the men's giant slalom was Carlo Janka in 2009.
- Odermatt, 23 year and 134 days old on 19 February, can also become the youngest world champion in the men's giant slalom since Janka in 2009 (22y-121d).

Other contenders

- **Filip Zubcic** can become the first skier representing Croatia to claim a world championship medal in the giant slalom. Janica Kostelic (G5-S0-B0), Ivica Kostelic (G1-S1-B1) and Natko Zrnčić-Dim (G0-S0-B1) are the only other Croatians who claimed a world championship medal, but none of those came in the giant slalom.
- On Tuesday, Zubcic claimed his first world championship medal as he finished second in the men's parallel giant slalom. Only Janica Kostelic claimed multiple medals for Croatia in one year: two gold in 2003 and three gold in 2005.
- **Loïc Meillard** can become the first Swiss man to win the world title in the men's giant slalom since Carlo Janka in 2009. Earlier these championships, Meillard claimed bronze in both the Alpine combined and parallel giant slalom.
- Meillard can become the first Swiss man to claim three individual world championship medals in one year since Pirmin Zurbriggen (4) in 1987.
- **Marco Schwarz** can become the seventh man to win the Alpine combined/combination and giant slalom world title at one edition, after Ligety (2013), Miller (2003), Gustav Thöni (1972), Jean-Claude Killy (1968), Toni Sailer (1956, 1958) and Stein Eriksen (1954).
- **Zan Kranjec** could become the third man representing Slovenia to claim a world championships medal, after Mitja Kunc's bronze in the men's slalom in 2001 and Štefan Hadalin's silver in the men's Alpine combined in 2019.
- The oldest man to finish on the giant slalom podium at the world championships is Didier Cuche who took bronze at age 32 years and 182 days in 2007.

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