

## PREVIEW MEN'S SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sunday 21 Feb 2021

### Austrian favourites

- Austria has won a record 16 gold medals and a record 41 medals in total in the men's slalom. The record for most gold medals by a country in a single discipline is 17 by Austria in the men's downhill. Switzerland holds the record for most medals in a single event: 42 in the men's downhill.
- At the last two world championships, Austria collected five of the six available medals in the men's slalom. Marcel Hirscher (gold) and Manuel Feller (silver) in 2017, and Hirscher (gold), Michael Matt (silver) and Marco Schwarz (bronze) in 2019. Austria's medal sweep in 2019 was the first for a country in the men's slalom.
- **Marco Schwarz** achieved his first career world title when he won the men's Alpine combined on Monday 15 February. The last man to win the world title in the slalom and a combination event in one year was Benjamin Raich in 2005.
- Raich (2005) is one of six men to win the slalom and combination world title in the same year, but the only one who achieved this since the start of the 1970s.
- Schwarz has claimed five world championships medals since 2019, more than any other man in the last two world championships combined.
- Schwarz finished on the podium in seven of the nine men's slalom events in the 2020/21 World Cup. This season, both Schwarz (2 wins) and **Manuel Feller** (1) achieved their first World Cup wins in the slalom.
- Apart from his silver medal in the slalom in 2019, **Michael Matt** also claimed Olympic bronze in this event in 2018.
- Michael Matt can follow in the footsteps of his older brother Mario Matt, who won the men's slalom at the world championships in 2001 and 2007 (also at the Olympic Games in 2014).

### Other contenders

- Mathieu Faivre won the men's giant slalom on Friday. Nine men have completed the double of the slalom and giant slalom at the same world championships. Marcel Hirscher (2017) was the only to achieve this in the last 25 years.
- **Clément Noël** and **Alexis Pinturault** can become the sixth Frenchmen to win the men's slalom world title, and the first since Jean-Baptiste Grange in 2015.
- The only Frenchman who won this event at the world championships before his 24th birthday was Jean Noël Augert (20 years) in 1970. Noël turns 24 in May of this year.
- Pinturault has already achieved individual world championship medals in the giant slalom, super-G and Alpine combined. Only Benjamin Raich, Kjetil André Aamodt, Lasse Kjus and Marc Girardelli have already collected

medals in the men's slalom, giant slalom, super-G and Alpine combined/combo.

- Only Émile Allais (8) claimed more world championship medals among Frenchmen than Pinturault (6).
- **Henrik Kristoffersen** and **Sebastian Foss-Solevåg** can join Stein Eriksen (1954), Kjetil André Aamodt (1993) and Tom Stiansen (1997) as the only Norwegian world champions in the men's slalom.
- The last Norwegian man to collect a medal in this event at the world championships was Lasse Kjus (silver) in 1999.
- Kristoffersen won the men's giant slalom world title in 2019, his only world championship medal to date. He can become the 10th man to win world titles in both the slalom and giant slalom, and the third Norwegian after Aamodt and Eriksen.
- **Ramon Zenhäusern** collected Olympic silver in the men's slalom in 2018. The last **Swiss skier** to claim a world championship medal in this event was Silvan Zurbriggen (silver) in 2003.
- Swiss skiers have won the men's slalom world title five times, but not since Georges Schneider in 1950.
- **Loïc Meillard** can become the first Swiss man to claim three individual world championship medals in one year since Pirmin Zurbriggen (4) in 1987.
- **Linus Straßer** is eyeing to become the first German skier to win the men's slalom at the world championships since Frank Würndl in 1987 (for West Germany). Since, German skiers collected five medals in this event (G0-S3-B2), most recently a bronze by Felix Neureuther in 2017.
- **Dave Ryding** could become the first British man to finish on a world championship podium. On the women's side, Great Britain achieved 11 medals (G4-S4-B3), all in the 1930s.

International Ski Federation    [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)  
 Gracenote Sports on Twitter    @GracenoteGold