

PREVIEW MEN'S SPRINT CLASSIC STYLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Thursday 25 Feb 2021

Johannes Høsflot Klæbo

- Johannes Høsflot Klæbo won the men's sprint event at the world championships in 2019 (freestyle). He can become the first man to win multiple world titles in the men's sprint.
- Klæbo also finished on the podium in this event 2017 (bronze). He can join Petter Northug (G1-S2-B0) and Tor Arne Hetland (G1-S1-B1) on a record three world championship medals in this event.
- Klæbo can become the second skier to win an individual sprint world title in both the freestyle and classic style, after Marit Bjørgen.
- Klæbo has won a men's record 25 individual sprint events in the World Cup. His 11 individual World Cup wins in the classic style are a joint men's record alongside Jens Arne Svartedal.
- Norway has won the men's sprint world title a record five times. It also claimed a record 15 world championship medals in this event, having at least one athlete on the podium all previous 10 times the men's sprint was contested.

Federico Pellegrino

- Federico Pellegrino won the world title in the men's sprint in 2017 (freestyle). He can become the first man to win multiple world titles in the men's sprint.
- Pellegrino also claimed a world championship medal in this event in 2019 (silver). He can join Petter Northug (G1-S2-B0) and Tor Arne Hetland (G1-S1-B1) on a record three medals in this event.
- Pellegrino can become the second skier to win an individual sprint world title in both the freestyle and classic style, after Marit Bjørgen.
- Pellegrino could become the first Italian male cross-country skier to claim multiple world titles. On the women's side, only Stefania Belmondo (4) has achieved this.
- Only Silvio Fauner (7) and Maurilio De Zolt (6) have claimed more world championship medals among Italian men than Pellegrino (5, G1-S2-B2).

Other contenders

- **Gleb Retivykh** and **Alexander Bolshunov** are in second and third place respectively in the men's World Cup sprint standings this season. Retivykh claimed bronze in this event at the world championships in 2019.
- The only male athletes from Russia to win the world title in this event are Vassili Rotchev (2005) and Nikita Kriukov (2013), both in the classic style. This year, Russia will compete under a neutral flag.
- **Oskar Svansson** claimed his first individual career World Cup podiums this season, all in the sprint. He won the races in Val di Fiemme (classic style) and Ulricehamn (freestyle), while finishing second in Falun (classic style).

- Svensson can become the third Swedish man to win this event at the world championships, after Tobias Fredriksson in 2003 (freestyle) and Marcus Hellner in 2011 (freestyle).
- The last Swedish men to collect a medal in the men's sprint at the world championships were Hellner (gold) and Emil Jönsson (bronze) in 2011.
- **Richard Jouve** and **Lucas Chanavat** are hoping to grab France's first medals in the men's sprint at the world championships.
- **Andrew Young** is looking to become the first cross-country skier representing Great Britain to claim a medal at the world championships (any event). This season, he claimed two World Cup podiums in individual sprint events, but both in the freestyle.

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