

PREVIEW MEN'S 2X15KM SKIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Saturday 27 Feb 2021

Sjur Røthe

- Sjur Røthe won the men's skiathlon at the most recent world championships, in 2019. He could become the fourth man to win multiple world titles in this event, after Bjørn Dæhlie (combined pursuit in 1993 and 1997), Per Eloffsson (2x10km skiathlon in 2001 and 2003) and Petter Northug (2x15km skiathlon in 2009 and 2011).
- Røthe also claimed a bronze medal in this event, in 2013. Only Martin Johnsrud Sundby (G0-S2-B1) has collected more world championship medals in the men's skiathlon.
- At the age of 32 years and 240 days, Røthe can become the oldest world champion in the men's skiathlon, breaking the record set by Maxim Vylegzhanin in 2015 at age 32y-126d.

Alexander Bolshunov

- Coming into these championships, Alexander Bolshunov has claimed four world championship medals, all silver. He finished second in the men's skiathlon in 2019.
- Bolshunov has also collected four medals in the Olympic Games without winning gold: G0-S3-B1.
- Bolshunov can become the third man from Russia to win the men's skiathlon world title, after Maxim Vylegzhanin in 2015 and Sergey Ustiugov in 2017. Only Norwegian men (6) have won this event more than twice at the world championships. **NOTE:** Russia will participate under a neutral flag at these championships.

Other contenders

- Norway has won this event (includes double pursuit) a record six times at the world championships. Only Russia and Sweden (both 2) have also collected multiple gold medals in the men's skiathlon.
- **Simen Hegstad Krüger** won the men's skiathlon at the Olympic Games in Pyeongchang in 2018, ahead of compatriots Martin Johnsrud Sundby (silver) and Hans Christer Holund (bronze).
- Krüger can become the fourth man to win an Olympic and world title in this event (includes combined pursuit), after Bjørn Dæhlie, Thomas Alsgaard and Dario Cologna.
- **Emil Iversen** won the only men's skiathlon held in the current World Cup season, in Lahti on 23 January. He finished ahead of compatriots Sjur Røthe (second) and Pål Golberg (third). Krüger (4th) and Holund (6th) also finished in the top six.

- **Dario Cologna** claimed two world championship medals in the men's skiathlon: gold in 2013 and silver in 2015. Only Martin Johnsrud Sundby (G0-S2-B1) has collected more world championship medals in the men's skiathlon.
- Cologna could become the fourth man to win multiple world titles in this event, after Dæhlie (combined pursuit in 1993 and 1997), Per Eloffson (2x10km skiathlon in 2001 and 2003) and Petter Northug (2x15km skiathlon in 2009 and 2011).
- **Iivo Niskanen** finished fourth in the men's skiathlon at the world championships in 2019. The last Finnish man to finish on the podium in this event was Mika Myllylä who finished second in the combined pursuit in 1999.

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