

PREVIEW MEN'S TEAM SPRINT FREESTYLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sunday 28 Feb 2021

Norway

- Norway has won the men's team sprint a record four times at the world championships. Of those four wins, two came in the freestyle and two in the classic style.
- In 2019, Emil Iversen and Johannes Høsflot Klæbo won the men's team sprint world title in the classic style. Norway can become the first country to win the men's team sprint at consecutive world championships.
- Iversen and Klæbo can join Nikita Kriukov on a record two gold medals in the men's team sprint at the world championships.
- Norway also won the most recent men's team sprint world title in the freestyle. Petter Northug and Finn Hågen Krogh emerged victorious in 2015.
- Norway swept the podium in the men's individual sprint on Thursday 25 February, with Klæbo winning gold. Norway (2009, 2015, 2019) is already one of two countries to have won the men's individual sprint and team sprint at the same world championships, alongside Russia (2013).

Italy

- Italy finished on the podium in the men's team sprint in each of the last three world championships: bronze in 2015 (freestyle), silver in 2017 (classic style) and bronze in 2019 (classic style). Federico Pellegrino was part of Italy's team on all three occasions.
- Italy's only other medal in this event at the world championships was gold in 2007 (freestyle).
- Only Russia (6) and Norway (5) have collected more medals in the men's team sprint at the world championships than Italy (4).
- Pellegrino (G0-S1-B2) is one of two men on at least three world championship medals in the men's team sprint, alongside Nikita Kriukov (G2-S1-B1).
- Italy finished on the podium in both men's team sprint events in current World Cup season: third in Dresden and first in Ulricehamn.
- Pellegrino has won five medals at the Nordic world championships, only Silvio Fauner (7) and Maurilio De Zolt (6) have won more among Italian men in cross country.

Other contenders

- **Russia** has collected a record six world championship medals in the men's team sprint, one more than Norway (5). Russia will compete under the neutral flag at these championships.
- Russia won the world title in the men's team sprint in 2013 (freestyle) and 2017 (classic style). Only Norway (4) also won multiple gold medals in this event.

- **France** and **Switzerland** are hoping to claim their first world championship medal in the men's team sprint.
- Switzerland finished second in this event in the World Cup in Ulricehamn earlier this month, claiming its first World Cup podium in the men's team sprint.
- **Sweden**'s only podium finish in this event at the world championships was a second place in 2013 (freestyle).
- **Finland** achieved two world championship medals in this event, but both came in the classic style: bronze medals in 2009 and 2017.
- The only non-European countries to finish on the podium in this event at the world championships are Canada (gold in 2011) and Kazakhstan (bronze in 2013).

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