

## PREVIEW MEN'S TEAM SPRINT FREESTYLE DRESDEN – Sunday 19 Dec 2021

### Russia

- Russia claimed 11 World Cup victories in the men's team sprint, only second behind Norway (13). Russia's most recent World Cup win in this event came in Dresden a year ago.
- Only Norway (36) and Sweden (22) have claimed more World Cup podiums in the men's team sprint than Russia (21).
- Russia's last four World Cup podiums in the men's team sprint all came in Dresden: third places in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, and the win in 2020/21.
- Alexander Bolshunov and Gleb Retivikh finished third in this event at the 2021 World Championships in Oberstdorf on 28 February.

### Norway

- Norway won a record 13 men's team sprint events in the World Cup, but not since 22 December 2019, when Sindre Bjørnstad Skar and Erik Valnes emerged victorious in Planica.
- Norway's most recent participation in this event in Dresden was in the 2019/20 campaign on 12 January 2020. The two Norwegian teams finished fourth and fifth that day.
- Valnes and Johannes Høsflot Klæbo won the team sprint at the 2021 World Championships in Oberstdorf on 28 February.

### Other contenders

- **France** achieved five World Cup podiums in the men's team sprint, of which two in Dresden: a win on 12 January 2020 and a second place on 20 December 2020.
- Renaud Jay and Lucas Chavanat claimed the win for France in Dresden in January 2020, the country's only World Cup win in this event.
- **Italy** won the most recent men's team sprint event in the World Cup. Federico Pellegrino and Francesco De Fabiani finished first in Ulricehamn on 7 February.
- Italy can claim successive World Cup wins in this event for the second time, after winning the first four team sprint events contested from January 2002 to February 2003.
- Pellegrino (3) can equal the record for most World Cup wins in the men's team sprint, held by Alexey Petukhov, Tor Arne Hetland, Cristian Zorzi, Ola Vigen Hattestad and Nikolay Morilov (all 4).
- **Finland** won silver in this event at the 2021 World Championships in Oberstdorf on 28 January. Ristomatti Hakola and Joni Mäki finished 1.68 seconds behind the Norwegian duo.

- Finland claimed four World Cup podiums in the men's team sprint, most recently a third place in Planica on 22 December 2019. The Finnish team has yet to win this event in the World Cup.
- **Switzerland** finished second in the most recent team sprint contested in the men's World Cup, in Ulricehamn on 7 February. It was the first ever World Cup podium for the Swiss in this event.

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