



March 1, 2023

Heerenveen, Netherlands

Speed Skating World Single Distances Championships (2-5 March 2023) - Women

Martina Sáblíková

- Martina Sáblíková has won a women's record 16 world titles at the world single distances championships. On the men's side, only Sven Kramer (21) won more.
- Sáblíková has won 10 world titles in the women's 5000m. No other speed skater, male or female, has won more than eight world titles in a single event.
- Sáblíková has won medals at 12 different editions of the world single distances championships. Only Claudia Pechstein (16) and Bob de Jong (13) have won medals at at least 13 world single distances championships.
- Sáblíková (35y-279d at the start of the tournament) can become the oldest winner of an individual event at the world single distances championships, surpassing Bob de Jong (35y-132d in 2012 when he won the men's 10,000m).

Miho Takagi

- Miho Takagi (G3-S3-B3) has won nine medals at the world single distances championships, second-most among Japanese speed skaters behind only Hiroyasu Shimizu (10).
- Takagi has yet to win an individual gold medal at the world single distances championships, as all of her three world titles came in the team pursuit (2015, 2019, 2020).
- At the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games, Takagi won medals in the 500m (silver), 1000m (gold), 1500m (silver) and team pursuit (silver). In the world single distances championships, only Erben Wennemars (2003), Bittany Bowe (2015 and 2016) and Heather Bergsma (2015) won medals at the 500m, 1000m and 1500m at a single edition.
- Takagi finished on the podium in 13 of her 16 individual World Cup events in the A Group this season, at least three podium finishes more than any other speed skater (male or female). She claimed the win in both the 1000m and 1500m standings.

Other contenders

- **Claudia Pechstein** can participate in the world single distances championships for the 21st time. The world single distances championships will be held for the 22nd time. Pechstein only did not participate in Richmond in 2009.
- Pechstein has won 30 medals (G5-S13-B12) at the world single distances championships, second most among men and women behind Ireen Wüst (G15-S15-B1).
- Pechstein (now 51 years) is already the oldest participant, male or female, at the world single distances championships. In 2021, she finished ninth in the mass start and 10th in the women's 5000m at age 48. She is also the only speed skater to win a world championships medal at 38 years or older, most recently when she took silver in the 5000m in 2017 at age 44.
- **Irene Schouten** won gold in the women's 3000m, 5000m and mass start at the Olympic Winter Games of 2022. No speed skater has won all three of those events at a single world single distances championships.
- Only **Ivanie Blondin** (5) has won as many medals in the mass start at the world single distances championships as Schouten (4). Schouten (2, in 2015 and 2019) and Blondin (2, 2016 and 2020) can equal Joey Mantia (3) on an overall record of three world titles in the mass start.



- **Femke Kok** can become the first Dutch winner of the women's 500m at the world single distances championships, after claiming silver in 2021. It is the only event Dutch speed skaters have yet to win a world title in.
- **Brittany Bowe** won the women's 1000m a joint-record three times (alongside Anni Friesinger and Christine Nesbitt), of which twice in Heerenveen. She can become the first speed skater to win an event three times in the same city (Martina Sáblíková can also achieve this in the women's 3000m and 5000m).
- **Kim Minsun** won five of the six World Cup events in the women's 500m this season and finished second in the one she did not win. Before this season, she had recorded only one individual World Cup podium finish, a third place in Heerenveen in the last 500m of last season.
- Kim can become the second woman representing Republic of Korea to be crowned world champion in the women's 500m, after Lee Sang-Hwa (2012, 2013, 2016).
- In 2021, **Ragne Wiklund** became the first Norwegian woman to win a gold medal at the world single distances championships when she won the 1500m.
- Wiklund won the long distances World Cup this season and finished second in the 1500m standings. Her tally of five individual event wins is the joint-highest in the women's World Cup this season, alongside Kim Minsun (5), Jutta Leerdam (5) and Irene Schouten (5).
- **Jutta Leerdam** won all eight 1000m races at national and international level she participated in this year. She finished on the podium in the women's 1000m at each of the last three global championships: gold at the 2020 world single distances championships, silver at the 2021 world single distances championships and silver at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.
- **Netherlands** has won the women's team pursuit a record six times at the world single distances championships. In the last six editions of these championships, Netherlands has won the title three times and Japan won the other three world titles.
- Netherlands and Japan completed the 1-2 in five of the last six women's team pursuits, with the 2021 edition as the exception (Japan did not participate).

Various

- The world single distances championships will be held for a 22nd time, and for a fifth time in Heerenveen (record). The inaugural edition was in 1996.
- **Netherlands has won 99 gold medals in the world single distances championships (63 more than any other country).**
- Monique Garbrecht-Enfeldt (2000) is the only woman to complete the 500m/1000m double at the same world single distances championships.
- Only two women have completed the 3000m/5000m double at the world single distances championships: Sáblíková (5 times) and Niemann-Stirnemann (4 times).
- The record for most medals claimed at the same world single distances championships is five, by Kristina Groves in 2008 (G1-S2-B2) and Ireen Wüst in 2013 (G3-S2-B0).
- **Italy** (8) is the country with the most medals without ever winning a world title in men's and women's events combined.