
Slalom Skateboarding's Championship blew up Italy

By Daniel Soriano (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/writers/24419/daniel-soriano>)

🕒 Wednesday, 18 September 2024 ()



The 2024 World Skate Games seem to be growing bigger every time, with no limits. Monday was an impressive display of slalom in three different categories: Giant, Tight, and Hybrid with athletes from 12 countries defying gravity through the street of Chieti, all in pursuit of the world champion title.

If there's one thing the World Skate Games 2024 proved, it's that Slalom Skateboarding has come to stay—and dominate—. With its adrenaline-pumping, heart-racing courses, the Slalom World Championship unfolded in Chieti, Italy, proved this sport wasn't just an event—it was an explosion of talent, speed, and razor-sharp precision—. A three-day fiesta of extreme sport where some of the most skilled skaters from 12 nations faced off (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1148646/world-skate-street-final-rayssa-leal>) in the picturesque Italian town of Chieti. With 60 men and 27 women battling it out, this wasn't just a race, it was a journey toward greatness.



Skater competing in the final. WORLD SKATE

After debuting in Argentina during the 2022 (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1122418/south-american-youth-games-rosario>) World Skate Games, the second edition in Italy had fans glued to their screens via the live broadcast on Worldskate.tv. The skateboarding elite, pre-qualified through world rankings and national selections, showcased everything they had in a high-octane competition. María Carrasco's live commentary made sure the world didn't miss a single second of action. (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1148646/world-skate-street-final-rayssa-leal>)

Nestled on a medieval hilltop, Chieti was transformed into a slalom battleground. Newly paved streets became race tracks where the skaters danced on their boards, defying gravity, and physics, all under a mostly cooperative sky. Mother Nature tried to mess with the plans, but thanks to a reserve day for weather mishaps, nothing could stop the skaters from giving their all.



joemclaren
World Skate Games 2024

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NUMBER NINE!!!

After 7 years and two lower back surgeries I am finally an OVERALL WORLD CHAMPION again!!



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The first challenge? The Giant Slalom, where the steep, fast track with wide gates pushed competitors to their limits. Speeds hit 50 km/h, and each cone displaced added a 0.20 penalty, turning this into a game of nerves as much as skill. After two nail-biting rounds, it was USA's Joe McLaren who blitzed through the course in 21.34 seconds, securing gold and cementing his place as the world's fastest slalom skater. Karolina Vojtova from the Czech Republic was the queen of the hill, claiming first place for the women with a blazing 23.33-second run.

After a day of rest (or rather, a weather-induced pause), the action continued with the Tight Slalom. Here, things got even more intense. Gates were closer together, ranging from 1.8 to 2.1 meters, testing the riders' precision and speed in head-to-head knockout rounds. With a tricky bend just before the finish line, there was no room for error. (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1148534/new-faces-big-stakes-battle-begins-wst>)

Latvia's Gustavs Gailitis came out on top, grabbing gold with a performance that left everyone breathless. Joe McLaren took silver, continuing his podium streak, while fellow Latvian Toms Dreiblats claimed bronze. On the women's side, Karolina Vojtova once again demonstrated why she's a reigning force in slalom, securing yet another gold to add to her trophy cabinet.



gustavsgailitis
Chieti, Italy

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Five fastest male slalom skateboarders overall at the World Skate Games 2024 IT:

- 1 [@joemclaren](#) us
- 2 [@gustavsgailitis](#) LV
- 3 [@orionsurfer](#) us
- 4 [@janis.kuzmins](#) LV
- 5 [@tomdreiblat](#) LV

When [@janisoderhall](#) called Joe on stage as the unbeatable Joe McLaren, in that moment I remembered 2023 Worlds GS podium ceremony when [@petrmaty](#) shouted: "I beat Joe McLaren!" That day Petr was super happy because it happens very rarely and it is so hard to do.

Then I thought, wait a minute, I also just beat Joe McLaren. And I did it in head2head racing two days in a row. If my memory is correct, in last 15 years it has happened just once! Although I'm proud of this fact, it just shows how dominant and persistent he really is. Joe dominated the scene when he still was underage and I vividly remember seeing him for the first time at Worlds 2010 in Czech republic. Then he claimed his 1st overall title. Despite injuries and other setbacks he is finally back in full force and just earned his 9th (!) overall title. A true inspiration for all of us. Huge respect. The king is back. Return of the Mack 🐶

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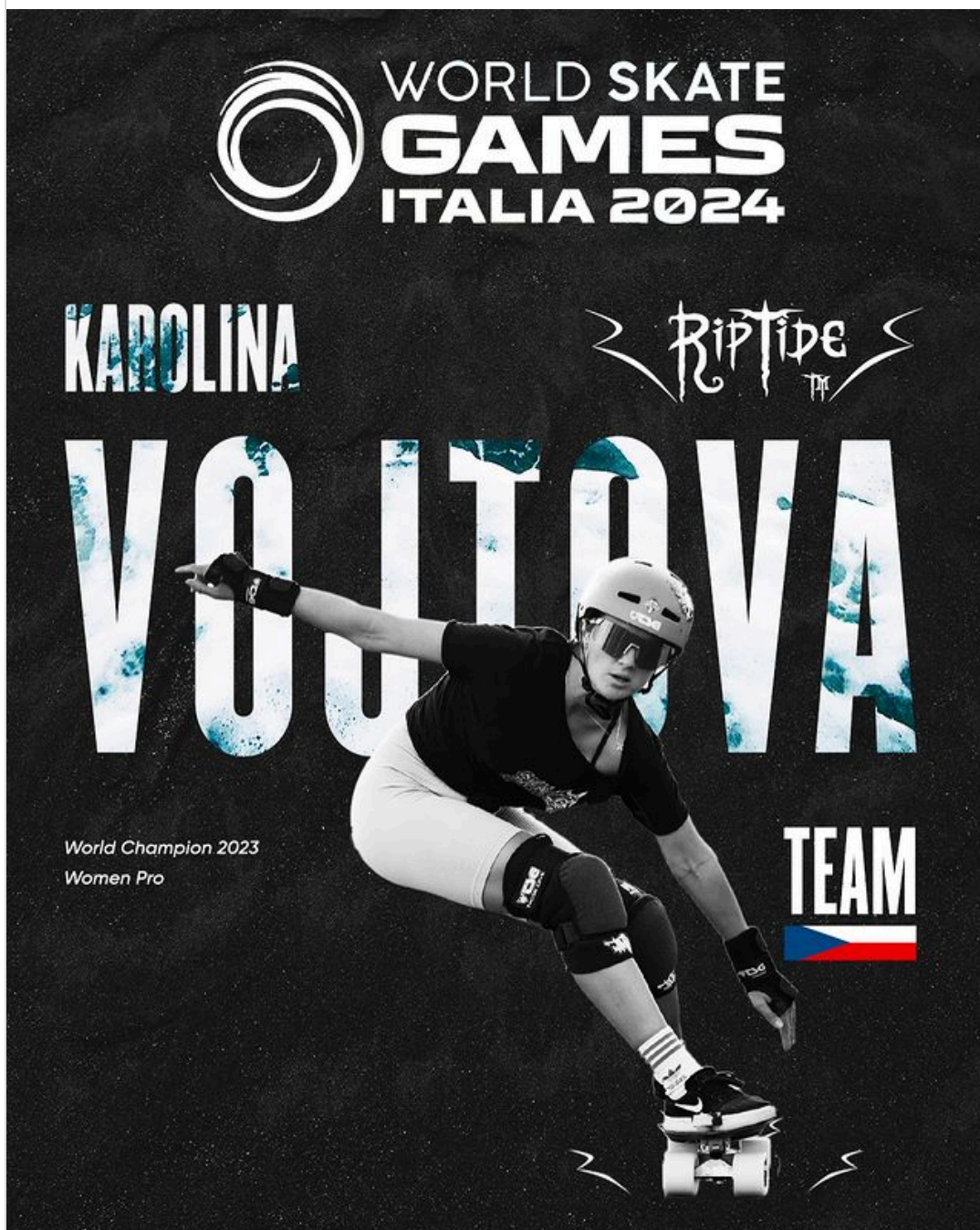
The final day brought the Hybrid Slalom, a mix of wide gates and tight stingers that required not just speed but also careful strategy. The Latvian powerhouse continued to dominate, with Janis Kuzmins taking gold and Gustavs Gailitis adding a silver to his growing collection. Orion Lehrmann from the USA snagged bronze, putting up a strong fight against the European contenders. (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1148534/new-faces-big-stakes-battle-begins-wst>)

For the women, it was déjà vu as Karolina Vojtova completed a clean sweep, winning her third gold of the event. Indeed, three golds and a flawless performance throughout the competition secured her the title of Overall Women's Slalom Champion. Then, she was followed by her compatriot Anna Rezkova and Latvia's Endija Ruja.



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Italy

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Our Slalom team is in IT ↗ [@kajavojtova](#)

Go crush it out there, Karolina, while representing cz at the [@worldskateofficial](#) games! 🏆 You've got this!

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As tradition dictates, the results of all three events were tallied for the overall World Championship rankings. It was Joe McLaren who, with his consistent podium finishes, emerged as the Men's Overall Slalom Champion, taking home a sweet \$2,000 prize. Not far behind, Gustavs Gailitis claimed silver, and Orion Lehrmann rounded out the top three with bronze.

With the dust settled and the medals awarded, there's no denying that Slalom Skateboarding is on an unstoppable rise. This edition of the World Skate Games wasn't just a competition—it was a real statement.

(<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1148646/world-skate-street-final-rayssa-leal>)

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About the author



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*He is a young sports fan born and raised in Spain. He was so obsessed with **football**, **tennis** and **basketball** as a child that he ended up leading his profession, journalism. Despite his young age, he already has experience in numerous newsrooms and companies related to the world of communication. He collaborates with InsidetheGames as a writer.*

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