

FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024 in Riyadh (KSA) Press Kit



LONGINES

FEI
JUMPING
WORLD CUP™
RIYADH
2024
FINAL



FEI
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WORLD CUP™
RIYADH
2024
FINAL

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Introduction

The Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Finals are set to be hosted at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Centre from 16-20 April 2024, concluding the 2023-24 FEI Jumping and Dressage World Cup™ Seasons.



This will be the inaugural occasion for the FEI World Cup™ Finals to be held in Asia for Dressage, and the second time for Jumping since the finals held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2006. Additionally, it will mark the premiere of both the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in the Middle East region.

The Finals will bring together 51 athletes in the two disciplines: **Jumping (34)**, **Dressage (17)** in a bid to claim two of the most prestigious trophies in the equestrian world.

Here's a preview of what to expect from this edition of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2024 in Riyadh:

Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2024 Preview

Von Eckermann and King Edward chase back-to-back titles

by Louise Parkes



Dethroning the defending champions will be no easy task when the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2024 gets underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia next week.

Henrik von Eckermann and his mighty chestnut gelding King Edward wrote a page of equestrian history when becoming the first-ever Swedish winners of the coveted title in Omaha, USA 12 months ago. And the pair whose resume also includes team gold and individual fourth place at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021 and double-gold at the FEI Jumping World Championship in Herning, Denmark in 2022 before claiming the coveted World Cup title in 2023 continue to ride the crest of an incredible wave that has left the Swedish athlete top of the world rankings for 21 consecutive months.

44th Final

Riyadh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, presents the 44th Final, and this is the first time for the event to be staged in the Middle East. With the biggest prizefund ever of €2.6m up for grabs there's a whole lot to play for when the action gets underway, including the prestige of joining the Roll of Honour that lists so many of the true stars of this sport down the years.

From 1979 when Austria's Hugo Simon and Gladstone first held the trophy aloft at the inaugural Final in Gothenburg, Sweden through the heady years of back-to-back champions Ian Millar and Big Ben from Canada in 1988 and 1989 and John Whitaker and the much-adored Milton who had to settle for runner-up spot in 1989 but then came back to steal the limelight for Great Britain in 1990 and 1991 this has been the title-of-titles for Jumping athletes.

There have been five three-time champions, and the most remarkable of these was Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa who, along with the great stallion Baloubet du Rouet, won three times in succession between 1998 and 2000. Adding an extra edge to this year's Final is the fact that two of the other three-time champions are coming back in a bid to become the first four-time winner.

Extraordinary record

One of these is Germany's Marcus Ehning who has an extraordinary record in the series.

Riyadh will be his twenty-first Final, his first dating back to 2001 in Gothenburg where he finished 31st with For Pleasure. Two years later, in Las Vegas, USA in 2003, he won his first title with Anka, pinning Pessoa and Baloubet du Rouet into second place. He came out on top again in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur in 2006 riding Sandro Boy, this time pipping Ireland's Jessica Kürten and Castle Forbes Libertina. And in Geneva, Switzerland in 2010 he rode both Noltes Küchengirl and Plot Blue to victory ahead of German compatriot Ludger Beerbaum and Gotha FRH in second place.

This time around the three-time European team gold medallist, who will celebrate his 50th birthday next week, brings the 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding Coolio 42, with which he won the sixth leg of the Western European League qualifying series last November, and it would be foolish to under-estimate his chances of becoming that first four-time FEI Jumping World Cup™ champion.

Veteran

Also chasing that goal will be 2012 Olympic individual champion and reigning individual European champion, 41-year-old Steve Guerdat who is another veteran World Cup finalist. Currently third in the world rankings he missed out on Omaha last April for the first time in many years, but next week will be his fifteenth Final.

He picked up his first title with Albfuehren's Paille in Las Vegas, USA in 2015 and made it a double the following year in Gothenburg partnering Corbinian. It became a hat-trick when he steered Alamo to victory in Gothenburg in 2019 but, just as impressively, he also finished third once with Tresor in 2007, was twice second with the great Nino des Buissonnets in 2013 and 2014 and only twice finished outside the top ten during all that time.

It's an incredible record, and with the 11-year-old grey mare Is-Minka with which he won the 13th of the 14 legs of the Western European League qualifying series in Bordeaux, France in February, he too will present serious opposition to the remaining 34 athletes representing 19 countries across the globe.

Another two previous winners will line out at the 2024 Final. Germany's Christian Ahlmann reigned supreme on home ground in Leipzig partnering Taloubet Z in 2011 and he will bring the 12-year-old gelding Mandato van de Neerheide with which he won leg nine of the Western European League this season.

And Switzerland's Martin Fuchs, currently ranked fourth in the world, who came out on top in the same city in 2022 partnering both The Sinner and Chaplin will bring the 11-year-old gelding Commissar Pezi who lined out five times in the Western European League this season, finishing second at round 11 in Leipzig in January.

Fierce

But the opposition will be fierce with all of the top six in the current rankings competing next week alongside a plethora of aspiring and up-and-coming talent.

World number two and reigning Olympic champion, Great Britain's Ben Maher, brings the 11-year-old mare Dallas Vegas Batilly with which he finished third at round three of the Western European League in Lyon, France at the beginning of November before winning a week later in Verona, Italy. The flying Frenchman Julien Epailard who took individual bronze at last summer's FEI European Championship in Milan, Italy is ranked fifth and brings the 11-year-old mare Dubai du Cedre who finished a very close second in the hotly-contested 14-horse jump-off in Lyon, while sixth-ranked rider, America's Kent Farrington, will compete double-handed with the 10-year-old mares Greya and Toulayna.

The host nation will be represented by 2012 Olympic team bronze medallist Ramzy Al Duhami partnering Untouchable 32, Khaled Almobyty with both Jaguar King WD and Spacecake and Abdullah Alsharbatly who was also a member of that bronze medal team in London in 2012 and who will be partnering Guerdat's 2019 winning ride Alamo along with Fiumicino van de Kalevallei.

Course designer for this week of superb sport will be German giant Frank Rothenberger whose reputation for big, bold tracks is second to none. So the stage is set for a mighty battle, and the action begins on Wednesday 17 April. Don't miss a hoofbeat.....

FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2024 Preview

Final 2024 looks an intriguing prospect

by Louise Parkes



The FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2024, which kicks off in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a week's time, looks set to be a right royal battle between some of the top names in the sport.

The 2023 champion and longtime world number one athlete, Germany's Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, is not lining out this time around and that leaves it wide open for the rest of the field of 17 horse-and-rider combinations from 12 countries. The flags of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and the USA will be flown when the action begins with the Grand Prix on Wednesday 17 April.

First champion

This will be the 37th Final in the history of FEI World Cup™ Dressage which saw its very first champion in Denmark's Anne-Grethe Jensen who came out on top in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands in 1986.

Just six years later, in 1992, Germany's Isabell Werth claimed her first title partnering Fabienne in Gothenburg, Sweden, and the lady often referred to as "The Queen" of international Dressage continues to be nothing short of phenomenal. She now has a total of five World Cup wins under her belt, and is the most decorated athlete in equestrian sport. She is heading to Riyadh with a sixth title clearly in her sights.

She had to wait 15 years before posting her second victory in Las Vegas, USA in 2007 partnering Warum Nicht FRH and then, 10 years later in Omaha, USA she racked up the first of her three-in-a-row wins with the great mare Weihegold who went on to repeat successes at the Finals in Paris, France in 2018 and Gothenburg, Sweden in 2019.

Currently second in the world rankings, Werth brings DSP Quantaz to Riyadh after dominating the Western European League qualifying series. With Emilio she posted a win in Stuttgart, Germany in November and a second-place finish in Basel, Switzerland in January behind von Bredow-Werndl which still earned maximum points because her compatriot was not entitled to points as 2023 champion.

Riding DSP Quantaz she had to settle for second place behind Great Britain's Charlotte Fry and Everdale in Amsterdam later in January but she reversed those placings at the last qualifier in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands in March, leaving her with a three-point advantage over Fry at the top of the final Western European League leaderboard.

Leading

After leading the series standings for much of the early season, Sweden's Patrik Kittel finished third. He got off to a flying start with victory at the sixth leg of the Central European League in Budapest, Hungary last June and then added maximum points again at the opening leg of the 2023/2024 Western European League at Herning in Denmark in October. He then lined out in four more legs of the Western European series over the winter months and finished just two points behind Fry at the end of the season, ahead of Germany's Matthias Alexander Rath in fourth and Denmark's Nanna Skodborg Merrald in fifth.

If the form-book is anything to go by then the real clash is likely to take place between Werth, Fry who is ranked third in the world, Kittel who is ranked sixth and Skodborg Merrald, the latter a member of the historic side that claimed team gold for Denmark for the very first time at the FEI Dressage World Championship 2022 on home ground in Herning, who is ranked fourth. The Dane rode three different horses during the season, finishing second in Herning, Lyon and Stuttgart with Blue Hors Zack, Blue Hors San Schufro and Blue Hors Don Olymbrio respectively, and fourth in Amsterdam with Don Olymbrio who she brings to Riyadh.

Fry of course is a formidable opponent. With the black stallion Everdale she was a member of the British bronze-medal-winning team at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021 before taking team silver and both Grand Prix Special and Freestyle gold with her other stallion, Glamourdale, at the World Championship the following year.

With Everdale she posted two Western European League wins this season at Mechelen, Belgium in December and Amsterdam, The Netherlands in January as well as finishing second in London, Great Britain before Christmas and at the last leg in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands last month.

Add in the established and rising talent from the rest of the Western European League and those from Central Europe and North America along with the sole Pacific League contender, Melissa Galloway who brings Windermere J'Obei W, and the stage is set for an intriguing contest.

Theme

Repeat wins are a theme of this Final, and nobody has ever come close to matching the nine posted by The Netherlands' Anky van Grunsven with her two great horses, Bonfire and Salinero, between 1995 and 2008.

However, no matter the result next week, no-one can rival Werth when it comes to sheer consistency as Riyadh 2024 will be the 24th FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final of her extraordinary career.

More history will be written in the coming days, so don't miss a hoofbeat....

Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final competition format

The 30 best-placed World Cup Athletes (plus those tied in the 30th place) from the provisional classification following the second competition are allowed to compete in the first round of the third Longines FEI World Cup™ Final Competition. Qualified Athletes unable to start will not be replaced.

The 20 best-placed Athletes (plus tie) from the provisional classification following the first round are allowed to start in the second round of the third Final Competition. Athletes with a clear score in the first round are allowed to start in the second round, even if their total score does not bring them into the top 20 Athletes (plus tie) allowed for the second round.

However, they will compete only for the classification and prize money of the Competition itself, and their score in the second round will not be taken into consideration when calculating their position in the final overall ranking of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Final. The starting order in Rounds A and B of the third Final Competition is, respectively, according to the reverse order of penalties (i.e. FEI World Cup™ points transformed into penalties – refer to Art. 658.3.5) after the second Final Competition, and after Round A of the third Final Competition.

Final I (Wednesday 17 April)

- **Format:** Table C over a Table A course, 3 Seconds added, Time limit 120 or 180 seconds Article: 239/263, 658.1.3.2
- **Jump-off:** No
- **Speed/fixed time:** 120 or 180 seconds depending on the length of the course
- **Height of obstacles:** 160 cm

Final II (Thursday 18 April)

- **Format:** Table A, against the clock. One round against the clock and one jump-off only against the clock. Articles: 238.2.2, 658.1.3.3
- **Jump-off:** Yes
- **Speed/fixed time:** 375 m/min
- **Height of obstacles:** 160 cm

Final III (Saturday 20 April)

- **Format:** Table A, two rounds not against the clock. The two rounds are approximately equal in the number of obstacles and length of the course, the second round having an increased level of difficulty. There will be no jump-off for the first place in the 3rd Final competition.
- **Jump-off:** No
- **Speed/fixed time:** 375 m/min
- **Height of obstacles:** 160 cm

Officials

- President of the Ground Jury: Patrice Alvado (FRA)
- Course Designer: Frank Rothenberger (GER)
- Foreign Technical Delegate: Alan Wade (IRL)
- Chief Steward: Alessandra Ceselli (ITA)
- President Veterinary Commission: Anas Hassan (KSA)

FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final competition format

Competition No4 (Wednesday)

Test: FEI Grand Prix

Number of horses per athlete: 1

Open to: all Athlete/Horse combinations qualified for the FEI World Cup™ Final - Season 2023/2024.

Draw/Art: Acc. to the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Rules - Season 2023/2024, Art 16: The Draw will be done in two groups based on their respective placing in each standing, with the Athletes of group 1 being drawn for the first starting places.

Competition No5 (Friday)

Test: FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

Open to: All Athlete/Horse combinations who completed the FEI Grand Prix with at least 65% (Art 15) will continue to the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

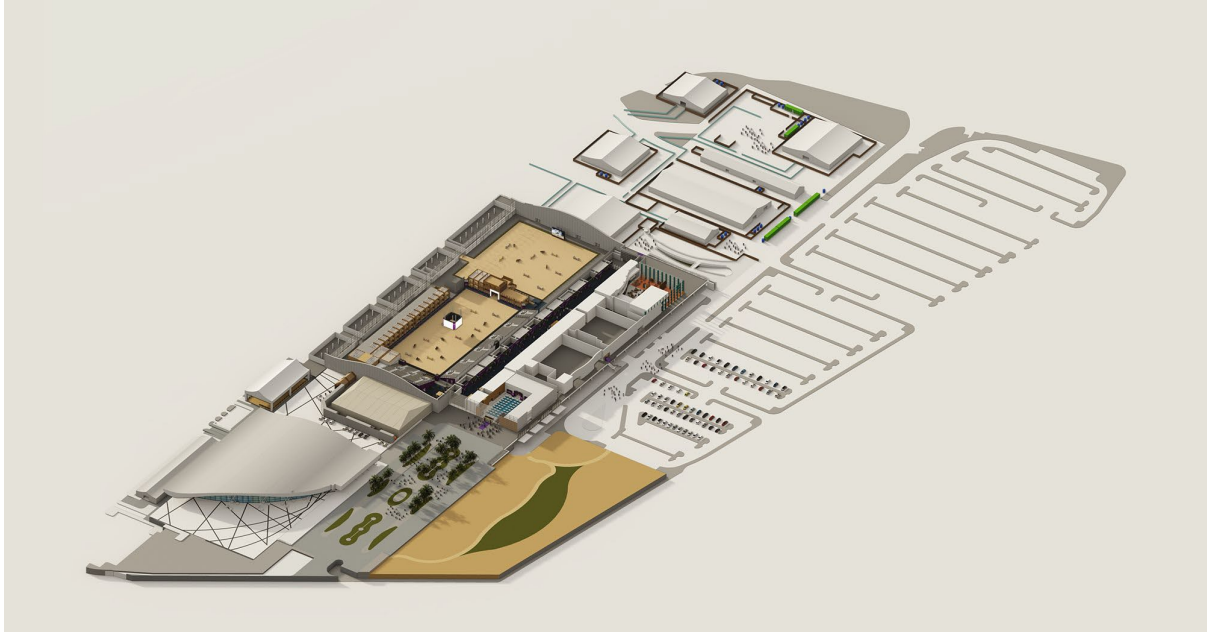
Draw/Art: In reverse order of the placing of the FEI Grand Prix, with 3 in the first group (the lowest placed in the FEI Grand Prix) and 5 for the remaining groups.

Officials

- President of the Ground Jury: Hans-Christian Matthiesen (DEN)
- Foreign Technical Delegate: Carlos Lopes (POR)
- Chief Steward: Didier Deschauer (BEL)
- President Veterinary Commission: Anas Hassan (KSA)

About the venue for the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024

The FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024 will be held at the state-of-the-art Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Centre (RICEC), which combines the best of equestrian sport, entertainment and renowned Arabian hospitality.



The Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center (RICEC) is one of the most modern centres for holding exhibitions and conferences.

Definite entries

Check all the athletes participating at the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024 in Riyadh (KSA)

[Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final](#)

[FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final](#)

Full Programme

Tuesday 16

15:00 - 16:30	FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP™ FINAL – Warm Up - NON-PUBLIC -	
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18:00 - 19:20	LONGINES FEI JUMPING WORLD CUP™ – Training Session - NON-PUBLIC -	
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Wednesday 17

13:15 - 17:00	FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP™ FINAL – Grand Prix Grand Prix de Dressage	
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19:05 - 21:30	LONGINES FEI JUMPING WORLD CUP™ – Final I Table C - Speed and Handiness Jumping competition (1,60m)	
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Thursday 18

18:50 - 21:40	LONGINES FEI JUMPING WORLD CUP™ – Final II Table A - Jumping competition with jump off (1,60m)	
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22:00 - 22:30	OPENING CEREMONY Show	
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Friday 19

17:15 - 21:20	FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP™ FINAL – Grand Prix Freestyle Grand Prix Freestyle	
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Saturday 20

15:45 - 19:35	LONGINES FEI JUMPING WORLD CUP™ – Final III Table A - Jumping competition over two rounds (1,60m)	
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You can check the full programme and competition schedule [here](#).

**All local time (GMT +3)*

FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2023/2024 Leaders

League	Athlete	Country
Western European League	Henrik Von Eckermann	SWE
North American League	Daniel Coyle	IRL
China League	Cancelled	N/A
Arab League - Middle East Sub-League	Khaled Almobty	KSA
Arab League - North African Sub-League	Mouda Zedaya	EGY
Australian League	Thomas McDermott	AUS
Eurasian League	Khurshidbek Alimdjanov	UZB
Central European League	Kristaps Neretnieks	LAT
Japan League	Shinichiro Sugiyama	JPN
New Zealand League	Brooke Edgecombe	NZL
South African League	Bronwyn Meredith dos Santos	RSA
South American South League	Doda de Miranda	BRA
South East Asian League	Ferry Wahyu Hadiyanto	INA

[Check the full FEI Jumping World Cup Standings here](#)

FEI Dressage World Cup™ 2023/2024 Leaders

League	Athlete	Country
Western European League	Isabell Werth	GER
Central European League	Alisa Glinka	MDA
North American League	Benjamin Ebeling	USA
Pacific League	Melissa Galloway	NZL

[See the full FEI Dressage World Cup standings here](#)

Fast facts about the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024

Total number of athletes:

- Jumping: 34 athletes
- Dressage: 17 athletes

Total number of Horses:

- Jumping: 39 horses
- Dressage: 17 horses

Total competing nations:

- Jumping: 18 nations
- Dressage: 12 nations

Athletes participating for the first time:

- Jumping: 10 athletes
- Dressage: 8 athletes

Horses participating for the first time:

- Jumping: 34 horses
- Dressage: 14 horses

Nations participating for the first time: No participating nation is competing for the first time

Youngest Athletes

- Jumping: Zain Shady Samir (EGY) and Skylar Wireman (USA) – 19 years-old
- Dressage: Raphael Netz (GER) and Benjamin Ebeling (USA) – 25 years-old

Oldest Athletes

- Jumping: Ramzy Al Duhami (KSA), Peder Fredricson (SWE) & Hans-Dieter Dreher (GER) – 52 years-old
- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER) – 55 years-old

Most Appearances - Athletes: *(athletes participating in FEI World Cup Finals 2024)*

- Jumping: Marcus Ehning (GER) – 20 appearances
- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER) – 24 appearances

Most appearances - Athletes: *(in total)*

- Jumping: Michael Whitaker (GBR) – 24 appearances
- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER) – 24 appearances

Most Appearances - Horses: *(horses participating in FEI World Cup Finals 2024)*

- Jumping: Eddie Blue – 2 appearances
- Dressage: Sir Donnerhall II OLD – 4 appearances

Most appearances - Horses: *(in total)*

- Jumping: Flexible & Baloubet du Rouet – 8 appearances
- Dressage: Bjorsells Briar 899 – 8 appearances

First FEI World Cup™ Finals:

- [Jumping in 1979 in Gothenburg \(SWE\)](#)
- [Dressage in 1986 in 's-Hertogenbosch \(NED\)](#)

FEI World Cup™ Finals Past Winners

Jumping

Most wins

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Steve Guerdat	SUI	3
Hugo Simon	AUT	3
Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum	GER	3
Marcus Ehning	GER	3
Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	3



Reigning Champions Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2023

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Indiv	Henrik von Eckermann & King Edward (SWE)	Harrie Smolders & Monaco N.O.P. (NED)	Hunter Holloway & Pepita con Spita (USA)

Dressage

Most Wins

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Anky Van Grunsven	NED	9
Isabell Werth	GER	5
Monica Theodorescus	GER	2
Christine Stückelberger	SUI	2
Charlotte Dujardin	GBR	2
Ulla Salzgeber	GER	2
Adeline Cornelissen	NED	2
Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl	GER	2



Reigning Champions FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2023

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Indiv	Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl & TSF Dalera BB (GER)	Nanna Skodborg Merral & Blue Hors Zepter (DEN)	Isabell Werth & DSP Quantaz (GER)

FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024 in Riyadh (KSA) [here](#).

Schedules and results will be available [here](#).

The FEI World Cup™ Finals 2024 in Riyadh (KSA) will be broadcast live on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

Images & Content: Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Flickr account](#) in the photostream and in the dedicated album. **Biographies** from the main participants are available [here](#)

You can find the FEI on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags **#FEIWorldCupFinals** and **#TimeToBeat**

You can access the *"NRH Guidelines for Posting Videos from FEI-Named Events"* [here](#)

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