



FEI
**ENDURANCE
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
MONPAZIER
2024**

PRESS KIT

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Introduction

On 7 September 2024, Monpazier (FRA) will host the FEI Endurance World Championship. The line-up has been confirmed with 145 athletes and 155 horses representing 39 nations ready to challenge for the 2024 Individual and Team World titles on French soil.

FEI World Championships: 71 years of top-class equestrian history

The legacy of FEI World Championships spans decades, starting with Jumping in 1953, held in the iconic Parc des Princes (FRA), with 19 athletes on the start list representing 11 nations.

The first FEI Endurance World Championship was held in 1986 in Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA), with the USA athlete Cassandra Schuler and her horse Skikos Omar claiming individual gold and Great Britain – with a fully female team - claiming team gold. The FEI Endurance World Championships have gone on to be held every two years since 1986, making this the 19th edition (the 2018 edition in Tryon was cancelled due to adverse climate conditions).

This edition boasts a remarkably gender balanced field of participants, with 72 female and 73 male athletes entered, and an equally impressive diversity in age range of the participants with 57 years separating youngest and first time World Championship competitor, 16 years-old Jiahe Sui (CHN) from 73 years-old Tom McGuinness (IRL).

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The full roster of countries participating in the upcoming FEI Endurance World Championship 2024 are: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Spain, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Switzerland, Slovakia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and United States of America.

Competition Preview

A mix of young & veteran talent coming to FEI Endurance World Championship, by Mirjam van Huet, MCM Tekst

A total of 145 athletes and 155 horses are currently preparing for the journey to Monpazier in the south of France for the FEI Endurance World Championship 2024.

Set in natural surroundings on the border of the Lot and Dordogne, the combinations will begin the 160-kilometre Endurance ride on Saturday, 7 September 2024. It's an interesting mix of participants: from the reigning world champion—on a new horse—to young and veteran talent.

As is customary at the FEI Endurance World Championship, all eyes are on the three individual winners from the previous edition, as well as the three national teams that reached the podium last time.

Mediterranean countries aim to defend their positions

For the team medals, it's up to the Mediterranean countries—France, Portugal, and Italy—to defend their positions. In Butheeb, they claimed the gold, silver, and bronze, respectively. Notably, all three nations have registered seven combinations, giving the chefs d'équipe in Monpazier the option to finalise their teams of five combinations each, right up until the day before the competition.

France's selection includes three riders who were part of last year's medal-winning team: Virginie Atger, Clementine Chaud, and Philippe Tomas. Additionally, France's vast pool of Endurance riders has provided new talent for the national team, including Camille Garbet, Melody Theolissat and Julien Lafaire.

Portugal's selection features the experienced rider Ana Barbas, who has already won team silver (FEI Endurance World Championship in Butheeb, 2022) and team bronze (FEI World Equestrian Games in Aachen, 2006). That team performance in Aachen was partly due to Jao Raposo, who is also in the selection for Monpazier.

Italy has selected three riders who also competed in Butheeb, where they won bronze: Letizia Milani, Carolina Tavassoli Asli, and Costanza Laliscia. The latter brings two possible contenders to Monpazier: Fara du Barthas and Emirat du Barthas.

New horse for reigning World Champion

The reigning World Champion, Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa (Bahrain), has opted for a horse swap just before Monpazier. Instead of Darco la Majorie, with whom he won both the 2022 World Championship in Butheeb and the test event in Monpazier (2023), he plans to saddle Darco's half-brother, Everest la Majorie. Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has demonstrated in the past that he can triumph with multiple horses: in his ten previous World Championship appearances, he has won one individual gold (2022, Butheeb), one individual bronze (2016, Samorin), and one team bronze (2008, Malaysia). Each time with a different horse.

The runner-up from the last World Championship is Salem Hamad Saeed Malhoof Al Kitbi (United Arab Emirates). He has only ridden in two World Championships before. On both occasions, he secured a podium finish: gold in Pisa (2021) and silver in Butheeb (2022). Both times with the horse Haleh, who is once again ready for Monpazier.

Should Salem Hamad Saeed Malhoof Al Kitbi and Haleh secure another podium finish, they will join the elite group of combinations in history that have won an individual medal in three consecutive championships. Only Becky Hart and Valerie Kanavy have ever achieved this. Hart, together with her horse Grand Sultan, claimed the world title three years in a row (1988, 1990, and 1992). Kanavy was World Champion in 1994, runner-up in 1996, and World Champion again in 1998.

Jaume Puntí Dachs, the Spaniard who has so far won five medals across seven World Championships (individual gold and silver, and three team golds), is bringing his trusted partner Echo Falls. The horse is not only known for his achievements and striking appearance (a white coat with dark spots), but at eighteen years old, he is also one of the oldest horses competing at the highest level. However, he is not the oldest in this championship; there are two others of the same age. Spirit de Cruz and Sabah du Courtisot, representing Portugal and Belgium respectively, are also registered.

Oldest and youngest participants

That equestrian sport can be practised well into later life is exemplified by Tom MacGuinness. The 73-year-old Irishman is competing in the FEI Endurance World Championship for the fifth time. His first time was ten years ago, at the FEI World Equestrian Games in Caen. In Monpazier, he will start with his thirteen-year-old mare Horseware HLM Fontana.

The youngest entrant is sixteen-year-old Jiahe Sui, who will represent China on the back of the French-bred Eiwa de Bozouls. This is Sui's first time being selected for a World Championship. The young athlete has no fewer than six teammates by her side, bringing the total number of entries from the Chinese federation to seven. The chef d'équipe will have to make a choice, as each country can field a maximum of five combinations at the start.

China is on the rise in the sport of Endurance. After fielding a team for the first time in history at the FEI Endurance World Championship 2022 in Butheeb (UAE), they now have another team ready. The four combinations that competed were then unable to complete the ride. With seven contenders, China has new opportunities in France.

To compete for a team result, a country needs three combinations to finish the distance within the allowed time. On the list of final entries, 21 countries have three or more combinations heading to Monpazier. Additionally, 18 countries were able to field one or two combinations.

FEI Endurance World Championship 2022 Venue

Butheeb in Al Khatim, Abu Dhabi, will host the FEI Endurance World Championship 2022 in a calm and quiet atmosphere amongst a beautiful landscape, away from Abu Dhabi's city centre.

Full Programme

Wednesday 4 September 2024

- From 9:00 to 18:00: Teams arrival on site.
- Opening of the catering facilities.

Thursday 5 September 2024

- From 9:00: Opening of the exhibitors' village.
- 15:30: Chef d'Equipe Briefing in Marsales Castle.
- From 18:00: Opening ceremony in the city centre of Monpazier.

Friday 6 September 2024

- From 10:00 to 12:00: First horse inspection for the FEI World Championship.
- Followed by the riders weigh in.
- From 12:00: Pre-Ride Briefing in Marsales Castle.
- From 13:00: Press Conference in Marsales Castle.
- From 14:00 to 16:00: Farriery conference in Marsales Castle.

Saturday 7 September 2024

- 5:30: Start of the FEI Endurance World Championship.
- Around 17:00: Arrival of the first riders.
- Best conditions award will be within 90min after the winner.
- Maximum time by which the Horses must cross the finish line (latest arrival time): 21:28:28.

Sunday 8 September 2024

- 10:30: Prize-Giving and closing ceremony on site in front of the tribunes.
- 11:30: press conference with the winners and their Chefs d'Equipe.

Definite Entries

Check all the horses & athletes participating at the FEI Endurance World Championship 2024 in Monpazier (FRA):

[FEI Endurance World Championship 2024](#)

FEI World Rankings

FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking (N° 7)

Rank	Athlete	Country	Points
1	Melody Théolissat	FRA	1088
2	Salem Hamad Saeed Malhoof Al Kitbi	UAE	1062
3	Julia Montagne	FRA	1038
4	Saeed Ahmad Rashed Abdulla Al Shamsi	UAE	1006
5	Clementine Chaud	FRA	1000
6	Lea Vandekerckhove	FRA	993
7	Virginie Atger	FRA	974
8	Louna Schuiten	BEL	921
9	Julien Lafaure	FRA	847
10	María Álvarez Pontón	ESP	845

See the full FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking [here](#)

FEI Endurance Trainer World Ranking (N° 7)

Rank	Athlete	Country	Points
1	Samuel Bettenfeld	FRA	1241
2	Abdelhak Kaddouri	BRN	1143
3	Lea Vandekerckhove	FRA	1068
4	Robert Díez Noguera	ESP	1052
5	Abdulrahman Mohamed Al Saad	BRN	1042
6	Melody Théolissat	FRA	1010
7	Rashed Khalifa Bin Shafya	UAE	967
8	Lucie Loevenbruck	FRA	965
9	Philippe Tomas	FRA	930
10	Angel Lazes	FRA	889

See the full FEI Endurance Open Combination World Ranking [here](#)

Past Winners

Most Medals (by country)

Country	Individual	Team	Total
France	11 (2 gold)	12 (5 gold)	23
United States of America	12 (7 gold)	5 (2 gold)	17
United Arab Emirates	13 (4 gold)	3 (3 gold)	16
Spain	6 (4 gold)	6 (3 gold)	12
Australia	1	5 (1 gold)	6
Great Britain	2	3 (2 gold)	5
Italy	2	3 (1 gold)	5
Switzerland	-	3	3

Most Medals (by athlete)

Athlete	Country	Total
Becky Hart	USA	5 (3 gold)
Mohd Bin Rashid Al Maktoum	UAE	5 (1 gold)
Jaume Puntí Dachs	ESP	5 (1 gold)
María Álvarez Pontón	ESP	4 (2 gold)
Valerie Kanavy	USA	4 (2 gold)

Reigning Champions - FEI Endurance World Championship – Butheeb (UAE) 2022

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Individual	HH Sh. Nasser Bin Hamad Alkhalifa (BRN) & Darco La Majorie	Salem Hamad Saeed Malhoof Al Kitbi (UAE) & Haleh	Jaume Puntí Dachs (ESP) & Echo Falls
Team	France	Portugal	Italy

FEI Online Resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the **FEI Endurance World Championship 2024** in Monpazier (FRA) [here](#).

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

The FEI Endurance World Championship 2024 in Monpazier 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](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

Join the action on social media by using the hashtags **#Monpazier2024** and **#FEIWorldChampionships2024**

Get all the info (results, medal winners, pictures...) from all past FEI World Championships and FEI World Equestrian Games on the [FEI History Hub](#).

FEI Media & Broadcast Contacts

Paul Stretton

Sport Communications & Media Operations Senior Manager

paul.stretton@fei.org

+41 78 661 66 53

Didier Montes

Sport Communications & Media Relations Manager

didier.montes@fei.org

+41 78 750 61 21

Kirsty Pasto

Social Media Manager

k.pasto@feimediahouse.tv

+33 (0) 647 052 026

Tobias Friedrich

Broadcast Production and Media Rights Manager

tobias.friedrich@fei.org

+41 78 750 61 71