





# **JUMPING**

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## Introduction

The Longines FEI Jumping World Cup<sup>™</sup>, the Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup<sup>™</sup> and the J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup<sup>™</sup> Finals are set to be hosted at the St. Jakobshalle Basel from 2 to 6 April 2025, concluding the 2024–25 FEI Jumping, Dressage and Vaulting World Cup<sup>™</sup> Seasons.



The Finals will bring together athletes in the three disciplines: **Jumping (41), Dressage (18)** and Vaulting (25) in a bid to claim three of the most prestigious trophies in the equestrian world.

Basel, Switzerland, is a city renowned for its rich cultural history, vibrant arts scene, and strong equestrian heritage. Nestled along the Rhine River, Basel has long been a hub for international trade and cultural exchange, which has extended into the world of equestrian sports.

One of the most prestigious equestrian events in Basel is the Longines CHI Classics Basel. Held annually, this event attracts the world's top riders and horses, showcasing exceptional talent in one of Switzerland's most prominent indoor arenas. The competition is part of the Longines FEI Jumping World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  and the FEI Dressage World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  series, reinforcing Basel's status as a key player in the equestrian world.

Here's a preview of what to expect from this edition of the Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final, the Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final and the J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final 2025 in Basel.



## Longines FEI Jumping World Cup<sup>™</sup> Final 2025 Preview

Jumping elite are set to compete at the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Basel

#### by Alice Watson



Following the culmination of 11 FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Leagues around the world, the definite list of entries for the 45th edition of the Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final has been confirmed. Run across six continents, competition throughout the qualifying legs has been fierce, with athletes battling for points to secure qualification for the Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final staged in Basel (SUI) in just three weeks' time.

Forty-one athletes representing 22 countries will line up alongside 48 of their equine partners to decide who will be crowned the 2025 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Champion.

Defending Champion Henrik von Eckermann (SWE) has not only dominated the Longines World Rankings for 32 consecutive months, but successfully defended his FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2023 title and being crowned Champion once again in Riyadh (KSA) 12 months ago with the aptly named King Edward. Von Eckermann returns this year in a bid to emulate the five athletes that have won this title three times apiece - Hugo Simon (AUT), Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA), Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER), Marcus Ehning (GER) and Steve Guerdat (SUI). Von Eckermann returns once again but is without King Edward on this occasion. If he could claim victory in Basel, he would join Pessoa in becoming the only two athletes to have taken the title in three consecutive years.



Forty-seven athletes fought for three qualifying places in the Arab League - Middle East with 39 of those obtaining points over the ten qualifying legs. The three athletes that topped the Arab League - Middle East, fill the three qualifying spots on offer. London Olympic Team Bronze Medallist Ramzy Al Duhami (KSA) topped the league and lines up in Basel alongside Ali Al Khorafi (KUW) and Paris Olympian Omar Abdul Aziz Al Marzooqi who delivered a crucial clear round to help UAE secure an impressive second place in the opening leg of the Longines League of Nations™ staged in Abu Dhabi last month. Al Marzooqi brings his Olympic and Longines League of Nations™ partner Enjoy De La Mure to Basel.

The Arab League - North Africa saw 34 athletes vie for two qualification places at the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2025. The League will be represented by Egypt's Zain Shady Samir who qualified from the league as second sub as a result of the top two athletes, Marocco's Sami Cherkaoui and Abdelkebir Ouaddar electing not to contest the Final in Basel.

The Central European League was hotly contested with 81 athletes contesting the Northern Sub-League, and 45 contesting the Southern equivalent. After completion of the two sub-leagues, athletes qualify to compete in the Central European League Final. From here, the top three placed athletes qualify to compete in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final. Ales Opatrny (CZE), Vince Jarmy (HUN) and Andrea Herck (ROU) made up the top three following the League Final and take up their qualifying spots in Basel next month.

Twenty athletes fought for a qualifying place within the Eurasian League, and it was Valeria Sokolova (KGZ) who secured the coveted qualification for Central Asia to contest her first Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final. Shalva Gachechiladze (GEO) topped the Eurasian League - Caucasus Caspian region, and also lines up in Basel.

Takamichi Mashiyama topped the Japan League taking the sole qualifying spot and has confirmed his participation in Basel.

Two qualification spots are on offer in the Australian League. These were won by Billy Raymont and Samuel Overton. Neither athletes nor the league sub Gemma Greighton will compete in Basel, so the Australian League will not be represented at this year's Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final.

The New Zealand League was closely contested with Julie Davey and Luke Dee, both amassing 63 points across the four qualifying legs, and Sophie Scott just one point behind on 62. With two wins to Dee's one, Davey headed the league but elects not to travel to Europe for the Longines FEI Jumping World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  Final. With only one place on offer in the league, the qualifying spot passed down to Dee who has seized the opportunity to contest his first Longines FEI Jumping World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  Final.

In the North America League qualification places are allocated into regions. Seven places are available to East USA athletes, three to West USA, two to Canada and two to Mexico. With two wins across the North America League, World number two in the current Longines Rankings, Kent Farrington (USA) saw off 103 participating rivals to top the league's standings. Farrington will not line up in Basel nor will fifth East USA placed McLain Ward. The absence of two of USA's 'big guns' sees the East USA's seven qualification places pass down the line, but only six of these places will be taken up in Basel. Finishing second, third and fourth for East USA, Kirsten Vanderveen, Alise Oken and Lillie Keenan have confirmed their participation in Basel. Having finished sixth, seventh and eighth in the league, Olympic and World Gold Medallist Laura Kraut, McKayla Langmeier and Katherine Dinan (the first sub for qualification through for East USA), join their compatriots in the Swiss city next month.

The three qualification spots allocated to West USA were won by Kaitlin Campbell, Karl Cook and Skylar Wireman. Cook and Wireman turned down their place in Basel, so will be replaced by the West USA's first and second subs, Shawn Cassidy and Alessandra Volpi who head to the final alongside Campbell.



Erynn Ballard and Tiffany Foster secured the two qualification spots allocated to Canada via the North America League; however, neither athlete will compete in Basel. Similarly, Alejandro Mills and Miguel Maron Kahwagi earned the two spots available to Mexico but, like their Canadian counterparts, declined their places in Basel. Consequently, neither Mexico nor Canada will be represented via the North America League at this year's Longines FEI Jumping World Cup<sup>™</sup> Final.

Ireland's Daniel Coyle, domiciled in North America and consequently registered to compete in the North America League, qualifies as an 'Extra Athlete' in the North America League (East USA). In order to qualify as an extra athlete, he was required to have obtained at least as many points as the last qualified East USA athlete. Coyle's compatriots, Darragh Kenny and Shane Sweetnam, as well as Israel's Daniel Bluman, were also eligible for qualification via the extra athlete system through the League, but have elected not to compete in Basel.

The South African League saw qualification for the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final secured during the 2023/2024 season. Bronwyn Meredith Dos Santos topped the league for that period and takes her place at the Final in Basel next month.

The South American South League was another hotly contested affair, with three athletes finishing at the top of the leaderboard with 45 points apiece following seven legs that saw 64 athletes battle for just two coveted World Cup Final qualification spots. Split only by their highest placings across the league, it was Argentina's Lucrecia Cesaroni who was declared the league winner with Vitor Dantas Medeiros de Carvalho (BRA) in second. Both Cesaroni and Dantas Medeiros de Carvalho will not take her place in Basel.

The Western European League was the largest of the leagues with 187 athletes participating across 14 qualifying legs and104 of those gaining points within the league. Eighteen qualifying spots were on offer and competition to secure one of these was as fierce as ever. Kevin Staut (FRA) headed the league early in the season, and maintained this position until the end. The Olympic Team and European Individual Gold Medallist would love to add 'Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Champion' to his already impressive resumé and heads to Basel in fine form. Hans-Dieter Dreher (GER) finished second in the league, despite not contesting the last three qualifying legs, and will hope to improve on his fifth place from the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Riyadh 12 months ago.

Pieter Devos (BEL) impressed with a series of consistent performances aboard multiple horses across the qualifying legs which saw him secure the third qualifying spot for Basel's Final. Having finished eighth in the 2024 edition of the Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final with the then just nine-year-old Casual DV Z, he has chosen to bring the exciting homebred mare once again to vie for the title with another year of experience and a string of impressive  $5^*$  1.60m performances under their belts, they will be ones to watch in Basel.

Robert Whitaker (GBR) finished in fourth position in the league and bids to emulate his father John, winner of back-to-back Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™1:10 PM Finals in Dortmund (GER) 1990 and Gothenburg (SWE) 1991 with the great Milton. Robert takes his winning ride from Helsinki's qualifying leg, Vermento, the stallion bred by his dual World Cup winning father. Max Kühner (AUT), Julien Epaillard (FRA) and Gregory Wathelet (BEL) filled the next three positions in the standings, and line up again in Basel having finished in seventh, second and tenth positions respectively in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Riyadh in 2024.

Maikel van der Vleuten (NED) secured qualification when finishing eighth in the Western European League. He lines up in Basel with his dual Olympic Individual Bronze medallist Beauville Z N.O.P. Julien Anquetin (FRA) finished ninth in the Western European League and also confirms his attendance in Basel.

Former Champions Martin Fuchs (SUI) and Marcus Ehning (GER) qualified as 10th and 11th in the Western European League. Winner of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2022 in Leipzig



(GER) with Chaplin and The Sinner, Fuchs, competing at a World Cup Final on home soil for the first time, will vie to join an illustrious list of athletes who have won multiple World Cup Finals. Ehning is one of those athletes, and belongs to an elite group of five athletes who have been crowned World Cup Champion three times. Ehning is the only one of these esteemed horsemen who lines up in Basel, thus bids to make history as the first athlete to take the coveted title for a fourth time.

Ehning's compatriot, Sophie Hinners, makes her World Cup debut following an impressive first Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ season in which she made history by becoming the first female athlete to win Verona's qualifying leg. She finished in 12th position in the league and takes her place in the Final.

Triple Olympic Gold Medallist Ben Maher (GBR) took 13th place in the league and heads to Basel hungry to add 'World Cup Champion' to his illustrious list of accolades. Mario Stevens (GER) confirms his attendance in Basel having finished in 14th ahead of Willem Greve (NED) who, somewhat unbelievably, makes his first Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final appearance.

Richard Vogel (GER) stamped his authority on the league when winning both Lyon and Stuttgart's qualifiers. He heads to Basel with his winning partner from both legs, the impressive United Touch S.

Determined to compete in front of a home crowd at his second Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final, Edouard Schmitz achieved his goal in securing his place by taking 17th place in the Western European League. Having finished in 18th position, his compatriot Olympic and European Individual Gold Medallist Steve Guerdat, one of those five esteemed athletes that have been crowned World Cup Champion on three occasions, was set to line up once again and bid to write another chapter in Jumping history.

Unfortunately, a back injury requiring immediate surgery has seen Guerdat have to sit out this season's Final. Kim Emmen (NED) is the beneficiary of Guerdat's misfortune on this occasion as she has been called up as sub and has confirmed her participation in what will be her first Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final next month.

Seven of the athletes that finished in the top ten at last year's Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final in Riyadh return to battle for the title again in Basel. Six of the top ten athletes from the current Longines World Rankings and three former Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Champions are amongst the 42 athletes who are set to contest this year's Final in Basel. A week of world-class sport is promised in Switzerland next month as the battle commences for one athlete to be crowned Longines FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Champion and have their names permanently etched in history alongside Jumping royalty.



## Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2025 Preview

## Superstar lineup ready for FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in Basel

#### By Bettine van Harselaar



After an exhilarating FEI Dressage World Cup™ season, the lineup for the Les Tres Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final has been confirmed. From 2–6 April, the St. Jakobshalle in Basel (SUI) will set the stage for the first-ever FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final to be held in Switzerland. Defending champion Patrik Kittel (SWE) will make his way to Basel to battle for back-to-back victories.

Over the past 2024-2025 season, 38 qualifiers took place across four leagues: the Western European League, the North American League, the Central European League, and the Pacific League. With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games behind us, the world's top Dressage athletes have set their sights on the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2025. The race for the 18 coveted spots was fiercely contested, with a star-studded field making a last-minute push for points in 's-Hertogenbosch last weekend.

#### Kittel to defend his title

18 athletes from 13 nations will go head-to-head in pursuit of the prestigious FEI Dressage World Cup™ World Cup title. Defending champion and current World No. 10 Patrik Kittel (SWE) qualified his mare Forever Young HRH (owned by the athlete and Gestüt Peterhof). The mare delivered strong performances in the Amsterdam (NED) and 's-Hertogenbosch (NED) qualifiers, proving she is ready for the Final.



Joining Kittel are nine combinations from the Western European League, including World No. 2 Isabell Werth (GER), who will bring DSP Quantaz (owned by Madeleine Winter-Schulze and Victoria Max-Theurer) to Basel. With this horse, she secured third place at the last two Finals in Riyadh (KSA) and Omaha (USA). As a legend of the sport, Werth will make her 26th FEI Dressage World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  Final appearance. Her track record speaks for itself. She has reached the podium in her last six Finals and claimed the title five times, with her first victory dating back to Gothenburg (SWE) in 1992. Having won the Lyon (FRA), Stuttgart (GER), and Basel qualifiers this season, Werth is in top form heading into the Final.

#### Western European League contenders

World No. 3 and reigning Freestyle Olympic bronze medallist Charlotte Fry (GBR) has also confirmed her participation. She will partner with her black powerhouse Glamourdale (owned by the athlete and Van Olst Horses), with whom she dominated the London, Amsterdam, and 's-Hertogenbosch qualifiers, with her last two wins trending towards the 90% mark.

Germany will be well-represented in Basel, having secured the maximum number of spots allowed per nation. Alongside Werth, Bianca Nowag-Aulenbrock (GER) will compete with Florine OLD (owned by Elisabeth von Wulffen), while Carina Scholz (GER) will bring Tarantino (owned by Sportpferde Scholz). Nowag-Aulenbrock set a new personal best of 80.450% in 's-Hertogenbosch and also claimed victory in Mariakalnok while also reaching the podium in Stuttgart. Scholz has enjoyed a strong FEI Dressage World Cup™ season with multiple horses, and has confirmed that her routineer Tarantino 5, runner-up in Madrid (ESP), will be her mount for Basel.

France will be represented by two of their Olympic combinations, including Corentin Pottier (FRA) and Gotilas du Feuillard (owned by Camille Judet Cheret, Herve Pottier and Maryse Pottier), who finished second in the FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  standings, just behind Werth. Pottier launched his campaign late in the season, beginning in Mechelen (BEL) in December, but secured crucial points with two third-place finishes in Neumünster (GER) and Gothenburg (SWE), as well as a victory in Motesice (SVK) in the Central European League. His compatriot Pauline Basquin (FRA), winner of the Madrid qualifier, will also make her FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final debut with Sertorius de Rima Z IFCE (owned by Institut Francais Du Cheval Et De L'Equitation).

Belgium's Larissa Pauluis (BEL) will return to the final with Flambeau (owned by Marie Christine Pauluis, Jean Pauluis, Emmanuel Lepage and Caroline Lepage), having competed in Riyadh (KSA) last year with First-Step Valentin. Also making a repeat appearance is Borja Carrascosa (ESP) with Sir Hubert NRW (owned by the athlete and Sportpferde Hofmann GbR), winner of the qualifier in Lerma, St. Vincent, Mexico.

Isabell Freese (NOR) has confirmed her participation with Total Hope OLD (owned by Paul Schockemöhle, Lone Boegh-Hendriksen and Oivind Bache), the stallion she also rode in the Olympic Freestyle Final. A true legacy horse, Total Hope OLD is the product of two former FEI Dressage World Cup™ champions: sired by Totilas and with triple FEI Dressage World Cup™ winner Weihegold OLD as his mom. Basel will mark Freese's first-ever World Cup Final appearance.

## North American League

Spanning 10 competitions, the North American League allocated three tickets to the FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final, all of which were secured by American combinations. The first points were claimed by Kevin Kohmann and Duenensee (owned by Diamante Farms), who secured victory in Devon at the end of September.

The second leg of the NAL made history as the first-ever FEI Dressage World Cup™ qualifier in Mexico, held in Lerma, St. Vincent. In an unexpected twist, the win went to Western European



League athlete Borja Carrascosa flew his Sir Hubert NRW across the Atlantic and picked up 20 points in Mexico. Kohmann also capitalised on the opportunity, finishing second.

Kohmann enjoyed a strong season, claiming another 20 points with a win in Wellington (USA) in early March. His consistent performances in Ocala (USA) in December, and in Wellington in January and March, secured him a well-earned spot in the Final. He returns for his second consecutive appearance, having competed in last year's Final in Riyadh with Duenensee.

Two more combinations secured 60 points to qualify: Genay Vaughn and Adrienne Lyle. For 31-year-old Vaughn, it will be a debut appearance at the Final. With Gino (owned by Michele Vaughn), she secured victories in Thermal (USA) and Del Mar (USA) in February, amassing the necessary 60 points in just three competitions.

Three-time Olympian Adrienne Lyle also had a successful campaign with Helix (owned by Zen Elite Equestrian Center), her Paris 2024 Olympic partner. She won all three of her outings, taking top honours in Ocala in December, as well as back-to-back victories in Wellington in January and February. This propelled her above Anna Marek and Kevin Kohmann, who finished second and third in Ocala. Marek, who competed in last year's Final in Riyadh with Fire Fly (owned by Janet Simile), came close once again but fell just short, despite strong performances in Ocala and Wellington.

#### Central European League

The Central European League featured no fewer than 14 qualifiers, kicking off in May in Budapest (HUN). The two coveted tickets to the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final were secured by Anikó Komjáthy-Losonczy and Sandra Sysojeva, both finishing on 80 points.

The season opener in Budapest saw home athlete Yazmin Yom-Tov and her grey Konfucius (owned by Arie Yom Tov) claim victory ahead of Katarzyna Milczarek. The Polish athlete delivered an impressive season aboard Guapo (owned by the Athlete), winning in Brno (CZE) and Wroclaw (POL), but her final tally of 74 points left her just outside qualification.

Paris Olympian and Riyadh World Cup Finalist Justina Vanagaite (LTU) took the second qualifier in Olomouc (CZE) with Nabab (owned by the athlete and Jurga Girniute and Ramunas Bogdanas) and later finished second in Motesice (SVK) in October. As the highest-placed CEL athlete in that event, she gained 20 points. She also posted two runner-up finishes in Riga (LAT) and Tallinn (EST), rounding off a strong season, but ultimately falling short of qualification with 74 points.

Sandra Sysojeva (POL) and her Olympic Freestyle-finalist mare Maxima Bella (owned by the athlete and Dominika Krasko Bialek and Piet Lenskens) captured the hearts of many with an unbeaten record in four FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{TM}$  qualifiers, triumphing in Pärnu (EST), Riga (LAT), Wierzbna Bialy Las (POL), and Tallinn (EST).

Anikó Komjáthy-Losonczy (HUN) also secured four maximum-score performances with her big grey Dior S (owned by Okura Co Ltd). The pair finished second in Lipica (SLO) in June and sixth in Samorin (SVK) and Mariakalnok (HUN). However, as all combinations ahead of her were from other leagues, she still gained the full 20 points in both events, securing her place in for the FEI Dressage World  $Cup^{\text{TM}}$  Final in Basel.

## **Pacific League**

The Pacific League consisted of three qualifiers, all held in Australia: CDI-W Werribee in March, CDI-W Melbourne in December, and the Pacific League Final, which returned to Werribee.

The opening qualifier went to the only 21-year-old Jessica Dertell (AUS) with Cennin, narrowly edging out David McKinnon (AUS). Dertell also finished third aboard Syriana, the horse previously campaigned by Mary Hanna (AUS), who took fourth place with her new ride, Ivanhoe.



McKinnon took the Melbourne leg aboard Estupendo (owned by Vivien Lipshut), scoring 75.400% in the Freestyle to claim victory over Hanna and Ivanhoe (owned by the athlete), who finished second with 73.695%.

Hanna returned to the top of the podium in the final qualifier in Werribee with Syriana, just ahead of New Zealand's Wendi Williamson in second and McKinnon in third. With this result, the 71-year-old Hanna, who represented Australia at no fewer than six Olympic Games, secured her ticket to Basel, marking her sixth FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final appearance.

## Non-league and FEI Extra starting place

The non-league starting place has been allocated to Renderson Silva de Oliveira (BRA) with Fogoso Campline, as the highest-ranked non-league athlete on the FEI Dressage World Ranking List, based on the application of the Brazilian National Federation. He guided his Lusitano grey to a seventh-place finish in Madrid and an impressive ninth place in a strong field in Neumünster, scoring no less than 76.845%.

The FEI Extra starting place has been assigned, in accordance with the rules, to Jessica Neuhauser (SUI) and Rockson (owned by Hildegard Magdalena Riedmaier), as the highest-scoring athlete from the Western European League, from the host nation across at least two FEI Dressage World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{TM}}$  qualifiers.

One thing is certain: Basel will crown a new FEI Dressage World Cup™ champion, as none of the competing combinations have previously claimed the title.

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



## J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2025 Preview

## Returning champions hope for repeat success

#### By Joanne Littlejohn



The J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup Final<sup>™</sup> returns to Basel (SUI) on 2-5 April 2025, and with it comes last year's champions ready to defend their titles.

Germany's Jannik Heiland and Kathrin Meyer enter strongly with back-to-back wins, while Rebecca Greggio (ITA) and Davide Zanella (ITA) will fight to return to Italy with the Pas de Deux trophy once again.

#### Male

Jannik faces tough competition in the Male Individual category with master of suave and precision Quentin Jabet (FRA) making his debut at the event. Jabet has triumphed in their last few meetings and will be sure to take advantage of the extra 10 seconds available to boost his artistic score and aim for the lead. He will compete with a different horse – Goldjunge – who is experienced at this level; however, they have never appeared together in competition before.

Heiland will also compete with a new combination, Rey Rubino and Lars Hansen (GER). Hansen has a wealth of experience under his belt, however Rey Rubino is new to high level competition, which may impact the final results, depending on how he manages with the atmosphere.

Looking closer to home, Thomas Brüsewitz and Julian Wilfling (GER) have both placed well historically and can perform under high pressure. Either could steal Heiland's title.



The trophy has never been taken outside of Europe; however, this year North America presents strong contenders. Canadian, creative Talmage Conrad competes at the event for the first time and Daniel Janes (USA) can hope to improve on his 2023 6th place finish.

Completing the lineup is Davide Zanella (ITA). He has the added benefit of being able to use his individual round to his advantage, to get a feel for the arena, having earned his place in both the Individual and Pas de Deux finals.

#### **Female**

In the Female competition, Kathrin Meyer (GER) has an unbeaten record to protect. However, she too will compete with a different combination: Capitain Claus OLD and Gesa Bührig. They have a successful history, together finishing fourth at the FEI Vaulting World Championship 2022 in Herning (DEN).

Her main challengers are the USA's Kimberly Palmer and home favourites Nadja Büttiker (SUI) and Ilona Hannich (SUI). It will be an emotional end either way for Büttiker and Hannich as both will retire after the event.

Nadja Büttiker is appearing for the 7th time at the Final. The Gold has, as yet been elusive, but if she can capitalise on her experience, she would be a worthy winner. Hannich has a previous 3rd place best finish. Her emotive freestyle scores highly artistically and she will give 100% to her last dance.

The Technical test/Free test format of the Final is well suited to Palmer. Consistently expressive and eye-catching in her routines, she will perform with trusty Rosenstolz 99 and Laura Carnabucci.

Sema Hornberg (GER) returns to Basel for a second time with teammate Annemie Szemes who will make her first appearance. Ginger Kennett will premier Australia in the Final, alongside Caroline Morse (USA), she completes the debutants and the non-European line up.

## Working together

In the Pas-de-Deux competition there are scores to settle. Italy's Rebecca Greggio and Davide Zanella will battle once again with 2024 World Champions, Germany's Diana Harwardt and Peter Künne. Only 0.047 separated the pair in 2024 in a spectacular finish. With even more at stake for both couples it is a fight not to be missed.

Gisa Sternberg and Linda Otten (GER) will make their debut, but they too face tough competition from Switzerland's experienced combinations; Zoe Maruccio and Syra Schmid, and Li Laffer and Ilona Hannich. Maruccio and Schmid have placed 2nd and 3rd in previous finals but have never yet finished on top and both couples will have the home crowd cheering them on.

With the best quality vaulting on offer, nothing is guaranteed until the final athlete performs. As always, the quality of the horses and the ability to remain relaxed in a high-pressure environment will have a major impact. They will have to give everything in Basel if they want to return home victorious.

<sup>\*</sup> Please, note that all the previews have been published days before the event. To check the changes in the final list of participants, please go to the <u>Definite Entries links</u>



## Longines FEI Jumping World Cup<sup>™</sup> 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  $\text{Cup}^{\text{T}}$  Final Competition. Qualified Athletes unable to start will not be replaced.

The 20 best-placed Athletes (plus ties) 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 ties) 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

- 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
- Time limit: 120 or 180 seconds depending on the length of the course
- **Height of obstacles**: max. 160 cm

## Final II

- **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: 375 m/min
- Height of obstacles: max. 160 cm

## Final III

- 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**: 370 m/min
- Height of obstacles: max. 160 cm

## <u>Transformation of points to penalties</u>

After the second Final Competition, FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  points are transformed into penalties. The Athlete with the highest number of FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  points after two Competitions will have 0 penalties. For all other Athletes the number of penalties will be calculated by multiplying with the coefficient of 0.50 the difference between their number of FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  points of the leading Athlete after two Competitions. In this procedure all decimals are rounded down.



## FEI Jumping World Cup Final Overall Classification

The overall winner will be the Athlete with the lowest number of penalties after the three Final Competitions. An Athlete who qualifies for the second Final Competition but who does not start in that Competition cannot be ranked higher than Athletes who started in both the first and second Final Competitions.

If Athletes are tied for first place after the three final Competitions, there will be a jump-off against the clock over a reduced course of at least six obstacles. In case of equality of penalties and time in this jump-off a second jump-off, against the clock, will be held over the same course. Athletes not in the jump-off but tying on penalties will be separated for the purpose of the FEI Jumping World  $Cup^{\mathsf{TM}}$  Final overall classification by their time in the second round of the third Final Competition.

List of officials available here



## Le Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final competition format

#### **Test: FEI Grand Prix**

Number of horses per athlete: 1

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

**Draw** Acc. Art 16 of the FEI Dressage World Cup<sup>™</sup> Rules - Season 2024/2025,: 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.

#### FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

**Open to** all Athlete/Horse combinations who completed the FEI Grand Prix with at least 60% will continue to the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

**Draw** 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.

<u>List of officials available here</u>

## J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup<sup>™</sup> Final competition format

#### **Individual Finals**

The Individual Female and Male Finals are held over two Competitions per category:

Competition 1: Technical Test & Competition 2: Free Test

Time limit: 1 minute 10 seconds

The Final score will be calculated with a weighting of 40% being applied to the results of Competition 1 and a weighting of 60% for the results of Competition 2.

#### Pas-de-Deux Final

The Pas-de-Deux Final is held over two Competitions:

Competition 1: Free Test & Competition 2: Free Test

Time limit: 2 minutes

The Final score will be calculated with a weighting of 40% being applied to the results of Competition 1 and a weighting of 60% for the result of Competition 2.

List of Officials available here



## About the venue for the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2025

The FEI World Cup™ Finals 2025 will be held at the St. Jakobshalle, a renowned indoor arena in Basel, Switzerland. Opened in 1976, it has become a key venue for a variety of events, including major sports tournaments, concerts, exhibitions, and corporate gatherings.



Covering around 20,000 square meters, the facility features eleven versatile halls, making it suitable for different types of events. A major renovation in 2018 modernized the space, upgrading its infrastructure to meet modern demands.

Conveniently located near the borders of Switzerland, Germany, and France, St. Jakobshalle Basel remains a top destination for cultural and sporting events in the region.

## **Definite entries**

Check all the athletes participating at the FEI World  $\text{Cup}^{\text{\tiny{M}}}$  Finals 2025 in Basel (SUI)

**Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final** 

Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final

J. Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup Final



## **Full Programme**

## Thursday 3 April

Longines FEI Jumping World Cup <sup>™</sup> Final I (Table C, 160cm)
(Table C, 160cm)

## Friday 4 April

13.30	Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™
	Final
	Grand Prix

20.15	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final I		
	Table A against the clock with jump-off, 160cm		

## Saturday 5 April

10.45	J.Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final		
	Individual Technical Test / Pas-de-Deux Freestyle		

19.30	Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois FEI Dressage World Cup™
	Final
	Grand Prix Freestyle

## Sunday 6 April

08.00	J.Safra Sarasin FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final		
	Individual Freestyle / Pas-de-Deux Freestyle		

14.00	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup <sup>™</sup> Final II
	Table A against the clock with jump-off, 160cm

16.30	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final III		
	Table A against the clock with jump-off, 160cm		

You can check the full programme and competition schedule <u>here</u>.

\*All local time (GMT+1)





## FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2024/2025 League Winners

League	Athlete	Country
Western European League	Kevin Staut	FRA
North American League	Kent Farrington	USA
Arab League - Middle East Sub-League	Ramzy Al Duhami	KSA
Arab League - North African Sub- League	Sami Cherkaoui	MAR
<u>Australian League</u>	Billy Raymont	AUS
Eurasian League	Valeria Sokolova	KGZ
Central European League	Ales Opatrny	CZE
Japan League	Takamichi Mashiyama	JPN
New Zealand League	Julie Davey	NZL
South African League (season 23/24)	Bronwyn Meredith Dos Santos	RSA
South American South League	Lucrecia Cesaroni	ARG
South East Asian League	Cancelled	N/A

Check the full FEI Jumping World Cup Standings here

## FEI Dressage World Cup™ 2024/2025 League Winners

League	Athlete	Country
Western European League	Isabell Werth	GER
Central European League	Anikó Komjáthy-Losonczy equally placed	HUN
	Sandra SYSOJEVA	POL
North American League	Kevin Kohmann	USA
Pacific League	Mary Hannah	AUS

See the full FEI Dressage World Cup standings here



## Fast facts about the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2025

## Total number of athletes:

Jumping: 40 athletes

• Dressage: 18 athletes

Vaulting Individual Female: 8 athletesVaulting Individual Male: 8 athletes

• Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: 10 athletes

## **Total number of Horses:**

• Jumping: 47 horses

• Dressage: 18 horses

• Vaulting Individual Female: 8 horses

Vaulting Individual Male: 8 horses

• Vaulting: Pas-de-Deux: 5 horses

## **Total competing nations:**

• Jumping: 22 nations

• Dressage: 13 nations

• Vaulting Individual Female: 4 nations

Vaulting Individual Male: 6 nations

• Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: 3 nations

## Athletes participating for the first time:

• Jumping: 18 athletes

• Dressage: 10 athletes

Vaulting Individual Female: 3 athletes

Vaulting Individual Male: 2 athletes

• Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: 2 athletes

## Horses participating for the first time:

Jumping: 35 horses

• Dressage: 14 horses

• Vaulting Individual Female: 4 horses

• Vaulting Individual Male: 4 horses

Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: 2 horses

## Nations participating for the first time:

• Jumping: Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Kuwait

• Vaulting: Australia

## **Youngest Athletes**

• Jumping: Zain Shady Samir (EGY – 20-years-old)

• Dressage: Charlotte Fry (GBR - 29-years-old)

• Vaulting Individual Female: Kennett Ginger (AUS) – 22-years-old

Vaulting Individual Male: Quentin Jabet (FRA) – 22-years-old



Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: Diana Harwardt (GER) – 24-years-old

#### **Oldest Athletes**

- Jumping: Laura Kraut (USA 59-years-old)
- Dressage: Mary Hanna (AUS 71-years-old)
- Vaulting Individual Female: Nadia Büttiker (SUI) / Ilona Hannich (SUI) 30-yearsold
- Vaulting Individual Male: Jannik Heiland (GER) 33-years-old
- Vaulting: Pas-de-Deux: Li Laffer (SUI) 32-years-old

## <u>Most Appearances - Athletes: (athletes participating in FEI World Cup Finals™</u> <u>2025)</u>

- Jumping: Marcus Ehning (GER 21 appearances)
- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER 25 appearances)
- Vaulting Individual Female: Nadia Büttiker (SUI) 6 appearances
- Vaulting Individual Male: Jannik Heiland (GER) 6 appearances
- Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: Syra Schmid & Zoe Marucchio (SUI) / Timo Gerdes & Jolina Ossenberg-Engels (GER) – 4 appearances

## Most appearances - Athletes: (in total)

- Jumping: Michael Whitaker (GBR 24 appearances)
- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER 25 appearances)
- Vaulting Individual Female: Nadia Büttiker (SUI) 6 appearances
- Vaulting Individual Male: Jannik Heiland (GER) 6 appearances
- Vaulting Pas-de-Deux: Syra Schmid & Zoe Marucchio (SUI) 4 appearances

## Most Appearances - Horses: (horses participating in FEI World Cup Finals™ 2025)

- Jumping: Visconti du Telman 2 appearances
- Dressage: DSP Quantaz 2 appearances
- Vaulting: Rosenstolz 99 4 appearances

## Most appearances - Horses: (in total)

- Jumping: Flexible and Baloubet du Rouet 8 appearances
- Dressage: Bjorsells Briar 899 8 appearances
- Vaulting: Luk 5 appearances

## First FEI World Cup™ Finals:

- Jumping in 1979 in Gothenburg (SWE)
- Dressage in 1986 in 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)
- Vaulting in 2011 in Leipzig (GER)



## 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



## Title defender Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2024

Henrik von Eckermann & King Edward (SWE)

## <u>Dressage</u>

#### **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
Adelinde Cornelissen	NED	2
Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl	GER	2



## Title Defender FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2024

Patrik Kittel & Touchdown (SWE)

## **Vaulting**

## **Most Wins**

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Nicolas Andreani	FRA	3
Torben Jacobs	GER	3
Anna Cavallaro	ITA	3



## <u>Title Defenders FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2024</u>

Individual Female: Kathrin Meyer/Sonja Meyer/San Classico S OLD (GER)

Individual Male: Jannik Heiland/ Barbara Rosiny/ Dark Beluga FRH (GER)

Pas -de-Deux: Davide Zanella & Rebecca Greggio/ Claudia Petersohn/ Orlando Tancredi (ITA)



## FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2025 in Basel (SUI) here.

Schedules and results will be available here.

The **FEI World Cup™ Finals 2025 in Basel** (**SUI**) will be broadcast live on <u>FEI TV</u>, the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

**Images & Content:** Free images for editorial purposes are available from the <u>FEI Flickr account</u> in the photostream and in the dedicated album.

Biographies from the main participants are available here

You can find the **FEI** on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>X</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>FEI YouTube</u>

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags #FEIWorldCupFinals

You can access the "NRH Guidelines for Posting Videos from FEI-Named Events" here

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Images by Leanjo de Koste, Richard Juilliart, Ben Clark, FEI.