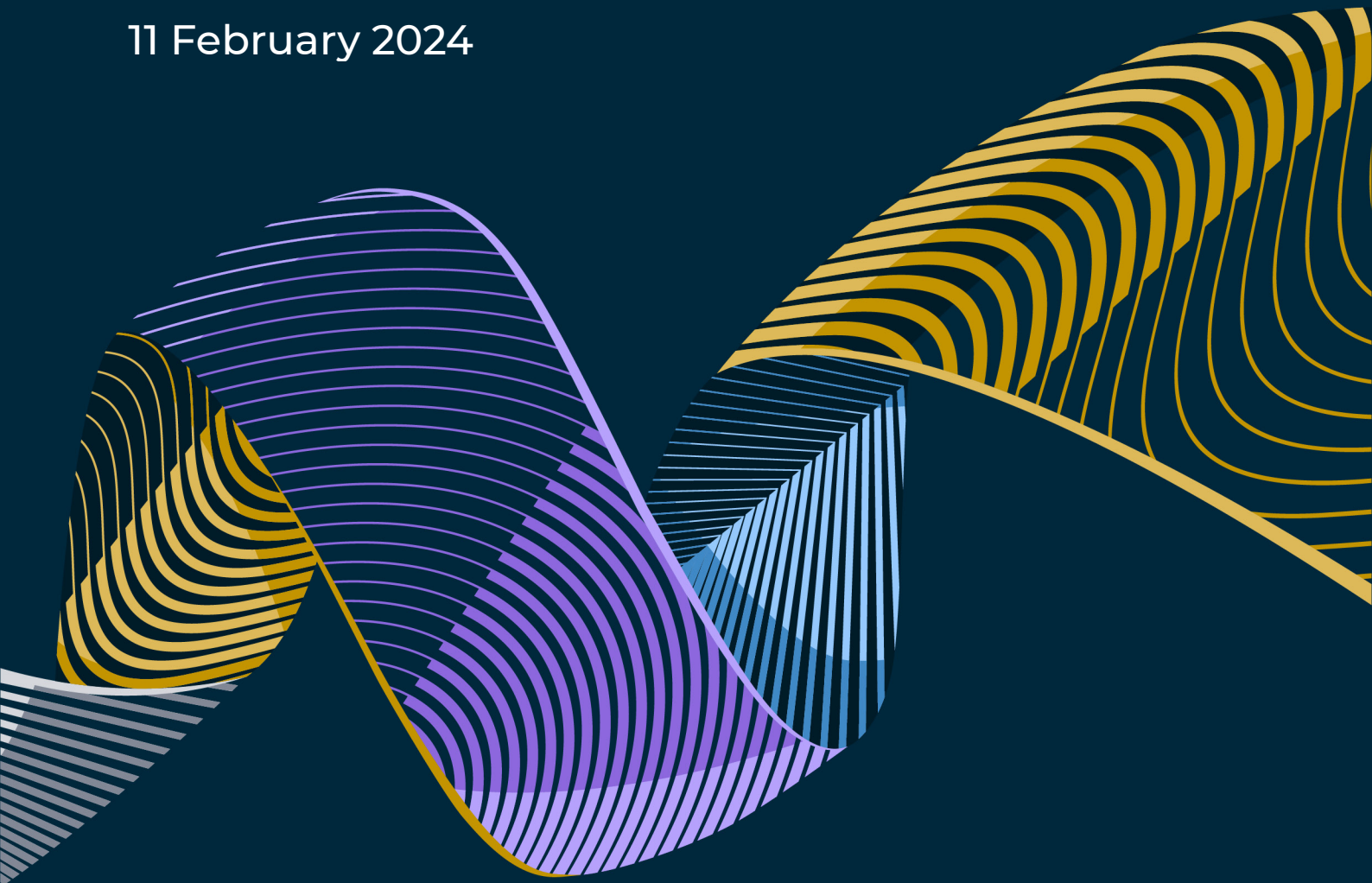




LONGINES
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS™

Abu Dhabi (UAE) - Press Kit

11 February 2024



Foreword

By the FEI President

On behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, I am thrilled to welcome you to Abu Dhabi, where together we inaugurate the prestigious Longines League of Nations. This new series features a unique, unified and global format where the top ten teams compete at four qualifying events around the world, with the top eight making it through to the Final and the opportunity to secure the ultimate honour for their nation.

As the excitement of the next few days unfolds, we will once again be reminded of what makes Jumping one of the most remarkable of sports. Fully immersed in the action, we will witness first-hand, the fantastic bond between horse and human; the trust, communication, hard work and patience involved. It is this bond which enables impressive feats of athleticism to be achieved and the core around which the whole FEI community revolves.



It is with great anticipation that we look forward to discovering who the victors of the first leg here in Abu Dhabi will be. Our journey with the Longines League of Nations™ will then take us to Ocala (USA), St. Gallen (SUI) and Rotterdam (NED), before we have our eight team finalists who will battle it out at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona from 3 to 6 October for the ultimate Series team title in Jumping.

I would like to thank the organisers, as well as all those who have dedicated their time and support to the successful running of this event. I would also like to thank Longines, Title Sponsor and Official Timekeeper of the Longines League of Nations™ for their unwavering loyalty and willingness to drive our sport forward in an innovative way. Together, we mark a new chapter in the history of Jumping, which will allow us to continue to raise the profile, visibility and reach of equestrianism around the world.

I wish all athletes, their invaluable support teams and nations present here in Abu Dhabi the best of luck! And to the fans, I hope you will enjoy every moment of the best of what our sport has to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ingmar De Vos'.

Ingmar De Vos
FEI President

Longines League of Nations™

The Longines League of Nations™ (LLN) is an exciting new chapter in the history of the Nations Cup, equestrian sport's oldest and most prestigious series which as a concept - the nation vs nation competition- has existed since 1909!

Ready to be launched in 2024, the Longines League of Nations™ represents the best of equestrian sport featuring a unified and global format, unique to the series, where the top 10 nations compete at 4 qualifiers in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Ocala (USA), St. Gallen (SUI) and Rotterdam (NED) in order to secure their spot at the Final in Barcelona (ESP), where the best 8 teams go head-to-head for the highly coveted Longines League of Nations™ Trophy!



In short, it's the best 10 teams, competing over 4 qualifiers, with the top 8 teams from the qualifiers competing in 1 Final.

Qualification of Teams

The best 10 Teams of the Longines League of Nations™ Ranking established based upon the Longines Ranking will be qualified to participate at the LLN Qualifying Events. The Qualification Ranking used for qualification for the LLN will be calculated based on the combined points of each NF's 6 best Athletes of whom at least 1 must be an Athlete under the age of 25 (U25) in the Longines Ranking.

Competition Format

The LLN Competition is run over two rounds, with identical courses. Both rounds are run according to Table A against the clock.

The starting order of the first round of the first LLN Competition of the Season will be the reverse order of the Qualification Ranking for the LLN Series; from the 2025 season onwards the winner of the LLN Final of the preceding LLN Season (if eligible to participate in the LLN Season) will go last.

For the subsequent LLN Competitions, the starting order of the first round will be the reverse order of the LLN Standings established after the previous LLN Competition.

You can check the full Longines League of Nations™ Rules [here](#)



LONGINES LEAGUE OF NATIONS™

FEI Series

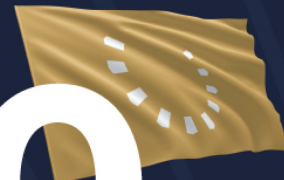
1

GLOBAL
TEAM JUMPING
SERIES



10

BEST NATIONS
IN THE WORLD



4

ATHLETES
& HORSES
PER TEAM



4

QUALIFIERS

ABU DHABI (UAE)
SUN 11 FEB 2024



OCALA, FL (USA)
SAT 23 MAR 2024



ST. GALLEN (SUI)
FRI 31 MAY 2024



ROTTERDAM (NED)
FRI 21 JUN 2024



8

BEST TEAMS
QUALIFY FOR
THE FINAL

1

FINAL

BARCELONA (ESP)
SUN 6 OCT 2024



The Venue

The inaugural qualifier of the Longines League of Nations™ 2024 will be held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) on 11 February. Abu Dhabi is the capital city of the United Arab Emirates and the capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It is home to an estimated population of 1.5 million.



The Longines League of Nations™ qualifier will be held at the Al Forsan International Sports Resort, a world leading sports, fitness, leisure and entertainment destination. The Resort, which opened in 2010, occupies 1.6km² and is conveniently located 15-minutes away from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Discover more about the venue [here](#)

Participating Nations

 Ireland



Richard HOWLEY



Mark MCAULEY



Michael PENDER



Denis LYNCH

More information about Team Ireland [here](#)

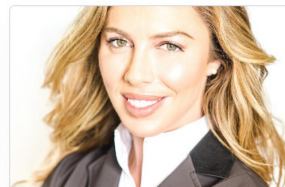
 United States of America



Alise OKEN



Callie SCHOTT



Hannah SELLECK



Aaron VALE

More information about Team USA [here](#).

 France



Olivier ROBERT



Roger Yves BOST




Olivier PERREAU



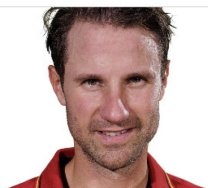
Kevin STAUT

More information about Team France [here](#)

 **Germany**



Christian AHLMANN



Christian KUKUK




Jörne SPREHE



David WILL

More information about Team Germany [here](#)

 **Switzerland**



Elian BAUMANN



Pius SCHWIZER



Janika SPRUNGER



Barbara SCHIEPER

More information about Team Switzerland [here](#)

 **Great Britain**



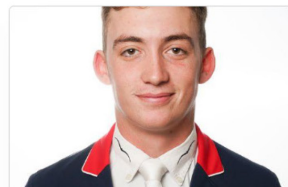
Skye HIGGIN



Joseph STOCKDALE



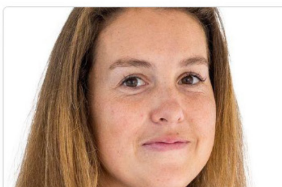
Donald WHITAKER



Jack WHITAKER

More information about Team Great Britain [here](#)

 **Netherlands**



Kim EMMEN



Loewie JOPPEN



Jur VRIELING



Tani JOOSTEN

More information about Team Netherlands [here](#)

 **Belgium**



Gregory WATHELET



Koen VEREECKE




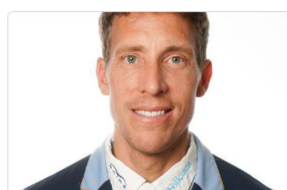
Abdel SAÏD



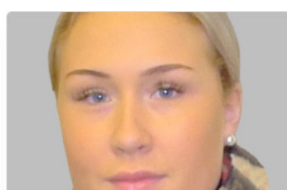
Wilm VERMEIR

More information about Team Belgium [here](#)

 **Sweden**



Henrik VON ECKERMANN



**Antonia PETERSSON
HÄGGSTRÖM**



Peder FREDRICSON



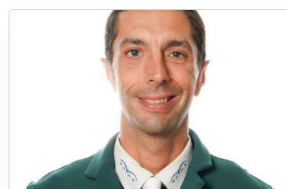
Rolf-Göran BENGTSSON

More information about Team Sweden [here](#)

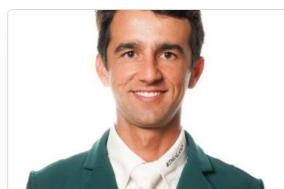
 **Brazil**



Luciana DINIZ



Yuri MANSUR



**Marlon MODOLO
ZANOTELLI**



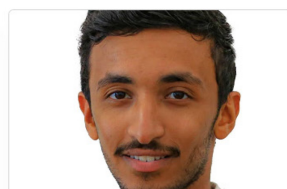
**Luiz Felipe CORTIZO
GONÇALVES DE AZEVEDO
FILHO**

More information about Team Brazil [here](#)

 **United Arab Emirates**



Abdullah Mohd AL MARRI



**Omar Abdul Aziz AL
MARZOOQI**



**Abdullah Humaid AL
MUHAIRI**



Ali Hamad AL KIRBI

[*Host Nation](#)

You can find more info about all participating nations [here](#)

Longines League™ of Nations Ranking

A graphic showing the top 10 nations in the Longines League of Nations Ranking for October 2023. The background is dark blue with gold wavy patterns. The ranking is presented as a list of horizontal bars, each containing a rank, a flag, a country name, and a score in points.

Longines League of Nations Ranking			
N° 1 - October 2023			
1.		IRELAND	13.834 pts
2.		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	13.532 pts
3.		FRANCE	12.890 pts
4.		GERMANY	12.876 pts
5.		SWITZERLAND	12.514 pts
6.		GREAT BRITAIN	12.045 pts
7.		NETHERLANDS	11.957 pts
8.		BELGIUM	11.552 pts
9.		SWEDEN	10.237 pts
10.		BRAZIL	9.289 pts

You can check the full Longines League of Nations™ Ranking [here](#)

The Longines League of Nations™ Trophy



Find out more about the Longines League of Nations™ Trophy [here](#)

Preview

Longines League of Nations™ teams set for a flying start at Abu Dhabi

As the excitement builds to a crescendo ahead of the dawning of the brand-new Longines League of Nations™ Series, the top-10 ranked countries in the world have confirmed their teams for the historic first leg which will be staged in Abu Dhabi (UAE) in just over two weeks' time, on 11 February 2024.

FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping, in which horse-and-rider combinations join forces to represent their countries with fierce pride and enormous passion, has long been at the heart of all that is best about equestrian sport. Dating back to 1909, and under the supervision of the FEI since 1930, it has inspired athletes and enthralled spectators worldwide ever since.

The new-look Longines League of Nations™ series blends the traditions of the past with the excitement of the modern sport for a four-leg super-series that will take place across three continents. After Abu Dhabi the action will move to Ocala (USA) in March and then to St Gallen (SUI) and Rotterdam (NED) in June before concluding with the big Final in Barcelona (ESP) in October where the best eight teams will battle it out for the inaugural title.

The opening leg looks set to be a mighty clash of champions.

Draw

Team Ireland will get the best of the draw because, ranked the number one nation in the world based on points accumulated by their top six athletes including one U25 athlete, they will be last into the arena when the action begins in Abu Dhabi where the hosts, not vying for qualification for the Final, will be first to go.

Then running in order of merit of those team rankings, Brazil will be second into the ring followed by Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, France and the USA before the first rider Irish finally takes his turn.

One combination from each country jumps the course before moving on to the second rotation of athletes and horses and, counting the best three scores for each team, the best eight nations at the end of the first round return to jump the same course in round two, but with just three riders instead of four this time around so any mistakes will prove very costly.

In case of a draw at the end of the second round there will be a jump-off with just one rider representing each team.

Star-studded

The opening leg has attracted a star-studded line-up, with the reigning Olympic champions from Sweden sending out the fabulous foursome of Henrik von Eckermann, Antonia Pettersson Häggström, Peder Fredricson and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson who are likely to be the ones to beat.

The Swedes have been a force to be reckoned with for a long time now, clinching team gold at the delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in 2021, at the FEI World Championship in 2022 and once more at the European Championship in 2023.

Fearless Fredricson helped clinch that Tokyo team title in a thrilling jump-off, while von Eckermann went on to add individual gold to the team title at the FEI World Championships in Herning (DEN) in 2022, and has been leading the individual world rankings for much of the time since then, while Bengtsson is a five-time Olympian and former European gold medallist.

Team Brazil are also on something of a roll, having picked up a qualifying spot for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final 2023 last October and team bronze at the Pan American Games 2023 in Chile a few weeks later. Former Portuguese team member, Luciana Diniz, returned to ride under the Brazilian flag at last year's Barcelona Final, and she will line-up in Abu Dhabi alongside Marlon Zanotelli, Yuri Mansur and Luiz Felipe de Azevedo Filho.

Experienced

Belgium will be represented by the experienced side of Tokyo team bronze medallist Gregory Wathelet, Koen Vereecke, Abdel Saïd and Wilm Vermeir while France sends out Olympic and European champions Kevin Staut and Roger Yves Bost, Olivier Robert and Olivier Perreau.

Flying the flag for Great Britain will be Skye Higgin, Joseph Stockdale and Donald and Jack Whitaker while Germany, winners of the 2023 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ title, field double Olympic team bronze medallist and former European and World Cup champion Christian Ahlmann, Jörne Sprehe and 2021 European team silver medallists David Will and Christian Kukuk. The Irish side will include Michael Pender, Richard Howley, Mark McAuley and Denis Lynch.

For the Netherlands, Kim Emmen, Tani Joosten and Loewie Joppen will be backed up by World gold and Olympic silver medallist Jur Vrieling, while Janika Sprunger and Barbara Schnieper will join 2021 European team gold medallist Elian Baumann and double-Olympian Pius Schwizer in the Swiss side.

Team USA will include Alise Oken, Callie Schott, Hannah Selleck and Aaron Vale, and the hosts will be hoping for a good result from their selection that consists of Abdullah Mohd Al Marri, Omar Abdul Aziz Al Marzooqi, Abdullah Humaid Al Muhairi and Ali Hamad Al Kirbi.

With €700,000 in prize money at each qualifier and €1,600,000 on offer at the Final along with a range of extra bonus payments and of course the honour and prestige

that goes with the taking of the very first Longines League of Nations™ title, it's all to play for.

The stage is set for a whole new chapter of sparkling equestrian sport, so don't miss a hoofbeat.....

FEI Online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the Longines League of Nations™ leg in Abu Dhabi (UAE) [here](#).

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

The League of Nations™ qualifier in Abu Dhabi (UAE) 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.

Video footage will be available at <https://fei.scoopa.com/> with the following login details: media@fei.org Password: FEInews2023

Biographies from the main participants are available [here](#)

You can find the Longines League of Nations™ on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags #LonginesLeagueOfNations #LLN and #Jumping

Get all the info about the Longines League of Nations™, including venues, rules, participating teams, etc on the [Longines League of Nations™ Hub](#)

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