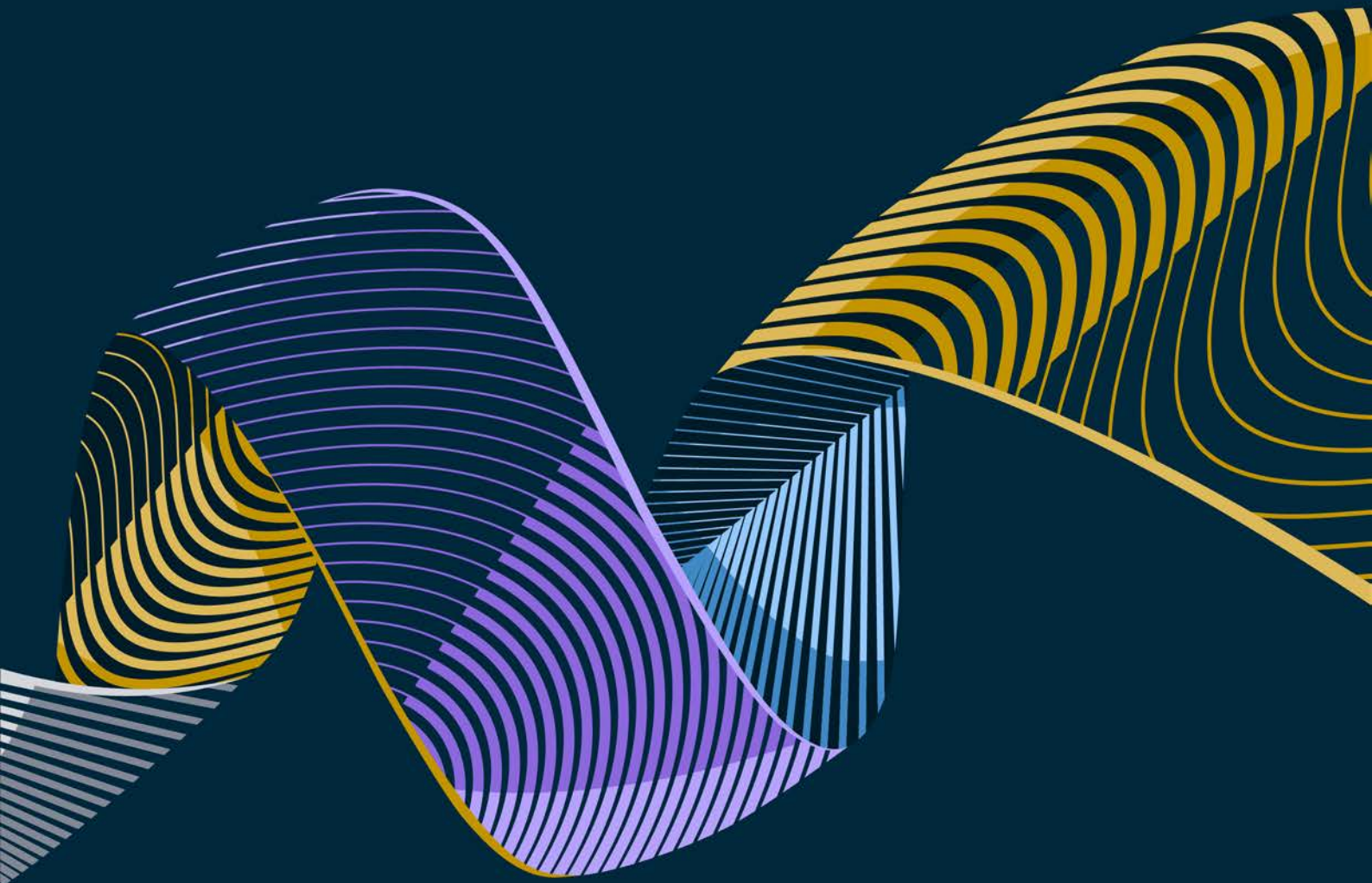




**LONGINES
LEAGUE ^OF
NATIONS™**

Abu Dhabi (UAE) Press Kit

15 February 2025



Foreword

By the FEI President

On behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, welcome to Abu Dhabi (UAE), where together we kick-start the second season of the highly successful Longines League of Nations™. Over the coming days, we once again look forward to seeing the world's 10 finest Jumping teams compete at the first of four qualifying events around the world, aiming to secure points in to make it through to the Final which will take place in Barcelona (ESP) from 2-5 October 2025.

This year, our journey with the Longines League of Nations™ will take us from Abu Dhabi to Ocala (USA), Rotterdam (NED) and St. Tropez Gassin, a venue making its debut to the series. Following that, we will head out to the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona to witness the top eight teams battle it out for the ultimate team title. It is with great anticipation that we await to discover the laureates of 2025!

Team work is inherent to the equestrian landscape at all levels and every athlete you will see here that has been selected to represent their nation is effectively representing countless individuals and organisations that have not only supported them and their horse but paved the way to compete on the global stage. This is what makes the Longines League of Nations™ so special – it is a celebration of horsemanship, collaboration, expertise, determination and passion.

I would like to thank Sultan Mohamed Khalifa Al Yehyaee and his entire team, as well as the National Federation and 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 support. It is with great passion and enthusiasm that I look forward to the second edition of this prestigious series, which allows us to continue to raise the profile, visibility and reach Jumping around the world.

To the athletes and their invaluable support teams, I wish the very best of luck! Lastly, to all the fans, I hope you enjoy every minute of the best our sport has to offer.

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!

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), Rotterdam (NED) and St Tropez Gassin (FRA) 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 winner of the LLN Final of the preceding LLN Season will be automatically qualified for the LLN of the following season regardless of that NF's ranking in the relevant **Qualification Ranking** and the remaining nine places will be allocated to the nine best ranked teams in the Qualification Ranking (excluding the LLN Final winner).

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; 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. In case of a tie between NFs in the Qualification Ranking or LLN Standings a draw for the NFs concerned will determine their starting order.

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



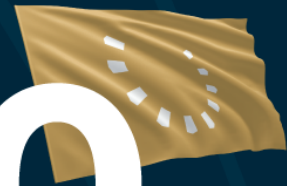
LONGINES LEAGUE OF NATIONS™

FEI Series

1 GLOBAL
TEAM JUMPING
SERIES



10 BEST NATIONS
IN THE WORLD



4 ATHLETES
& HORSES
PER TEAM



4 QUALIFIERS



ABU DHABI (UAE)
SAT 15 FEB 2025



OCALA, FL (USA)
SUN 23 MAR 2025



ROTTERDAM (NED)
SUN 22 JUN 2025



ST. TROPEZ (FRA)
SUN 21 SEP 2025



8

BEST TEAMS
QUALIFY FOR
THE FINAL

1 FINAL

BARCELONA (ESP)
SUN 5 OCT 2025



The Venue

The inaugural qualifier of the Longines League of Nations™ 2025 will be held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) on 15 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](#)

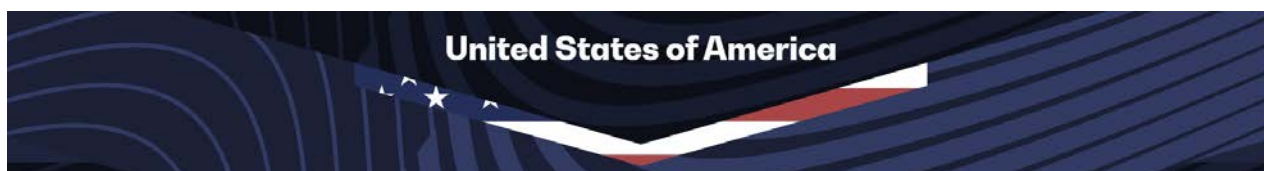


LONGINES
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS

LLN Abu Dhabi line-ups



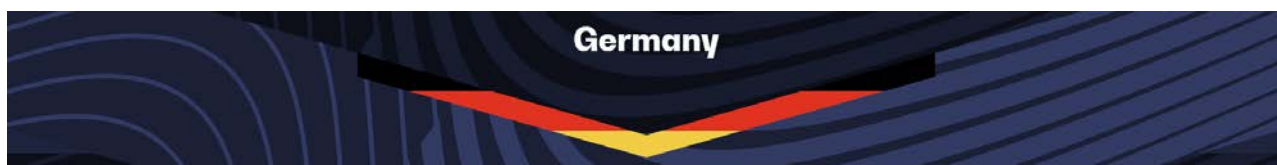
<u>Trevor BREEN*</u>	<u>Jason FOLEY*</u>	<u>Denis LYNCH</u>	<u>Michael PENDER</u>
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<u>Kaitlin CAMPBELL*</u>	<u>Lucy DAVIS KENNEDY</u>	<u>Taylor KAIN*</u>	<u>Skylar WIREMAN*</u>
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<u>Simon DELESTRE</u>	<u>Alexa FERRER*</u>	<u>Jeanne SADRAN*</u>	<u>Kevin STAUT</u>
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<u>Katrin ECKERMANN*</u>	<u>Sophie HINNERS*</u>	<u>Jörne SPREHE</u>	<u>Maximilian WEISHAUPT*</u>
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Great Britain

Tim
GREDLEY

Robert
MURPHY*

Joseph
STOCKDALE

Donald
WHITAKER



Belgium

Rik
HEMERYCK*

Thibaut
SPITS*

Jos
VERLOOY*

Wilm
VERMEIR



Switzerland

Bryan
BALSIGER*

Romain
DUGUET

Edouard
SCHMITZ

Janika
SPRUNGER



Netherlands

Kevin
JOCHEMS*

Tani
JOOSTEN

Leopold
VAN ASTEN

Jur
VRIELING



<u>Petronella</u> ANDERSSON	<u>Angelica</u> AUGUSTSSON ZANOTELLI*	<u>Rolf-Göran</u> BENGTSSON	<u>Angelic</u> Von ESSEN*
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<u>Piergiorgio</u> BUCCI*	<u>Emanuele</u> CAMILLI*	<u>Giacomo</u> CASADEI*	<u>Giulia</u> MARTINENGO MARQUET*
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Home Nation – United Arab Emirates

<u>Abdullah</u> Mohd AL MARRI	<u>Omar Abdul</u> Aziz AL MARZOOQI	<u>Abdullah</u> Humaid AL MUHAIRI	<u>Humaid</u> Abdulla Khalifa AL MUHAIRI*
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**Athlete participating for the first time in the Longines League of Nations™*



LLN Abu Dhabi Preview

Teams announced for the Longines League of Nations™ in Abu Dhabi (UAE)



Following the immense success of the inaugural series of the Longines League of Nations™ 2024, it returns under the same format for 2025 and promises to deliver top class sport as the world's top ten Jumping nations battle for supremacy across three continents.

As in 2024, the 2025 Longines League of Nations™ series gets underway in Abu Dhabi (UAE) at the impressive Al Forsan International Sports Resort on 15 February 2025.

Ireland, France, USA, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden and Italy have all gained eligibility to participate in the 2025 edition of the Longines League of Nations™ as the top ten ranked nations in the world. As winners of the Final last season, Germany had officially qualified regardless of their ranking. These ten qualified teams are joined in Abu Dhabi by the host nation, United Arab Emirates.

The series is comprised of four qualifying events each with a prize fund of €700,000 and culminates with the final in Barcelona (ESP) in October where €1,600,000 in prize money alongside lucrative bonus prizes are set to lure the 'crème de la crème' of Jumping's elite once more. From Abu Dhabi, the series jets across the Atlantic to Ocala (USA) in March, back across to Europe to Rotterdam (NED) in June before St-Tropez Gassin (FRA) plays host for the first time and becomes venue for the final qualifying leg in September. The series concludes once again in Barcelona for the second edition of the Longines League of Nations™ Final where one team will be crowned the winner.

Rankings for the Longines League of Nations™

The Longines League of Nations™ is open to ten teams. The winning team from the previous season's Final gains automatic qualification, whilst the remaining nine places are open to the nine highest ranked jumping nations in the world (disregarding the nation that is already qualified). For 2025, the ranking list that decided those ten teams was the Longines League of Nations™ Ranking- No 14, which included results up to 31 October 2024.

Points accumulated by the six top athletes from each nation, including one U25, are combined to give each nation their total. It is this that decides a nations' ranking from which the top ten teams are eligible to compete in the Longines League of Nations™.

Longines League of Nations™ Format

The Longines League of Nations™ 2025 series will follow the same format as 2024, differing slightly from that of traditional Nations Cups. The competition is comprised of two full rounds of Jumping over the same course. All teams send out four athletes in round one with the best three scores counting for the team total.

The best eight teams return for round two, where they no longer have the luxury of a discard score as only three athletes from each team may jump again and every score counts. After two rounds, the team with the lowest combined score (the least faults) will be the winner.

In the event of a tie on penalties for first place after the second round, there will be a jump-off between the tying nations with just one athlete from each of those teams contesting the jump-off. There will be no jump-off for any placings beyond this. In the event of a tie for lower placings the combined time of the three athletes in the second round will determine the final standings.

The teams for the Longines League of Nations™ in Abu Dhabi

Ireland's Chef d'Equipe Michael Blake has named his team for Abu Dhabi as Longines League of Nations™ newcomers Trevor Breen and Jason Foley, alongside Denis Lynch and Michael Pender. France sends out Kevin Staut, Simon Delestre, Jeanne Sadran and Alexa Ferrer.

USA will be represented by an all-female quartet of Lucy Davis Kennedy, Kaitlin Campbell, Taylor Kain and Skylar Wireman lead by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. Otto Becker has put his faith in Katrin Eckermann, Sophie Hinners, Jörne Sprehe and Maximilian Weishaupt to spearhead the 2025 campaign for the reigning Longines League of Nations™ Champions, Germany.

Di Lampard's Paris Olympic Team Gold Medallists Great Britain are represented by Tim Gredley, Joseph Stockdale, Donald Whitaker and Robert Murphy, whilst Peter Weinberg relies upon Rik Hemeryck, Thibaut Spits, Jos Verlooy and Wilm Vermeir to get Belgium off to a flying start. Young Chef d'Equipe Peter van der Waaij has selected Team gold medallist of the FEI Jumping European Championship 2021 in Riesenbeck (GER), Bryan Balsiger alongside Romain Duguet, Janika Sprunger and Edouard Schmitz to open Switzerland's campaign.

Under their new Chef d'Equipe Wout-Jan van der Schans, runners-up in the Longines League of Nations™ Final 2024, Netherlands call upon Kevin Jochems, Tani Joosten, Leopold van Asten and Jur Vrieling to get their 2025 season off to a strong start.

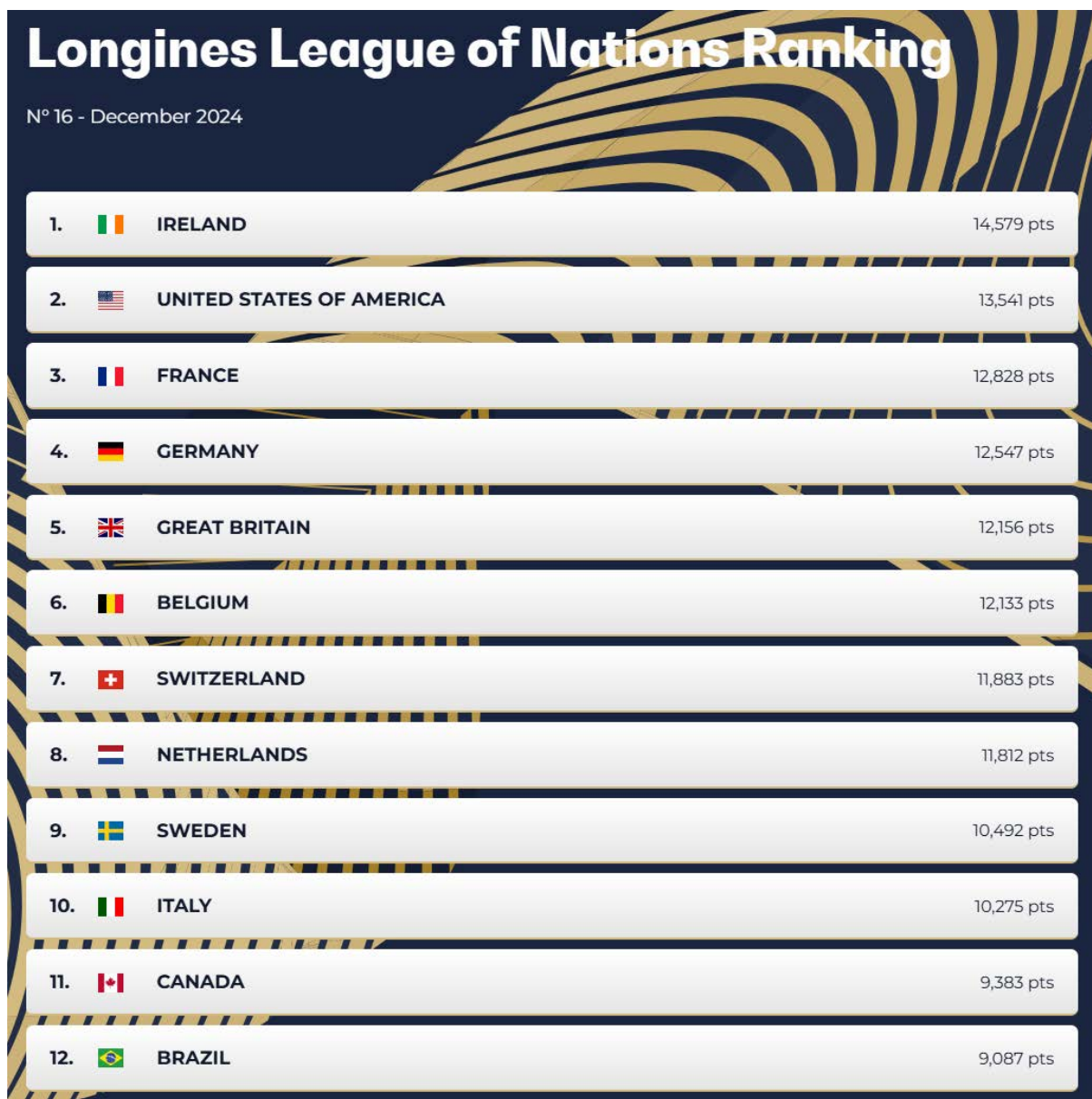
Henrik Ankarcróna's reigning World and European Champions Sweden will be pinning their hopes on Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, Angelie von Essen, Angelica Augustsson Zanotelli and Petronella Andersson to build on their podium finish in the inaugural Longines League of Nations™ Final 2024 in Barcelona.

Making their debut appearance in the Longines League of Nations™, Piergiorgio Bucci, Emanuele Camilli, Giacomo Casadei and Giulia Martinengo Marquet will fly the flag for Italy whilst Abdullah Mohd Al Marri, Omar Abdul Aziz Al Marzooqi, Abdullah Humaid Al Muhairi and Humaid Abdulla Khalifa Al Muhairi will represent the host nation UAE.

The action gets underway in Abu Dhabi from 11 to 15 February 2025 with the opening leg of the Longines League of Nations™ being held on 15 February at the Al Forsan International Sports Resort.












*Words by Alice Watson
Image by FEI / Liz Gregg*

Longines League™ of Nations Ranking



Longines League of Nations Ranking

N° 16 - December 2024

1.		IRELAND	14,579 pts
2.		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	13,541 pts
3.		FRANCE	12,828 pts
4.		GERMANY	12,547 pts
5.		GREAT BRITAIN	12,156 pts
6.		BELGIUM	12,133 pts
7.		SWITZERLAND	11,883 pts
8.		NETHERLANDS	11,812 pts
9.		SWEDEN	10,492 pts
10.		ITALY	10,275 pts
11.		CANADA	9,383 pts
12.		BRAZIL	9,087 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](#)

Stats and Fast Facts

Athletes

Most participations: 4 - Peder Fredricson (SWE), Christian Kukuk (GER), Olivier Perreau (FRA), Pius Schwizer (SUI), Kevin Staut (FRA) and Henrik von Eckermann (SWE)

Most wins: 2 - Christian Kukuk (GER)

Most Jumps made: 105 - Peder Fredricson (SWE), Christian Kukuk (GER), Pius Schwizer (SUI), and Henrik von Eckermann (SWE)

Most jumps cleared: 102 – Henrik von Eckermann (SWE)

Competing for the first time: 23 athletes (52,2%)

Horses

Most participations: 4 - GL Events Dorai D'Aiguilly

Most jumps made: 90 - GL Events Dorai D'Aiguilly, Legacy, Beauville Z N.O.P, QH Alfons Santo Antonio and Uricas V/D Kattevennen

Most jumps cleared: 89 – Legacy and Beauville Z N.O.P

LLN 2025 stats

Total jumps: 3,570

Total cleared jumps: 3,370

Total faults: 200

Total refusals: 9

Total clear rounds: 102

Total single clears: 56

Total double clears: 23

See more stats [here](#)

What happened last year?

German giants clinch the Longines League of Nations™ crown



In a cliff-hanger of a finale to the very first Longines League of Nations™ season, Team Germany reigned supreme at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain today where The Netherlands finished second and Sweden pipped Ireland for third place.

It was a close-fought affair with the Germans and Dutch already out in front at the halfway stage when sharing a zero scoreline but with France, Sweden and Brazil nipping at their heels when carrying just four faults into round two.

The Irish carried eight while the USA and Spain carried 12 apiece, but the Swiss were already on the ropes with 24 first-round faults and there would be no chance of recovery. At the end of the day however they did manage to finish ahead of the French who were eliminated when anchorman Kevin Staut had an unscheduled dismount.

With the best three results from each four-member team counted in round one but just three riders returning and all scores counting in round two, it was unpredictable and thrilling once again.

“With this format you have to wait until the very end because everything can change in just a second!”, Varela said. And that was exactly how it played out.

Choice

The plank on the vertical at fence nine was the bogey of the first round, with a choice of a long five or short six strides from the previous oxer. When fences were raised in round two however it was the double of verticals at fence seven on the 12-obstacle track that proved the biggest challenge.

The Germans began to look vulnerable when Andre Thieme and his 2021 European individual gold-medal-winning mare Chakaria put four faults on the board as his team’s second-round pathfinders. And when compatriot and newly-crowned individual Olympic champions, Christian Kukuk and Checker, had two down then they seemed to be really losing their grip.

Maikel van der Vleuten and his Olympic double-bronze-medal-winning gelding Beauville Z N.O.P. piled on the pressure with a second clear to give the Dutch an enormous boost, but Kim Emmen and her grey gelding Imagine dropped both elements of the double at seven on the way to a 12-fault total and now, quite suddenly, the two countries were back on level pegging.

Second-last to go, Germany’s Richard Vogel set off with the big-striding stallion United Touch S who looked positively regal as he soared home clear to throw it down to the final Dutch duo of Harrie Smolders and Uricas van de Kattevennen. If this pair could keep a clean sheet it would go to a jump-off because both sides would finish on a 12-fault tally. But the first pole on that bogey double at seven hit the floor to bring the Dutch tally to 16 and hand victory to Otto Becker’s German side.

Strong connection

Becker has a particularly strong connection with the ring in Barcelona as this is where he rode his final Nations Cup for Germany back in 2008. “I’m proud and honoured with our win here today!”, he said.

And at this evening’s press conference, fourth team-member Jana Wargers said that she understood the decision to leave her and her mare Dorette OLD on the sidelines for today’s second round.

“We decided that the other horses were just in a bit better shape than my one today”, she explained.

Olympic champion Kukuk talked about his eight-fault second round that left Team Germany on the edge in the closing stages.

"I just had a feeling I wasn't accurate enough...I could feel that probably condition-wise he (Checker) was not on his peak right now. His last show was Paris (Olympic Games) and that's a few weeks ago. Everything was set up for that goal and then he had kind of a break after and now it's the first big show again"

Christian Kukuk
(GER)

He realised that Kim Emmen's 12 faults really let him off the hook.

"Unfortunately for her she had a not-so-good round and suddenly we were equal again. And then Richie had an absolutely outstanding second round and that's why we are in the end now the happy winners!", he added.

Thieme blamed himself for his single second-round error with Chakaria. After clearing the tricky double that had claimed so many previous victims, he said he was "kind of happy and relaxed because I realised that I was the first one who jumped that vertical/vertical clear at that point". But the seven strides bending to the following oxer "were just 20 centimetres too long and she had to make a really kind of a big jump, which she did very well. And then the six strides (to the vertical at fence nine) became extra, extra short and I didn't quite get her back like I did in the first round...".

He was grateful to team-mate Vogel for wrapping it up with his effortless clear.

Great day

"Today was a great day for us!", said Vogel who is ranked 10th in the world.

He is one of many riders who relies implicitly on the help of his groom who he talked about his evening. "I have to thank Felicia (Wallin). She actually had him mostly in training since Paris. We gave him a bit of time off and we did Spruce (Meadows, Canada) and then another bit of time off. So, since Spruce, I was, to be honest, not too much in his saddle and around him because I was in America. She overtook the training and clearly did a pretty good job. So, I guess we have to keep it that way now. The plan works!"

He sees Felicia as a vital member of his team. "I'm very glad to have her by my side and the horses are very happy to have her by their side. We've worked together for three and a half/four years now. We're a young team. She is 24 and I am 27 - we are heading in the same direction and we have high hopes for the future. Her and United have a very special bond. If he could pick between me and Felicia, he always goes to Felicia. Their bond is special. She rides him very well. I'm the one that does the flat work that is more educating for him, which is also important. She's the one that goes in the forest with him and gives him a happy time, which I find very important to have the right balance there. Now, since I was away for two weeks, I said not only in

the forest for two weeks, but also for work in between - and she did it very well!", he pointed out.

Special awards

Felicia and the other winning team grooms, Sofie Karlsson, Heidemarie Jaeckel, Ulla Uusitalo and Johanna Klare all received special awards at tonight's prize-giving ceremony while Ariel Grange, owner of the mare Legacy competed by Ireland's Daniel Coyle won the Best Horse title for her performances throughout this first Longines League of Nations™ series.

Coyle also took a four-way share of the €200,000 bonus on offer for the Best Individual Performances in the Final along with Germany's Vogel, The Netherlands' van der Vleuten and Armando Trapote - the latter lifting the home crowd when also posting a double-clear with Tornado VS. And Coyle was back on the presentation podium once again when joining van der Vleuten and Sweden's Henrik von Eckermann to share the Best Athlete Award. All three produced five clear rounds during the season.

The Rookie of the Season title went to America's Callie Schott and of course Chef d'Equipe of the Season was Germany's Otto Becker whose team also won the opening leg of the inaugural series in Abu Dhabi in February.

At the end of the day the Longines League of Nations™ Final 2024 scoreboard showed Sweden getting the edge over Ireland for third place based on their faster times when finishing on 20 faults. Brazil slotted into fifth with 24, USA and Spain shared a 28-fault scoreline for sixth and seventh placings, and Switzerland racked up a big 40-fault result to finish eighth ahead of the French.

Image: Team Germany (f.l.t.r. Andre Thieme, Jana Wargers, Otto Becker, Christian Kukuk, Richard Vogel) winners of the Longines League of Nations Final in Barcelona (ESP) on 6 October 2024 © FEI/Leanjo de Koster

Words by Louise Parkes



LLN Online Pressroom

All Media-related assets for the Longines League of Nations™ series 2025 will be available on the [LLN Online Pressroom](#). This innovative platform offers comprehensive resources, all in one convenient place, to help with remote journalistic coverage of all qualifiers and the grand Final of the Longines League of Nations™ series 2025.

Features include:

- **Press Conference Livestream**
Watch livestreamed post-competition press conferences, where you can submit questions directly to the participants.
- **Press Kits**
All press kits for all LLN events will be available on this platform.
- **Media Accreditation**
Links to apply for Media accreditation
- **Key Documents**
Find essential documents such as Course Plans, Start Lists, Guidelines, etc. conveniently located in one place and downloadable as PDFs.
- **Participant Biographies**
Access detailed information about all participating athletes in each qualifier.
- **Full Results and Standings**
Stay informed with competition results and the latest standings in the series.
- **Photo & Video Resources**
Discover a collection of high-quality images for use in your reports and coverage of the Longines League of Nations™.

Media can access the LLN Online Pressroom [here](#)

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](#).

Request a Media Accreditation to cover the LLN Abu Dhabi on-site [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.

The Longines League of Nations™ Digital Press Office is available [here](#)

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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