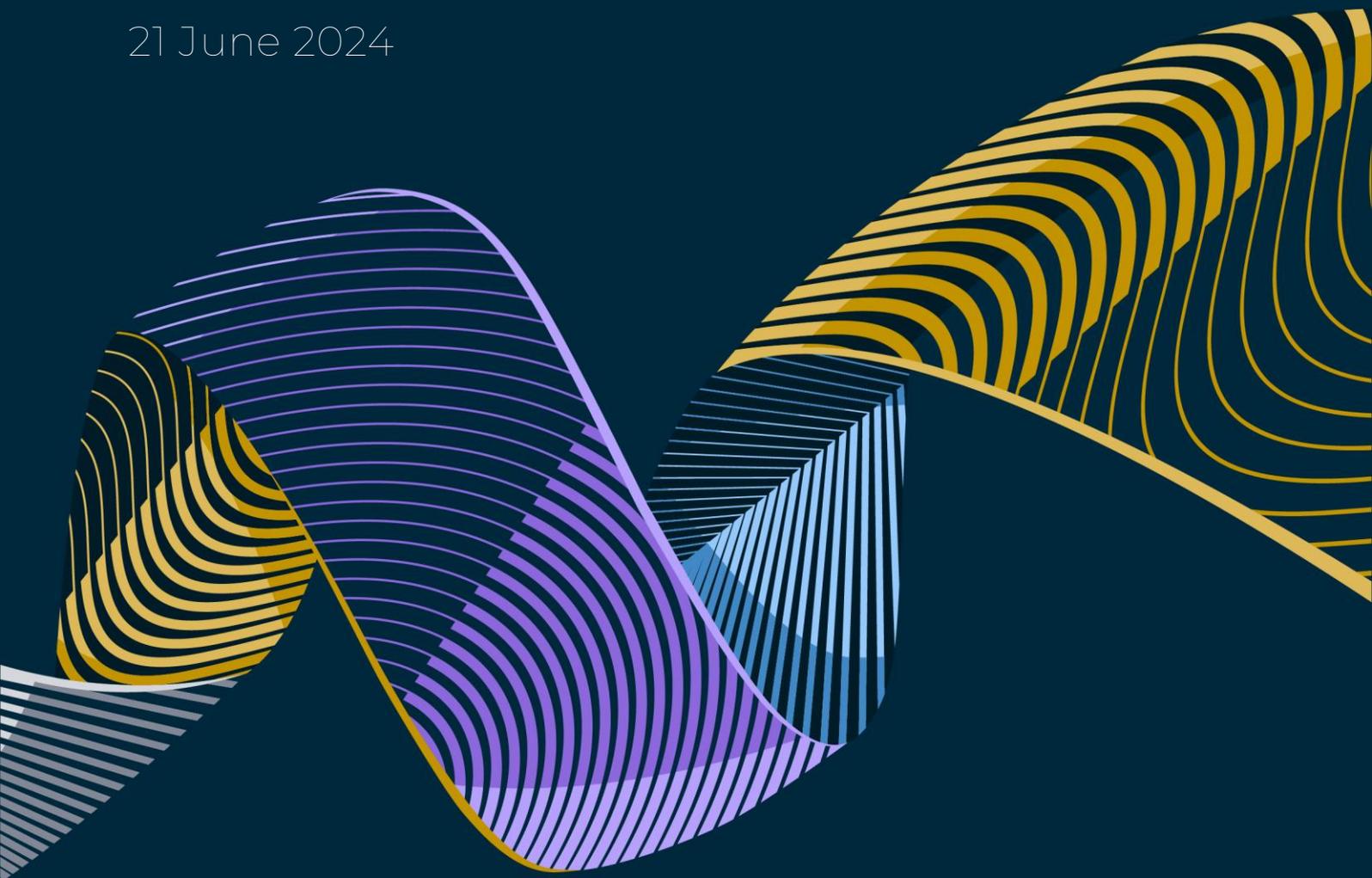




**LONGINES**  
**LEAGUE OF**  
**NATIONS™**

# Rotterdam (NED) - Press Kit

21 June 2024



# Foreword

By the FEI President

On behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Rotterdam, for the last qualifier of 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 laureates of this weekend will be. Our journey with the Longines League of Nations™ started out in Abu Dhabi (UAE), continued in Ocala (USA), and after this final leg here in Rotterdam, we will finally have the eight finalists who will battle it out at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona from 3 to 6 October for the ultimate 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 Rotterdam 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.

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!

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.



*\*The St. Gallen leg this year was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather*

## 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.



# 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 City

The second European qualifier of the Longines League of Nations™ 2024 will be held in Rotterdam - the second largest city in The Netherlands - from 20 to 23 June.



Rotterdam, the second-largest city in the Netherlands, is a vibrant and innovative metropolis renowned for its modern architecture and bustling port, the largest in Europe. Known as the "Gateway to Europe," the city boasts iconic landmarks like the Erasmus Bridge, the Cube Houses, and the striking Markthal.

Rotterdam is a cultural hub with diverse museums and hosts prominent events. Despite its urban landscape, the city offers plenty of green spaces, including the serene Kralingse Bos.

With a rich maritime heritage, a dynamic culinary scene, and a lively nightlife, Rotterdam seamlessly blends historical charm with cutting-edge innovation, making it a unique and exciting destination.

# The Venue

Since 1948, the Rotterdamsche Manège has been home to the oldest international top sports event in Rotterdam, situated in the picturesque Kralingse Bos. This historic venue, renowned for its equestrian legacy, hosts the prestigious CHIO Rotterdam.



The Rotterdamsche Manège, established in 1837, stands as the oldest equestrian association in the Netherlands, reflecting nearly two centuries of rich heritage. The venue's national monumental status adds to its distinguished charm, making it an iconic location for equestrian sports.

In 2011, the Grandstand with fixed seating and skyboxes was inaugurated by King Willem Alexander, offering spectators an unparalleled viewing experience. The event area spans an impressive 65,000 square meters, with an additional 30,000 square meters dedicated to the stabling area nestled within the forest. This serene environment accommodates 390 stables, housing international sport horses amidst the natural beauty of Kralingse Bos.

CHIO Stroodorp, a highlight of the event, boasts 31 exhibitors and garners attention both domestically and internationally. This vibrant marketplace adds a dynamic element to the equestrian festivities, further enhancing the allure of this historic venue.

# LLN Rotterdam line-ups



<u>Daniel</u> <u>COYLE</u>	<u>Shane</u> <u>SWEETNAM</u>	<u>Cian</u> <u>O'CONNOR</u>	<u>Mark</u> <u>MCAULEY</u>
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<u>Laura</u> <u>KRAUT</u>	<u>Jessica</u> <u>SPRINGSTEEN</u>	<u>Callie</u> <u>SCHOTT</u>	<u>Mclain</u> <u>WARD</u>
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<u>Simon</u> <u>DELESTRE</u>	<u>Olivier</u> <u>PERREAU</u>	<u>Kevin</u> <u>STAUT</u>	<u>Julien</u> <u>EPAILLARD</u>
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<u>Marcus</u> <u>EHNING</u>	<u>Christian</u> <u>KUKUK</u>	<u>Richard</u> <u>VOGEL</u>	<u>Philipp</u> <u>WEISHAAPT</u>
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**Switzerland**

<u>Romain</u> DUGUET	<u>Edouard</u> SCHMITZ	<u>Pius</u> SCHWIZER	<u>Janika</u> SPRUNGER
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**Great Britain**

<u>Harry</u> CHARLES	<u>Tim</u> GREDLEY	<u>Ben</u> MAHER	<u>Joseph</u> STOCKDALE
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**Netherlands**

<u>Leopold</u> VAN ASTEN	<u>Harrie</u> SMOLDERS	<u>Maikel Van</u> DER VLEUTEN	<u>Kim</u> EMMEN
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**Belgium**

<u>Abdel</u> SAÏD	<u>Gilles</u> THOMAS	<u>Koen</u> VEREECKE	<u>Pieter</u> DEVOS
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<u>Malin</u> BAYARD- JOHANSSON	<u>Peder</u> FREDRICSON	<u>Rolf-Göran</u> BENGTSSON	<u>Henrik Von</u> ECKERMANN
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<u>Stephan</u> DE FREITAS	<u>Luciana</u> DINIZ	<u>Rodrigo</u> PESSOA	<u>Pedro</u> VENISS
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# Longines League of Nations™ Standings\*

	UAE <b>Abu Dhabi</b> 08 - 11 Feb 2024	USA <b>Ocala, FL (WEC)</b> 19 - 23 Mar 2024	SUI <b>St Gallen</b> 30 May - 02 Jun 2024	NED <b>Rotterdam</b> 20 - 23 Jun 2024
<b>1.</b>  <b>Ireland</b> Total: 190 pts	Rank <b>2</b> Pts. <b>90</b>	Rank <b>1</b> Pts. <b>100</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>2.</b>  <b>Germany</b> Total: 160 pts	Rank <b>1</b> Pts. <b>100</b>	Rank <b>5</b> Pts. <b>60</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>3.</b>  <b>Switzerland</b> Total: 150 pts	Rank <b>5</b> Pts. <b>60</b>	Rank <b>2</b> Pts. <b>90</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>4.</b>  <b>United States of America</b> Total: 135 pts	Rank <b>6</b> Pts. <b>55</b>	Rank <b>3</b> Pts. <b>80</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>5.</b>  <b>Brazil</b> Total: 125 pts	Rank <b>4</b> Pts. <b>70</b>	Rank <b>6</b> Pts. <b>55</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>6.</b>  <b>Sweden</b> Total: 120 pts	Rank <b>3</b> Pts. <b>80</b>	Rank <b>9</b> Pts. <b>40</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>7.</b>  <b>Netherlands</b> Total: 115 pts	Rank <b>8</b> Pts. <b>45</b>	Rank <b>4</b> Pts. <b>70</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>8.</b>  <b>Belgium</b> Total: 85 pts	Rank <b>10</b> Pts. <b>35</b>	Rank <b>7</b> Pts. <b>50</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>8.</b>  <b>France</b> Total: 85 pts	Rank <b>9</b> Pts. <b>40</b>	Rank <b>8</b> Pts. <b>45</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
<b>8.</b>  <b>Great Britain</b> Total: 85 pts	Rank <b>7</b> Pts. <b>50</b>	Rank <b>10</b> Pts. <b>35</b>	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -

\*St. Gallen leg was suspended due to adverse weather conditions. The league will continue with the next leg in Rotterdam on 21 June, and the standings for Barcelona (ESP) would be calculated based on the 3 Qualifiers of Abu Dhabi (UAE), Ocala (USA) and Rotterdam (NED), instead of 4.

# LLN Rotterdam Preview

## It's crunch time at Rotterdam leg of Longines League of Nations

By Louise Parkes



The teams have been confirmed for the fourth and last leg of the inaugural Longines League of Nations™ 2024 series which takes place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in ten days time, and for Belgium, France and Great Britain the pressure will be immense.

Languishing together at the bottom of the leaderboard in joint-eighth place with just 85 points apiece, they need to finish prominently next week if they are to make the cut into the top-eight nations that will qualify for the inaugural Final of the brand new series at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain on 6 October.

After the first two legs, in Abu Dhabi, UAE in February and Ocala in Florida, USA in March, Team Ireland had the whip hand with a 30-point lead over Germany in second place, and with two legs still left to run there was no great cause for alarm for the sides at the bottom of the League table. But the cancellation of round three in St Gallen, Switzerland two weeks ago due to adverse weather conditions has changed all that.

The Belgians, French and British really need to step it up this time out, and even the home side can't afford to be complacent. As next week's competition gets underway the Dutch will be lying seventh with 115 points and they'll need to build on that for sure. However they've been unbeatable on home ground for the last three years, so no doubt they'll be doing all in their power to make it four wins in a row.

### Chosen

Henk Nooren's French side looks really strong with Simon Delestre, Julien Epailard, Olivier Perreau and Kevin Staut flying their flag this time out. And the British are not holding back, fielding Harry Charles, Tim Gredley and Joseph Stockdale along with reigning Olympic champion Ben Maher. Meanwhile the third of the vulnerable teams at the bottom of the table, Belgium, also looks rock solid with Pieter Devos, Abdel Saïd and Gilles Thomas joined by Koen Vereecke.

After their back-to-back hat-trick of home wins the Dutch crowd will be expecting big things from their foursome, but Kim Emmen, Willem Greve, Harrie Smolders and Maikel van der Vleuten are well up to the task. Just five points separate them from Team Sweden in sixth place, so those Swedes need to stay on their toes too. However team manager Henrik Ankarcróna has selected three of the team that won Olympic gold in Tokyo (JPN) three years ago - longtime world number one Henrik von Eckermann, Peder Fredricson and Malin Baryard-Johnsson - along with five-time Olympian Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, and they look very formidable indeed.

The exciting Brazilian side consists of Stephan de Freitas Barcha, Luciana Diniz, Rodrigo Pessoa and Pedro Veniss and with 125 points collected so far they lie in fifth place on the leaderboard, just ten points adrift of fourth-placed Team USA who will be represented by veteran multi-medallists Laura Kraut and McLain Ward along with Jessica Springsteen and Callie Schott.

### Solidify

Lying third, Switzerland carries 150 points into next week's contest and it is up to Romain Duguet, Edouard Schmitz, Pius Schwizer and Janika Sprunger to solidify their position while Otto Becker's German team of Marcus Ehning, Christian Kukuk, Richard Vogel and Philipp Weishaupt won't be wanting to relinquish their second-place slot. And with their noses out in front the Irish won't be keen to lose their advantage either.

So Irish Chef d'Equipe, Michael Blake, is sending a crack side that includes Daniel Coyle, Cian O'Connor, Shane Sweetnam and Mark McAuley and clearly the green-team mean business and intend to stay top of the Longines League of Nations™ 2024 standings ahead of the Final. But of course horse sport being what it is, no-one can predict the outcome until the last combination has galloped through the timers in Rotterdam on Friday 21 June.

## Statistics

Here are some statistics from the two legs of the series so far:

A total of 80 horse-and-rider combinations have started, jumping 124 rounds with four eliminated and two opting to retire. A total of 1,801 fences have been jumped and there have been 19 single clear rounds and 10 double-clear rounds while just seven refusals have been recorded - one at a vertical fence, two at an oxer and four at the open water obstacle. You can find lots more interesting details [here](#).

CHIO Rotterdam is one of the Top Three hospitality events in The Netherlands, and in 2024 celebrates its 75th anniversary. It is the only Dutch outdoor 5\* FEI event, and is organised at the beautiful Kralingse Bos, a wooded park surrounding the Kralingse Park lake.

The teams for the fourth leg of the Longines League of Nations™ 2024 will parade in the Rotterdam arena at 15.30 on Friday 21 June and the action will get underway at 16.00 local time. With qualification for the Final hanging in the balance it will be crunch time for the top 10 nations, so don't miss a hoofbeat....

# What happened in St. Gallen?

## St. Gallen's Longines League of Nations™ leg cancelled due to adverse weather conditions

The third leg of the Longines League of Nations™, due to take place at St. Gallen (SUI) on Friday afternoon (31 May) has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Following a prolonged period of heavy rain in Europe over the past few days, including on-site in St. Gallen, the decision was taken this morning, after discussions that involved the FEI, Ground Jury, Organising committee, Chefs d'Equipe and athletes, to cancel the Longines League of Nations™ leg in the Swiss town.

Todd Hinde, FEI Jumping Director, said;

"Despite extensive planning, the weather conditions made the situation extremely difficult and we very much appreciate the efforts of riders, chefs, grooms, officials and the Organiser in trying to find solutions in the challenging circumstances. While this is regrettable, we believe under the circumstances this was the right decision to make."

In terms of how this impacts the points allocated for the 2024 Series, there will be no Longines League of Nations™ points and no final standing from the St. Gallen leg. The league will continue with the next leg in Rotterdam on 21 June, and the standings for Barcelona (ESP) would be calculated based on the 3 Qualifiers of Abu Dhabi (UAE), Ocala (USA) and Rotterdam (NED), instead of 4.



**LONGINES  
LEAGUE OF  
NATIONS**

# The Longines League of Nations™ Trophy



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

# The Longines League of Nations™ Anthem



The Series anthem has been written by Portuguese composer Rui Ribeiro, who has made a name for himself in the world of classical crossover music with his compositions that are often based on the sounds of nature.

Ribeiro's anthem for the equestrian Series primarily revolves around a horse's footfall, which refers to the pattern in which a horse moves its feet when it walks, trots, canters and gallops.

With a duration of 5 minutes and 11 seconds, the anthem will serve as a basis for shorter adaptations which will accompany TV and web spots. Parts of the anthem will also be used in-venue to highlight different aspects of sports presentation and will be produced by Ricardo Ferreira who co-owns Lisbon based BLIM Records with Ribeiro.

Listen to the full anthem [here](#)

[Listening guide to the Longines League of Nations™ anthem](#)

# FEI Online Pressroom

The FEI has the pleasure of announcing that the new [FEI Online Pressroom](#) is now available. 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 2024.

Features include:

- Free livestream access to the competition
- Press Conference Livestream: Watch livestreamed post-competition press conferences, where you can submit questions directly to the participants.
- Key Documents: Find essential documents such as course plans, starting lists, previews, 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™.

In order to be eligible for access, each applicant must be a reporter, photographer, editor, or influencer for a recognised news outlet, news service, newspaper, website, radio, or television station. You can register for the FEI Online Pressroom [here](#). Please, follow these steps (In case you already have an FEI ID, you can directly go to Step 3):

1. Fill up the self-registration form. Please, be sure you register under the “Press” category.
2. You will receive your FEI ID.
3. Once you have received your FEI ID, you need to send an email to [usersupport@fei.org](mailto:usersupport@fei.org) with your FEI ID and the Media Outlet you work for.
4. After reviewing your details, you will receive a confirmation email to access the FEI Online Pressroom.

Once you have been granted access, this will be for all Longines League of Nations Qualifiers and Final. In case you encounter any issues, please send an email to [usersupport@fei.org](mailto:usersupport@fei.org)

# FEI Online resources

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

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

You can register for the FEI Online Pressroom [here](#)

The League of Nations™ qualifier in Rotterdam (NED) will be broadcast live on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

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

The "*Non-Rights Holders' Guidelines for publishing on Social Media at FEI-named events*" have been updated and are available [here](#)

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](#)

Find historical info from past editions of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ [here](#)

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