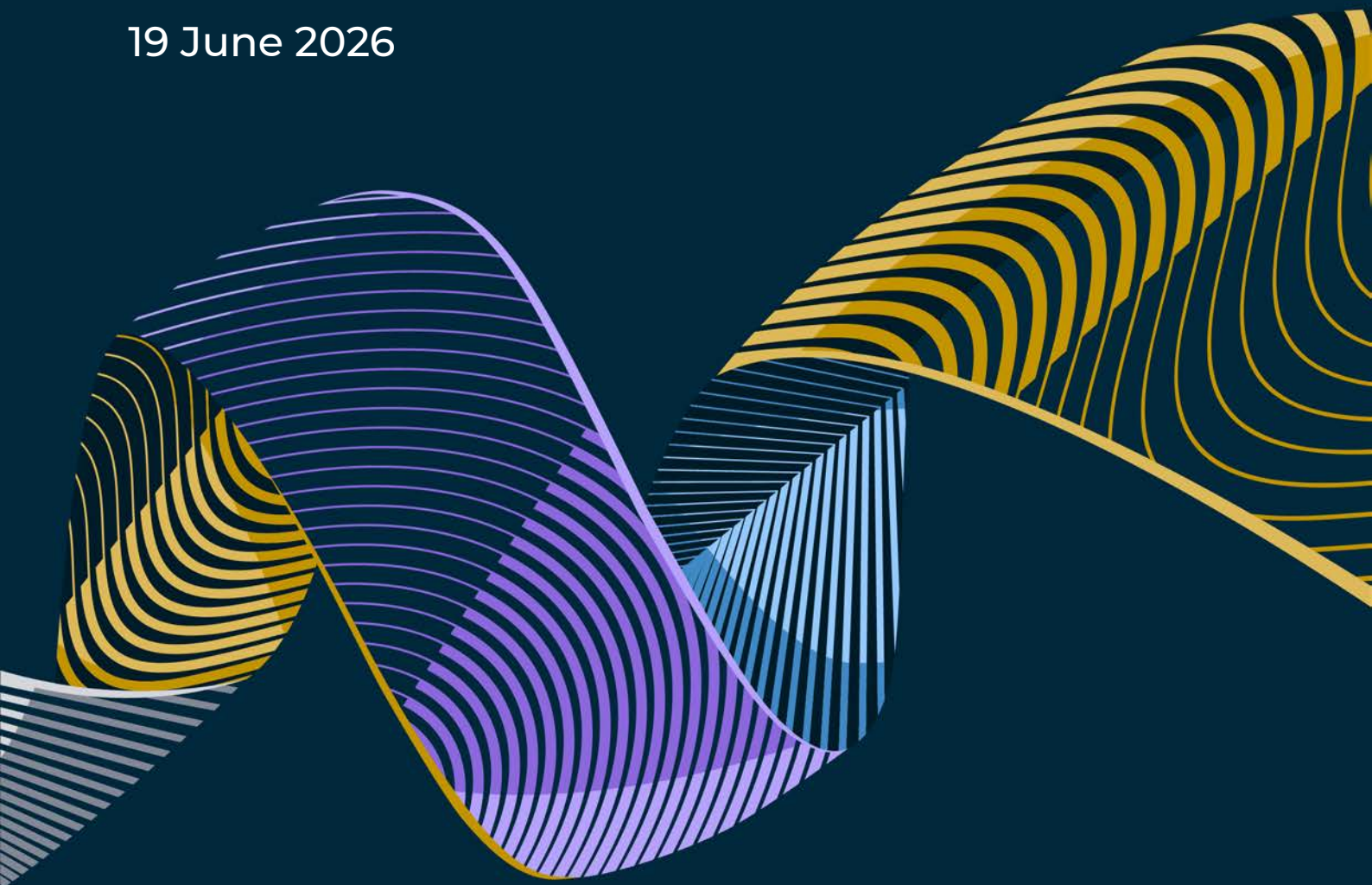




LONGINES
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS™

Rotterdam (NED) - Press Kit

19 June 2026



Foreword

By the FEI President



On behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, welcome to Rotterdam, for the third qualifier of the Longines League of Nations™ 2026. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to witnessing impressive feats of athleticism as some of the world's best pairs in Jumping aim for the team honours.

Ten nations have secured their places for the third edition of the Longines League of Nations™: the USA, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Brazil, and of course, the reigning champions Great Britain, who earned their spot by winning the Final of 2025

in Barcelona (ESP). This year's journey once again spans the globe, having started in Abu Dhabi (UAE) and continued through Ocala (USA), before arriving here in Rotterdam (NED). The series will then move on to St. Tropez Haras de Gassin (FRA), before culminating in the Grande Final at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona from 1–4 October 2026.

It is with great excitement that we look forward to discovering which teams will shine here in Rotterdam, earning valuable qualifying points as they aim to secure a place among the top eight teams advancing to the Final.

Building on the success of the past two seasons, the series continues to celebrate talent, dedication, and the spirit of teamwork. Teamwork lies at the heart of equestrian sport at every level, and every athlete chosen to represent their nation does so on behalf of the many individuals and organisations, whose support for both horse and rider has helped pave the way to the global stage.

I would like to thank Carolien Lavooij – Verheul and her team, 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 loyal and ongoing support. It is with great passion and enthusiasm that I look forward to another edition of this impressive series, which enables us to further enhance the global profile, visibility, and reach of Jumping worldwide.

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 four 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 eight teams go head-to-head for the highly coveted Longines League of Nations™ Trophy.



In short, it's the best 10 teams, competing over four qualifiers, with the top eight teams from the qualifiers competing in one 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](#)

The City

The first European qualifier of the Longines League of Nations™ 2026 will be held in Rotterdam on 19 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 sports event in Rotterdam, CHIO 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 metres, with an additional 30,000 square metres 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 preview

Rotterdam raises the stakes for third Longines League of Nations™ qualifier

By Kirsty Pasto

The Longines League of Nations™ returns to CHIO Rotterdam (NED) next week for the third qualifying leg of the 2026 season, with one of the sport's most iconic venues set to play a pivotal role as the road to the Barcelona (ESP) Final begins to narrow.

Staged in the historic Kralingse Bos and now in its 77th edition, CHIO Rotterdam brings world-class sport to one of the calendar's most striking natural settings for a showdown that could reshape the series leaderboard.

At the halfway point of the qualifying campaign, Germany is the team to beat. Victory in Ocala (USA) moved Otto Becker's side to the top of the standings on 190 points, giving them a 35-point cushion over France and a 40-point lead over Ireland.

Anchored by reigning FEI Jumping European Champion Richard Vogel, Germany head to Rotterdam with the confidence of a nation that knows exactly how to master this format. Rene Dittmer returns to the team, while Mario Stevens and Michael Jung make their series debuts.

Although Jung is making his first Longines League of Nations™ appearance, he is no stranger to delivering for Germany. At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, he became the first athlete in history to win three individual Olympic gold medals in Eventing, and now brings that big-occasion composure to a new Jumping challenge.

As Germany begin to stretch their advantage, Rotterdam offers France an important chance to keep the leaders in sight.

Winners of the opening leg in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Team France remain firmly in contention. Antoine Ermann, Jeanne Sadran, Nina Mallevaey and Kevin Staut offer a blend of youth and experience that has already served the team well this season, as Chef d'Equipe Edouard Coupérie looks to close the gap before the home qualifier at St Tropez-Gassin (FRA) in September.

Following their runner-up finish in Ocala (USA), Ireland will also be keen to keep the momentum going. Jessica Kürten has given Shane Sweetnam a second consecutive call-up after his stellar performance stateside, with Jordan Coyle, Michael Duffy and Niamh McEvoy joining him for the Dutch leg.

Back in the Longines League of Nations™ fold for 2026 and currently fourth in the standings, Brazil arrive in the Netherlands with Rodrigo Pessoa ready to play his part. His presence alone is enough to make the Jumping world sit up and pay attention,

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but it is the Pessoa family's remarkable connection with CHIO Rotterdam that gives his return added weight.

This year marks 60 years since his father, Jumping legend Nelson Pessoa, won the Grand Prix of Rotterdam in 1966. Exactly 30 years later, Rodrigo claimed his own Grand Prix triumph at the Kralingse Bos. Now, 30 years on from that victory, could the Pessoa name help deliver a full-circle moment for Brazil in Rotterdam? Compatriots Marlon Modolo Zanotelli, Yuri Mansur and Eduardo Pereira de Menezes will join Pessoa in pursuit of a podium finish.

Brazil are not the only team bringing a family dynasty to Rotterdam. Great Britain will count siblings Harry and Sienna Charles among their ranks, continuing a remarkable sporting legacy. Their father, Peter Charles, won team gold for Great Britain alongside Ben Maher at London 2012, and now Harry and Sienna will ride on a team that includes their father's former Olympic teammate.

As reigning Longines League of Nations™ Final champions, the British are not just seeking points, they are chasing the chance to defend their title. Di Lampard has underlined Britain's intent, with Jessica Mendoza completing a formidable quartet.

Behind them, the fight for the remaining Final places is becoming increasingly fierce. With only the top eight moving through to Barcelona, Belgium and Switzerland, sitting sixth and seventh respectively, are close enough to feel the heat. Both will be looking to Rotterdam to improve their position and give themselves greater breathing space before the fourth and final qualifier.

Belgium will lean on FEI Jumping European team gold medallist Pieter Devos, as well as Roy van Beek, Annelies Vorsselmans and Gregory Wathelet. Switzerland look equally intent on making their Rotterdam outing count, with Gaëtan Joliat, Alain Jufer and Jason Smith joined by Martin Fuchs, who returns to the venue where he was crowned FEI Jumping European Champion in 2019.

The pressure will feel especially intense for the host nation, with the Dutch sitting right on the edge of the qualifying cut.

However, the Netherlands return as defending Rotterdam winners, with Willem Greve and Harrie Smolders back from last year's victorious team. Joined by Sanne Thijssen and Bas Moerings, they will ride in front of an expectant home crowd looking for the Orange to turn home advantage into valuable points and move clear of eighth place on the leaderboard.

At the halfway point, Italy and the USA sit in the danger zone, with just five points separating the two. Piergiorgio Bucci, Emanuele Camilli, Giulia Martinengo Marquet and series first-timer Emanuele Gaudio are listed for Italy, while Olympic silver medallist Karl Cook, Katie Dinan and Callie Schott bring experience for the USA, with debutant Marilyn Little also selected. For both nations, Rotterdam provides a vital opportunity to stay in the running.

With the teams confirmed and the battle intensifying, Rotterdam marks a crucial crossroads en route to the Longines League of Nations™ Final.

Germany lead the way on 190 points, with France on 155 and Ireland on 150 still firmly in pursuit. Brazil sit fourth on 130, while Great Britain, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands currently occupy the remaining qualifying places. Italy and the USA remain within reach, separated by just five points. With everything still to jump for, Rotterdam promises to be a showstopper.

The Longines League of Nations™ returns to CHIO Rotterdam on Friday 19 June, where the woodland setting of the Kralingse Bos will host the penultimate qualifying leg of the 2026 series.

LLN Rotterdam participants' list

Belgium			
<u>Pieter DEVOS</u>	<u>Roy VAN BEEK</u>	<u>Annelies VORSSELMANS</u>	<u>Gregory WATHELET</u>

Brazil			
<u>Yuri MANSUR</u>	<u>Marlon MODOLO ZANOTELLI</u>	<u>Eduardo PEREIRA DE MENEZES</u>	<u>Rodrigo PESSOA</u>

France			
<u>Antoine ERMANN</u>	<u>Nina MALLEVAEY</u>	<u>Jeanne SADRAN</u>	<u>Kevin STAUT</u>

Great Britain			
<u>Harry</u> CHARLES	<u>Sienna</u> CHARLES	<u>Ben</u> MAHER	<u>Jessica</u> MENDOZA

Germany			
<u>Rene</u> DITTMER	<u>Michael</u> JUNG*	<u>Mario</u> STEVENS*	<u>Richard</u> VOGEL

Ireland			
<u>Jordan</u> COYLE	<u>Michael</u> DUFFY	<u>Niamh</u> McEVOY	<u>Shane</u> SWEETNAM

Italy			
<u>Piergiorgio</u> BUCCI	<u>Emanuele</u> CAMILLI	<u>Emanuele</u> GAUDIANO*	<u>Giulia</u> MARTINENGO MARQUET

Netherlands			
<u>Willem</u> <u>GREVE</u>	<u>Bas</u> <u>MOERINGS</u>	<u>Harrie</u> <u>SMOLDERS</u>	<u>Sanne</u> <u>THIJSEN</u>











Switzerland			
<u>Martin</u> <u>FUCHS</u>	<u>Gaëtan</u> <u>JOLIAT</u>	<u>Alain</u> <u>JUFER</u>	<u>Jason</u> <u>SMITH</u>

United States of America			
<u>Karl</u> <u>COOK</u>	<u>Katherine A.</u> <u>DINAN*</u>	<u>Marilyn</u> <u>LITTLE*</u>	<u>Callie</u> <u>SCHOTT</u>

Youngest Athlete: Gaëtan Joliat (SUI) – 20 years-old
Oldest Athlete: Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) – 53 years-old

** Athlete participating for the first time*

Longines League of Nations™ Standings

		UAE Abu Dhabi 13 Feb 2026	USA Ocala, FL (WEC) 21 Mar 2026
1.	 Germany Total: 190 pts	Rank 2 Pts. 90	Rank 1 Pts. 100
2.	 France Total: 155 pts	Rank 1 Pts. 100	Rank 6 Pts. 55
3.	 Ireland Total: 150 pts	Rank 5 Pts. 60	Rank 2 Pts. 90
4.	 Brazil Total: 130 pts	Rank 3 Pts. 80	Rank 7 Pts. 50
5.	 Great Britain Total: 125 pts	Rank 6 Pts. 55	Rank 4 Pts. 70
6.	 Belgium Total: 120 pts	Rank 9 Pts. 40	Rank 3 Pts. 80
7.	 Switzerland Total: 110 pts	Rank 4 Pts. 70	Rank 9 Pts. 40
8.	 Netherlands Total: 95 pts	Rank 10 Pts. 35	Rank 5 Pts. 60
9.	 Italy Total: 90 pts	Rank 8 Pts. 45	Rank 8 Pts. 45
10.	 United States of America Total: 85 pts	Rank 7 Pts. 50	Rank 10 Pts. 35

What happened in Ocala?

Germany jump to glory at Longines League of Nations™ Ocala

In a night of high drama and shifting scoreboards, Team Germany produced the winning performance in the second leg of the Longines League of Nations™ at World Equestrian Center - Ocala (USA) on Saturday, with Team Ireland finishing second and Team Belgium taking third.

Under Chef d'Equipe Otto Becker, the Germans went one better than their runner-up finish in Ocala in 2025. Andre Thieme on DSP Chakaria, Rene Dittmer with Corsica X, Christian Kukuk with Checker 47, and Richard Vogel riding Cloudio posted a combined total of just four faults across two gripping rounds.

The spectacular World Equestrian Center - Ocala provided a fitting venue for the showdown to unfold, as the world's top-10 nations took centre stage during the second qualifier of the 2026 series.

Irish course designer Alan Wade laid down a beautifully presented but demanding track, with 12 fences and 15 jumping efforts testing skill, precision and nerve from start to finish. With rails falling throughout the course, Ocala quickly proved it was set to shake up the standings.

The evening began with high hopes and Belgium struck first when Nicola Philippaerts and Katanga v/h Dingshof produced the first clear round of the competition, but any early sense of rhythm was soon disrupted. The course asked questions with every line, and it did not take long for pressure to build.

For the host nation, dreams of defending their Ocala title suffered an immediate blow in Round 1. Pathfinder Lillie Keenan, parted company with Argan de Beliard at the final fence, leaving the Americans with no margin for error. Natalie Dean kept hopes alive with a superb clear aboard Pedro van de Barlebuis, but Laura Kraut and Tres Bien Z then incurred an uncharacteristic and costly 33 penalties, 16 jumping and 17 time. When Aaron Vale and Carissimo 25 added a further 16 faults, Team USA's hopes of a repeat victory were dashed.

Ireland were the only team to emerge from Round 1 with a clean sheet. Clear rounds from Bertram Allen and Qonquest de Rigo, Cian O'Connor and Chatolinue PS, Shane Sweetnam and James Kann Cruz, backed up by Tom Wachman and Tabasco de Toxandria Z's four faults as the discard score, left them alone at the top on zero heading into Round 2. With only the best performing eight teams progressing, the opening round had already reshaped the competition, with both Switzerland and the USA failing to advance.

All qualified teams returned under floodlights with just three nominated athletes, heightening the electric atmosphere. With the pressure intensifying and every score

now counting, it quickly became clear that the battle for victory was narrowing to the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and Germany. In the end, however, Germany proved the only side able to produce the three crucial clear rounds needed in Round 2, finishing on a score of four faults to seal the win ahead of Ireland on eight and Belgium on 12.

Chef d'Equipe Otto Becker was delighted to see his team improve on last year's runner-up result and stand on the top step of the podium.

"I'm very proud and pleased with my team. It means a lot to me to win, to win here," he said.

With two qualifiers still to come and everything to play for, attention has already begun to turn towards Rotterdam (NED). Asked about his plans for the next leg, Becker remained measured in his response. "It is a new challenge. Today is today and we will see," he said.

Among a team full of standout performances, Christian Kukuk's double clear with Checker 47 drew particular appreciation from the Ocala crowd. The reigning Olympic champions looked effortless across both rounds, underlining their class once again on the international stage.

"I must say, I had a smile today on my face when I jumped these two rounds," Kukuk said. "He is a different level. He makes it look so easy and feel so easy. On these courses, you do not have that so often. So I'm really, really happy and I'm proud of Checker today. But I'm also really thankful for the whole team behind us," he said.

Team Germany now lead the Longines League of Nations™ standings on 190 points after their performance in Ocala, with Team France in second on 155 and Team Ireland in third on 150.

The series now moves on to its third qualifying leg in Rotterdam on 19 June.

Longines League of Nations™ 2026 stats*

Total starts: 80

Total rounds: 122

Clear rounds: 42

Double clears: 10

Most jumps cleared (nation): Germany – 199/205

Most jumps cleared (athlete): Jack Whitaker (GBR) – 57/60

Most jumps cleared (horse): Jack GL (GBR) – 57/60

Total cleared jumps: 1,644

Faults: 124

Refusals: 5

**Statistics after Abu Dhabi and Ocala legs.*

Longines League of Nations™ historical stats

Most wins (nation): Germany – 3 wins

Most wins (athlete): Christian Kukuk (GER) – 3 wins

Most wins (horse): Checker 47 (GER), DSP Chakaria (GER) & GL Events Dorai D'Aguilly (FRA) – 2 wins

Most podiums (nation): Germany – 7 podiums

Most jumps cleared: Germany – 1044/1097

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](#)

LLN Online Pressroom

All Media-related assets for the Longines League of Nations™ series 2026 will be available on the [LLN Online Pressroom](#).

This 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 2026.

Features include:

- **Press Conference video:** Watch the post-competition press conferences.
- **Key Documents:** Find essential documents such as course plans, starting lists, previews, etc. conveniently located in one place.
- **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™.

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](#).

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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