FEDERAL EQUESTRIAN PARK - LAMOTTE-BEUVRON (41)

FROM 10 TO 15 AUGUST 2026

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MOUNTED GAMES & HORSEBALL

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS — EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESENTATION PACK

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FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE D'ÉQUITATION

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Frédéric Bouix,
President of the Fédération Française d'Équitation

« It is a great honour for the Fédération Internationale de Horseball to host the World Pony Games Championships, under the auspices of the International Mounted Games Association (IMGA), and the European Horseball Championships, under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Horseball (FIHB). We would like to thank both organisations for their trust.

From 10 to 15 August 2026, the Federal Equestrian Park will host the championships for these two team disciplines. Following the successful TREC World Championships in 2022 and the European Pony Games Championships in 2024, this event will leverage the venue's premier hosting capabilities, the expertise of our staff, and the excellence of French official training.

These championships provide a prestigious showcase for the FFE to promote team equestrian sports within France. Horseball and pony games offer a wealth of educational and sporting benefits, and we work diligently every day towards their development across our clubs.

Furthermore, France holds a distinctive position on the international equestrian stage thanks to its unique club-based shared-horse model. Hosting such competitions plays a vital role in promoting this approach, thereby enhancing the global reach and renown of France and its expertise. »

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY AT THE FEDERAL EQUESTRIAN PARK FOR A DOUBLE INTERNATIONAL EVENT

From 10 to 15 August 2026, the Federal Equestrian Park will stand as the global epicentre of team equestrian sports. For the very first time, the venue will simultaneously host two major fixtures on the international calendar: the Pony Games World Championships and the Horseball European Championships. As flagship events for both the International Mounted Games Association (IMGA) and the Fédération Internationale de Horseball (FIHB), these championships will represent the absolute pinnacle of the season.

Building on the success of the 2024 European Mounted Games Championships, the Fédération Française d'Équitation (FFE) is preparing to host the World Championships in the Open and U18 categories, under the auspices of the IMGA. As the reigning world champions in the Open category and silver medallists in the U18s, France aims to replicate these outstanding performances on home soil. Concurrently, under the aegis of the FIHB, the elite of European horse-ball will compete for continental titles in the U16, U21, Ladies, and Pro Elite categories. These competitions promise high-calibre matchups and significant athletic achievement among the leading European nations.

THE FEDERAL EQUESTRIAN PARK

Situated in the heart of Sologne, the Federal Equestrian Park serves as the headquarters of the Fédération Française d'Équitation and remains a cornerstone of equestrian development in France. As a premier destination for enthusiasts across all disciplines, the venue offers facilities unmatched by any other site in the country. It is distinguished by its scale, quality, and the extensive range of sporting arenas and service areas designed to provide riders with a unique experience. Since its inception, it has been envisioned as a 'family home' for all equestrians.

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Activities:

Each year, the Federal Equestrian Park welcomes over 800,000 visitors. In addition to organising the Generali Open de France — an event unique in the world due to its scale and number of participants — the venue also hosts the following throughout the year:

- Club level and sports training clinics, alongside regional, national, and international competitions,
- Advanced training session for the French national teams in preparation for major events, such as the World Championships and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games,
- training courses for instructors and competition officials (judges, course designers),
- seminars and conferences.

Economic Impact

The Park welcomes over 30,000 equines annually, serving as a primary driver for tourism and economic development within the Loir-et-Cher department and the Centre-Val de Loire region. During the French Equestrian Championships, the facility generates over €50 million in economic spin-offs, significantly benefiting the local hospitality and catering sectors. Additionally, the FFE acts as a major employment hub, supporting 150 permanent direct jobs in the area.

HORSEBALL AND MOUNTED GAMES:

TWO DISCIPLINES WHERE ADRENALINE AND TEAM SPIRIT REIGN

HORSE-BALL

A Brief History

A fine blend of rugby and basketball, this discipline draws inspiration from the Argentine Pato, Afghan Buzkashi, and equestrian games performed in the 1930s by riders of the Garde Républicaine.

In 1978, the creation of the International Commission by France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Portugal led to the organisation of the first European Cup in Paris. The development of the discipline reached a milestone in 1999 with the creation of the Fédération Internationale de Horseball (FIHB), which currently governs the sport at an international level.

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What is Horseball?

Horseball is widely considered the most collective discipline among equestrian sports, sharing tactical similarities with basketball, football, and rugby. Often described by supporters, players, and officials as a “spectator sport” the discipline combines contact, speed, and technical skill.

This mixed-gender sport, which nevertheless retains a category exclusively for women, is played in matches consisting of two 10-minute halves. With a strong emphasis on action and teamwork, a player cannot hold the ball for more than 10 seconds, and the team must complete at least three passes between three different players before scoring. In addition to their close bond with their horses, players engage in physical confrontation during marking and tackling, whilst maintaining strict fair play. With few players on the pitch and the need to react instantly, both the riders and their specially trained mounts must be highly versatile.

MOUNTED GAMES

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A Brief History

Mounted Games was created in 1957 in the United Kingdom on the initiative of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, who wished to make equestrian competitions accessible to children. Imported to France in the early 1990s under the name «pony-games», the discipline consists of a series of games played on ponies in lines and as relays. The development of the sport reached a key milestone in 2003 with the establishment of the International Mounted Games Association (IMGA), which oversees the rules and major international events.

What is Mounted-games?

A team sport in which each player acts independently, Mounted Games consists of around thirty games played in lines and as relays. The discipline allows participants to learn various equestrian techniques through a playful and engaging format. Speed, motor skills, and agility on horseback are the essential factors for completing the course accurately and efficiently. As a mixed-gender team sport organized by age group, Mounted Games involves teams of five riders (including one substitute) and their mounts competing in various relay games. Successful execution requires strategic selection of participants for each segment.

TRAVELLING TO THE VENUE

The Parc Équestre Fédéral is located in Lamotte-Beuvron. Signposts are in place from all town entrances.
Postal address: Parc équestre fédéral, 41600 Lamotte-Beuvron.

Access

- By road: A10 / A71 / Exit 3 Lamotte-Beuvron / RD 202, then RD 35 towards Chaumont-sur-Tharonne.
- By train: Paris - Toulouse - Barcelona line to Les Aubrais (Orléans), then the TER (regional train) to Lamotte-Beuvron. The Parc Équestre Fédéral is located 5 minutes by car and 15 minutes on foot from Lamotte-Beuvron station.
- By air: 1.5 hours from Paris-Orly Airport.

Entrée : Entrance ; Autoroute : Hightway ; SNCF : Train

Media Contacts:

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