



INTERNATIONAL
YOUNG BREEDERS
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
GERMANY 2026

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Ines Rathke (ines.rathke@gmx.de)

Press Release 04: Final Countdown for the 12th WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships in Celle.

Celle, July 2026 – In just a few days, the 12th WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships will begin at the Celle State Stud. After months of preparation, the organizing team of the German Young Breeders is in the final stages. The competition venues are ready, the horses have been selected, and the final organizational arrangements with the international delegations have been finalized.

From July 16 to 19, 129 young breeders from 19 breeding associations and ten nations are expected in Celle. They will compete in the practical disciplines of theory, conformation evaluation, free jumping, and free walking, as well as in pre-inspection—the core competencies of true “horsemanship” and the foundation of successful breeding.

The teams will arrive as early as Thursday. Following the official welcome reception, the World Championship will begin with the theory competition for all age groups in the historic riding hall of the State Stud. The evening will then be dedicated to getting to know one another through the traditional “Ice Breaker Games” and international exchange.

The practical competitions begin on Friday. The 21–26 age group (seniors) starts with the presentation competition, while the juniors (ages 16–20) demonstrate their skills in the free walking and free jumping evaluations. In the afternoon, the seniors’ pre-show inspection and the juniors’ conformation evaluation follow.

The day concludes with a show program presented by the Lower Saxony State Stud. “We are delighted to showcase the versatility of German horse breeding through our stallions, as well as our long tradition of partnership with horses, to our international guests,” says host and state stud manager Dr. Axel Brockmann.

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The subsequent anniversary event, “25 Years of International Young Breeders,” celebrates the development of the international network in a relaxed setting.

Saturday will determine the world championship titles. Then the age groups will switch disciplines: The juniors will begin with the presentation—here, the horses are groomed, brushed, and braided so that they practically gleam and impress the judges with flawless elegance. Afterward, they demonstrate their skills in the pre-show competition on Celle’s parade grounds. The seniors compete in free jumping and conformation evaluations. In the evening, the new world champions are crowned during the festive awards ceremony, before the Championship Party brings the sporting highlight to a fitting close.

The event concludes on Sunday with an excursion to two outstanding sites for breeding and sport. The FAMOS Stud is located in the heart of Lower Saxony. The focus is on dressage; here, unique talents are discovered, bred, raised, and trained—from foal to Grand Prix level. Master rider and Olympic gold medalist Dorothee Schneider is responsible for talent development and training at FAMOS..

Hof Brüning is also looking forward to the young breeders’ visit. Hans Heinrich, the senior partner, began supporting the next generation early on. His son Hannes was one of the most successful young breeders in the Hanoverian Association and represented the Hanoverian Society at the very first international competition in Verden in 2001, before later supporting the team as a trainer and team leader. Today, Hannes has further developed his parents’ business into a premier destination for breeding, rearing, and marketing promising performance horses.

Participating nations and associations are: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Canada, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria, and Sweden, as well as the German breeding associations of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Brandenburg-Anhalt, Hanover, Holstein, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Oldenburg, Rhineland-Palatinate-Saarland, Saxony-Thuringia, and Trakehner.

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