



Opening Ceremony Briefing Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Who Attends

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| 1. Athletes and Lungers competing in Week 1 (Dressage, Vaulting, Eventing) | Mandatory attendance |
| 2. All team trainers, Chef de Mission & Chef d'Equipes | warmly invited to be part of the Nations' Entrance in the main stadium |
| 3. Athletes competing in Week 2 (Jumping, Driving, Para Dressage) | Invited, attendance optional, at own cost (accreditation & parking provided) |

Action for NFs: Please enter participation details into HippoBase.

Full Run-Down of the Evening

1. Welcome Reception — Stadium 2

Time	What Happens
6:30 pm	Welcome Reception begins - for all attending the Opening Ceremony Volunteers will stand on the outside lane with the nations' flags
7:15 pm	Latest arrival time
7:15 pm	Briefing for the Opening Ceremony in Stadium 2
7:50 – 8:10 pm	Move together over to the Main Stadium

Action required: Please nominate one athlete internally who will take over the flag from the Volunteer and lead their nation into the arena.



2. Opening Ceremony — Main Stadium

Time	What Happens
8:15 pm	Official start of the Opening Ceremony
~8:25 pm	Official Welcoming of the participating Nations

Official Welcoming of the participating Nations — step by step:

1. Nations are guided to different grandstands on the backside of the stadium, then walk in led by a dancer in a World Championship costume (purple & gold). Volunteers will stay with the teams all the time.
2. Athletes, lungers, team trainers, Chef de Mission, and Chef d'Équipes enter through various gates into the Main Stadium.
3. The audience welcomes the teams **"Welcome Home."**
4. A volunteer stays with each nation throughout for support.
5. Once all nations have entered, dancers step away; every nation holds a "final position" on the outside lane in the main stadium

Show run-down:

Part	What Happens
Live Performance 1	Brass Band "Knallblech" (Set 1) plays pop songs for a celebratory atmosphere; flag riders and dancers perform simultaneously and nation teams have fun and enjoy the atmosphere on the outside lane in the stadium
Opening Speeches	Opening Speeches are held → at the same time volunteers take each nation's flag to a central point, where all flags remain for the rest of the show → nation teams stay at their positions
Live Performance 2	Brass Band "Knallblech" (Set 2) plays again; everyone walks half a lap and exits the stadium accompanied by the respective Volunteer → moving to different grandstands to watch the remainder of the ceremony

After the Official Welcoming of the participating Nations

2. **Enjoy the remainder of the Opening Ceremony** from the designated audience seating. The Volunteers will lead you to the seating area.

3. After the Opening Ceremony

Invitation to **MediaNight** in the Champions' Circle (*see separate invitation*)