

...you might not know about...

## the Riders Masters Cup at the Longines Masters



This December, EEM will introduce the first annual Riders Masters Cup, and the format is an exhilarating one. The Riders Masters Cup is a transatlantic equestrian duel in which Team USA will face off against Team Europe. The event will pit these two equestrian powerhouses against each other for an international battle of epic proportion. The event will bridge the first and final legs of the Grand Slam of Indoor Show Jumping: the Longines Masters in Paris on Saturday, December 2, 2017, and the Longines Masters of New York on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Here is how it works: Each team consists of a mix of five top equestrian athletes, male or female, from the two competing continents, Europe and the USA, led by a Chef d'Equipe. There will be two rounds per event, with five head-to-head duels in each one. Round One will be a classic 1.50m Table A Class with a starting order that is drawn at random and the winner of each duel earns one point for their team. The excitement increases in Round Two as the important role of Chef comes to fruition. Each duel will be worth two points each, escalating the importance of each head-to-head matchup, and the winning Chef from Round One has the advantage of picking the duel matchups for Round Two. Add the thrills of a 1.45m speed format, with three seconds added to the rider's time for each rail down, which channels the heart-pounding action of the Longines Speed Challenge. The fastest time wins!

*Horse & Style* caught up with EEM to get even more fun tidbits about the new competition format, which only makes the count down to the Longines Masters of Paris that much more suspenseful.

1. The Riders Masters Cup was envisioned by EEM Founder and CEO Christophe Ameeuw.
2. All of the riders on Team USA are in the top 15 of the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List.
3. 2016 Olympic Silver medalist Robert Ridland and 2016 Olympic Gold medalist Philippe Guerdat will bring their in-ring rivalry to the Riders Masters Cup as Chef d'Equipe of Team USA and Team Europe, respectively.
4. Horses can be changed for speed between rounds one and two, adding another layer of strategy to the competition.
5. The total purse is €250,000 in Paris and \$250,000 in the US. The winning teams' riders will split \$175,000, while their Chef d'Equipe will receive \$17,500.
6. The second place team and Chef d'Equipe will walk away with a combined \$57,500 – not a bad guaranteed purse for a night of fun!
7. Fans around the world can receive competition updates by following [facebook.com/ridersmasterscup](https://www.facebook.com/ridersmasterscup).
8. The official Riders Masters Cup hashtag is #waveyourflag. Go post pictures of your favorite riders and hashtag to show love for your team!
9. Tickets for the first face-off of the inaugural Riders Masters Cup in Paris are now available at [ridersmasterscup.com/en/ticketing](https://www.ridersmasterscup.com/en/ticketing).
10. *Horse & Style* will be at the Longines Masters of Paris to cheer on Robert Ridland and Team USA!