



THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND IS SET TO THRILL THE GALLAGHER DUBLIN HORSE SHOW

Rolex Series, Dublin, August 8, 2026



After four days of world-class sport and an incredible atmosphere at the Gallagher Dublin Horse Show, a Rolex Series event, everything is now set for the highlight of the week: the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland, taking place on Sunday, 9 August at 3:00 p.m.

For more than 150 years, the Gallagher Dublin Horse Show has combined top-level competition with a deeply rooted Irish equestrian tradition. Throughout the week, the Royal Dublin Society has once again celebrated horses and equestrian sport in all their forms, bringing together international show jumping, traditional classes and displays in an atmosphere that is unmistakably Dublin.

Thousands of spectators have already filled the RDS, with the Main Arena and its vast grandstands providing an impressive setting for the world's best riders. Friday's historic 100th Nations' Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy saw the stands packed as Ireland battled the United States until the very final rider.

On Sunday, that same arena will host the biggest individual competition of the week. Forty of the world's best horse-and-rider combinations will contest the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland over a 1.60m course designed by internationally acclaimed Irish course designer Alan Wade.

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WORLD-CLASS SPORT LIGHTS UP DUBLIN AHEAD OF THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX

The road to Sunday's Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland has already delivered four days of top-level competition, with some of the biggest names in the sport making their mark.

An all-Irish podium to open the week

Wednesday's Sport Ireland Classic CSIO5* 1.55m immediately put the home riders in the spotlight. Among 55 combinations, Jordan Coyle (IRL) and King Kannan GP produced the fastest clear round to claim victory. Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and Pia Maria H finished second, while Tom Wachman (IRL) and Do It Easy completed an impressive all-Irish podium.

Karl Cook takes Thursday's 1.60m

On Thursday, 43 combinations lined up for the Cashel Palace Hotel Stakes CSIO5* 1.60m, with 11 progressing to the jump-off.

Karl Cook (USA) and Foxy de la Roque proved unbeatable, taking victory. Kevin Staut (FRA) and Ever de Turan secured second place, ahead of Olympic champion Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) and Major Tom, third.

The United States wins a historic Nations' Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy sponsored by Elliott Group

Friday delivered one of the defining moments of the week with the 100th Nations' Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy sponsored by Elliott Group.

After two rounds and a thrilling battle that went down to the final rider, the United States secured victory on zero faults. The home team Ireland finished second on four faults, while Switzerland completed the podium with eight faults.

Tom Wachman shines in the final qualifier ahead of the Rolex Grand Prix

Saturday's Gallagher Stakes CSIO5* 1.50m provided the final qualifying opportunity ahead of Sunday's Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland, with 12 combinations progressing to the jump-off.

In front of his home crowd, Tom Wachman (IRL) and Do It Easy produced the fastest double clear to claim victory. Natalie Dean (USA) and Pedro van de Barlebuis finished second, while defending Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland champion Laura Kraut (USA) and Una Mariposa completed the podium.

The result brought the qualifying competitions to a close, with the final line-up now confirmed for Sunday's Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland.

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40 RIDERS. ONE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND: THE STAGE IS NOW SET FOR SUNDAY.

Contested over 1.60m under Table A, with one round against the clock followed by a jump-off against the clock, the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland will bring together 40 of the week's best horse-and-rider combinations for one of the most prestigious titles in international show jumping.

And the line-up promises to be exceptional, led by the top three riders in the world: World No. 1 Kent Farrington (USA), World No. 2 Richard Vogel (GER) and World No. 3 Shane Sweetnam (IRL).

The home nation will head into Sunday with serious ambitions, led by Shane Sweetnam (IRL), winner of the Rolex Grand Prix of Falsterbo earlier this season, alongside Jordan Coyle (IRL), Daniel Coyle (IRL) and Conor Swail (IRL). The Irish riders have been in strong form throughout the week, with Jordan claiming two victories and both Coyle brothers producing two clear rounds in Friday's Nations' Cup.

The United States will also head into Sunday with considerable momentum. Karl Cook (USA) has enjoyed a successful week, winning Thursday's Cashel Palace Hotel Stakes with Foxy de la Roque before producing a double clear aboard Caracole de la Roque to help the United States claim the Aga Khan Trophy on Friday. Alongside him, Laura Kraut (USA) returns with the opportunity to defend the title she claimed in 2025. Twelve months ago, the American produced the only clear round of the competition to win the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland, and she will now attempt to make it two consecutive victories in Dublin.

The international line-up also features Olympic champions Steve Guerdat (SUI), Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) and Kevin Staut (FRA). Belgium will count on brothers Nicola and Olivier Philippaerts, adding further strength to an already formidable start list.

After four days of competition, everything now comes down to one final afternoon in the Main Arena. The Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland gets underway at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, 9 August.

● [MASTERLIST](#)



KARL COOK : “I DON’T ENTER TO NOT WIN”

Karl Cook is enjoying an impressive week at the Gallagher Dublin Horse Show. After claiming victory in Thursday’s Cashel Palace Hotel Stakes CSIO5* 1.60m aboard Foxy de la Roque, the American rider delivered another outstanding performance on Friday, producing a double clear with Caracole de la Roque in the Nations’ Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy and helping the United States secure victory in the historic 100th edition of the competition.

With all three of his horses performing at their best, Cook could hardly have hoped for a better build-up to Sunday’s Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland.

“The feeling has been great. All three of my horses are in really good form and they all feel great. I’m having such a good time here, and I think the more fun I have, the better the horses jump. So we’re going to keep going down that road. Having my wife and my daughter here makes the whole experience even more special.”

After Foxy de la Roque’s victory on Thursday and Caracole de la Roque’s two clear rounds on Friday, Cook has made his decision for Sunday.

“We’ll take Foxy for the Rolex Grand Prix. She was very, very good yesterday, and we’re really happy with the way she jumped. We’ve been putting a lot of work in, and it was great to feel that

come together. After Caracole jumped two great rounds today, I think it makes the most sense to go with Foxy. She's amazing and I have all the confidence in her."

His ambition for Sunday is equally clear.

"Of course, the goal is to win. I don't enter to not win!"

For Cook, however, competing in a Rolex Grand Prix is about more than the result. He believes the strength of the Rolex Series lies in bringing together world-class sport while preserving the unique identity and traditions of each event.

"The thing about the Rolex Grands Prix is that the events are always so special. What makes them even more special is how unique they are to the country they're in. When you go to Rome (where Cook won the Rolex Gran Premio Roma in 2024, another Rolex Series event) you know you're in Italy. The atmosphere and the feeling are amazing. Here in Dublin, it's completely different: you feel like you're in Ireland."

"That's what I think the Rolex Grands Prix within the Rolex Series do so well. Each one is unique to the people and the place where it's held, and that's what makes them so special."

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ROLEX SERIES EVENTS 2026

- Winter Equestrian Festival - Rolex Finale Week | March 24-29, 2026
- CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena | May 27-31, 2026
- Jumping International de La Baule - Officiel de France | June 11-14, 2026
- Falsterbo Horse Show | July 8-12, 2026
- Jumping International de Dinard | July 30-August 2, 2026
- Gallagher Dublin Horse Show | August 5-9, 2026
- Brussels Stephex Masters | August 26-30, 2026

ABOUT THE ROLEX SERIES

The Rolex Series brings together seven of the world's most iconic showjumping events, each of them supported by Rolex. The pinnacle of each of these events is the Rolex Grand Prix, where the best horses and riders in the world compete for seven of the most coveted Grand Prix-titles in the sport of showjumping.

United through the Rolex Series, which was launched in 2024, these seven unique events all have their own distinctive qualities but also share certain common denominators. Firstly, each of the events that are part of the Rolex Series honours the heritage and traditions that so uniquely characterize the sport of showjumping. Furthermore, the venues that make up the series many of them with a rich equestrian history offer facilities and infrastructure which are globally renowned. The seven venues are also all especially valued for their highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable spectators who create an unparalleled atmosphere known to make horses and riders perform at their absolute best.