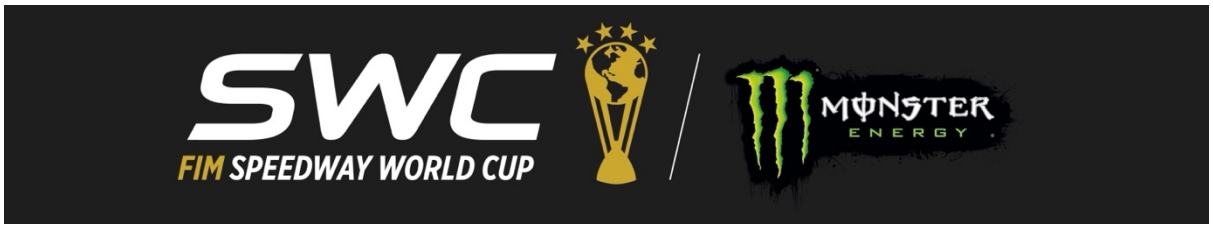
2026 FIM SPEEDWAY WORLD CUP RULES AND FORMAT



TEAM LINE-UPS

- Ten nations compete in the 2026 FIM Speedway World Cup.
- Final hosts Poland and 2025 FIM Speedway of Nations world champions Australia are seeded straight through to the BOLL FIM Speedway World Cup Final – Warsaw at PGE Narodowy on August 29.
- They are joined by Great Britain, who won Semi-Final 1 in Landshut on May 1, beating Czech Republic, Germany and Ukraine.
- The Final line-up will be completed at Semi-Final 2 in Riga on Friday. Hosts Latvia face Denmark, Sweden and Norway with the winner advancing to the Final.
- Each FIM SWC event features four countries, each with a team composed of five riders – four starters and a reserve at No.5.
- Team managers nominate a 10-rider squad three weeks before their Semi-Final and Final. Countries then select their starting line-up six days before each Semi-Final and 10 days before the Final.
- Semi-Finalists are permitted to name a fresh squad for the Final, introducing riders who didn't compete in the semis.
- Riders can only be brought into the wider squad or starting line-up in the event of an injury once a selection deadline has passed.

TEAM TACTICS AND CHANGES

- Each rider can take a maximum of six rides – five regular rides plus one tactical substitute ride.
- Tactical substitutions are allowed when a team is six or more points behind the leading nation. Each rider can only take ONE tactical substitute ride. Tactical substitutions must stop if a team moves within five points or less of the leading nation.
- No.5 riders can replace any of their teammates in a heat at any time, taking a maximum of six rides – five regular rides plus one tactical substitute ride if their team is six or more behind the leaders.
- Injured riders can be replaced by team managers using either their No.5 reserve or a tactical substitute if their team is six points or more down on the leading nation.

EVENT FORMAT

- Every FIM SWC event is contested over 20 heats with no semis or finals, and the country with the most points wins the event.
- The line-ups for heats 17-20 are nominated by the team managers, with the team manager of the fourth-placed country after heat 16 selecting first and the manager of the leading nation nominating last.
- As with the Speedway GP series, riders are awarded three points for a heat win, two for second, one for third and zero points for finishing fourth, being disqualified or failing to finish.
- Each team races in one helmet colour for all 20 heats, determined via a random draw by the SWC Commission, with each helmet colour allocating them an even number of starts from gates one, two, three and four in a set order.
- No qualifying takes place before an FIM SWC event. However, practice sessions will be staged on the day of Semi-Finals 1 and 2 and the day before the Final.

RACING RULES SWC

- The countdown to a race begins when the FIM referee starts the 90-second clock. At the end of this 90-second deadline, riders must be at the tapes and ready to race – otherwise they face being disqualified.
- In the event of a restart due to an unsatisfactory start, the FIM race director has the option to reduce the time allowed to one minute.
- Once the four riders have been lined up by the start marshal, the referee turns on the green light to put them under starter's orders. The tapes will then be released by a randomised electronic system.
- If riders touch the starting tapes, they are disqualified. If a rider is adjudged by the referee to have moved before the tapes lifted, they are handed an official warning. If they move or touch the tapes again during the same FIM SWC event, they are automatically disqualified.
- When the tapes lift, an intense minute of action gets underway as four riders battle it out over four furious laps.
- If a rider or riders fall, and the race is stopped, the FIM referee will disqualify the rider they deem to have caused the stoppage. If the incident occurs on the first turn, the referee has the option to invite all of the riders back for the restart if they believe no-one was at fault.
- If a rider crosses the white inside line fully with both wheels, or leaves the circuit, they are adjudged to have retired from the race – unless they left the track to take essential avoiding action (e.g. to avoid a fallen rider).

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Semi-Final 1 winners Great Britain and Friday's Semi-Final 2 winners join host nation Poland and 2025 FIM SON world champions Australia in the BOLL FIM Speedway World Cup Final – Warsaw.
- The winner of the BOLL FIM SWC Final – Warsaw will be crowned 2026 world team champions.

TIES AND ABANDONMENTS

- If two or more nations are tied on points for first place in a Semi-Final or the Final after 20 heats, a run-off will take place to decide the winners.
- If two or more nations are tied on points after 20 heats for any other position during the tournament, the countback system will be used to decide the highest-placed team.
- In this case, the team with the most first places will be ranked higher. If this does not resolve the tie, seconds, thirds and fourth places will be taken into account, with a fourth-place finish considered better than a disqualification or retirement. If the countries remain tied, the nation with the highest FIM ranking will be placed highest.
- If an FIM SWC event is abandoned before 16 heats are completed, the meeting must be restaged and restarted from heat one.
- If an FIM SWC event is abandoned after heat 16 is completed, the result of every completed heat will be taken into account.

