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**Vienna hosts the first-ever Tram Driver World Championship in September 2025**

**Vienna will be the global capital of public transport when it holds the first-ever TDWC event on 13 September this year. During the international competition on the ring road in front of City Hall, tram drivers from all over the world will be demonstrating that public transport not only gets people from A to B but also brings people from all over the world together. A female and a male driver from Wiener Linien will be facing colleagues from 24 cities on six continents and jointly celebrating a major public transport festival with fans.**

The world’s sixth-largest tram network will also be celebrating a special anniversary this year: 160 years of trams in Vienna. That's why Vienna has come up with something special for the 12th Tram Driver European Championship. We will be extending an invitation to the entire world by making the former European Championship into a global event: the Tram Driver World Championship. To accompany the championship, Wiener Linien will be organising a major public transport festival in front of City Hall, with exhibitions, interactive events and a varied programme for the whole family.

**Teams from six continents**

The main attraction at the event will be the competition between drivers from six continents. A team from San Diego is coming to represent North America, a team from Rio de Janeiro South America and a team from Melbourne will be representing Oceania. Also on board for the first time will be tram drivers from the Asian metropolis Hong Kong (China).

Europe is also entering strong teams, with many well-known cities such as Paris, Stockholm. Florence and Kyiv. Drivers from Brussels, Dublin and Rotterdam will also be taking part in the exciting disciplines. Two countries will actually be entering drivers from two cities: Berlin and Leipzig (Germany) will be competing as well as Tampere and Helsinki from Finland.

The team from Budapest, last year’s winner, will be giving its all to defend the title. Brno, Vienna’s partner city in Czechia, is also taking part alongside, for the first time, the Latvian capital city Riga. Spain will be represented by Tenerife, the capital of the Canary Islands. Casablanca (Morocco) and Oran (Algeria) will be representing Africa.

The Major of Vienna, **Michael Ludwig**, is already looking forward to the event: “Vienna is the top city worldwide in terms of quality of life and public transport is a key contributor here. That is why I am all the more delighted that the world’s tram community will be visiting us this year in Vienna. Besides an exciting tram competition, there will also be enough time for networking across Europe’s borders and beyond. It goes without saying that our talented tram drivers will be doing their utmost to win the world championship title."

**Monika Unterholzner**, Deputy General Director at Wiener Stadtwerke, highlights the opportunity that such an event offers: “Public transport is a major factor behind Vienna repeatedly being voted the most liveable city in the world. Hardly any other city offers a more compact network and so many services for so little money. Competitions such as the Tram Driver World Championship demonstrate how much passion and heart blood powers our public transport system here in Vienna.”

**Alexandra Reinagl**, Chief Executive Officer of Wiener Linien, really appreciates what her colleagues are achieving: “I am very proud of our colleagues’ achievements, not only during qualification events and competitions but also every day on Vienna’s streets. They are the ones who rise before the sun and work until late into the night. They not only transport our passengers swiftly and safety from A to B but also bring people together in the city with the world’s sixth largest tramway network. I am convinced that our team will ably and fervently represent Wiener Linien at the Tram Driver World Championship.”

**Eight exciting disciplines**

The disciplines forming the TDWC are as varied as the cities that the teams are from. Whether it’s stopping on a dime from high speed, transporting a water container without spilling any or knocking down all the pins during the spectacular tram bowling event: If they want to score points, the participants will not only need technical expertise but also nerves of steel and perfect coordination with the other team member.

Several of the tasks, such as reversing, involve both members of a team working together. Tram curling is a new discipline in the competition this year. This involves accelerating and releasing a draisine which then gently rolls to stop in a target area, just as in curling.

Another ‘invisible’ aspect is the time. Events are timed, meaning that whoever completes a task faster can win additional points that can be decisive in determining which team wins. The main winners however will definitely be the fans, who will experience an unforgeable event made up of the various disciplines.

Wiener Linien will be represented by **Florijan Isaku** and **Elisabeth Urbanitsch**, the winners of an exciting company-internal qualification event. Their participation is a great honour for them: “We are not only representing Wiener Linien but also the entire city and, in effect, the whole of Austria,” says Isaku. Urbanitsch adds: “The TDWC event is special. I am really looking forward to networking with colleagues from all over the world.” Both are already training very hard to win the title by doing what they do best: driving trams.

**The disciplines in detail:**

**1. Stop & Go**

Gently accelerating and braking are not only popular with tram passengers but also required for this discipline: A water container is mounted on the front of the tram. The precision with which the drivers can accelerate and stop is measured at three defined stopping points. Every drop spilled costs points.

**2. Speed control**

The speedometer is covered and the drivers are required to maintain a speed of exactly 25 km/h along a 20-metre section of track. The key here is a good sense of constant speed, which is something which tram drivers need daily at work.

**3. Targeted braking**

Immediately after the second discipline, the drivers have to brake and stop on a target area. The preconditions for completing this task are a good sense of distance and the right time to start braking.

**4. Tram bowling**

The flagship event of the TDWC: The front of the tram is used to push a huge ball and knock over as many pins (inflated columns) as possible. Technique, accuracy and a little luck are needed here.

**5. Reversing**

What matters here is teamwork: One team member sits in the driver’s cab, while the other stands at the rear or side and gives instructions using only whistles. Together, they manoeuvre the tram backwards and bring it to a halt exactly in the middle of a marking on the ground – without any visual contact.

**6. Lateral distance**

Tram drivers always need to know exactly the distance to maintain away from parked cars. This task also requires pinpoint precision: A team member positions an obstacle next to the track before the tram starts moving. From the cab, the other team member uses hand signals to give precise instructions on how close to the track the obstacle should be placed. The tram should then drive past it as close as possible. The closer the tram passes the obstacle (without touching it) the higher the score

**7. Perfect stop**

It is all about precision here: The tram must be brought to a halt in such a way that the middle of the second door finishes exactly on a floor marking. Points are deducted for every centimetre that the door finishes in front of or behind the target point

**8. Tram curling**

One-of-a-kind: A bicycle draisine is mounted at the front of the tram and pushed along. Once the tram stops, the draisine continues on – and should ideally come to a halt in the marked target area. Just like curling, it is all about skill rather than power.

**TDWC participating cities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **City** | **Country** | **Continent** |
| 1 | Berlin & Leipzig | Germany | Europe |
| 2 | Brussels | Belgium | Europe |
| 3 | Budapest | Hungary | Europe |
| 4 | Casablanca | Morocco | Africa |
| 5 | Dublin | Ireland | Europe |
| 6 | Edinburgh | Scotland | Europe |
| 7 | Florence | Italy | Europe |
| 8 | Hong Kong | China | Asia |
| 9 | Poznan | Poland | Europe |
| 10 | Kyiv | Ukraine | Europe |
| 11 | Melbourne | Australia | Oceania |
| 12 | Oradea | Romania | Europe |
| 13 | Oran | Algeria | Africa |
| 14 | Oslo | Norway | Europe |
| 15 | Paris | France | Europe |
| 16 | Rio de Janeiro | Brazil | South America |
| 17 | Rotterdam | The Netherlands | Europe |
| 18 | San Diego | USA | North America |
| 19 | Stockholm | Sweden | Europe |
| 20 | Tampere & Helsinki | Finland | Europe |
| 21 | Tenerife | Spain | Europe |
| 22 | Vienna | Austria | Europe |
| 23 | Zagreb | Croatia | Europe |
| 24 | Brno | Czechia | Europe |
| 25 | Riga | Latvia | Europe |

All the details of the TDWC can be found at <https://tramwm.wienerlinien.at/en>

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