

EUROPEAN RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Race Walking Cup was first established in 1996 in A Coruña (ESP) under the auspices of the European Athletics Association.
In Europe, international meetings between various nations were held annually. The main one was the four-nation race, featuring Italy, France, the GDR, and Sweden. Each year, the number of participating nations increased. First, it was changed to a "six-nation" race, then to an "eight-nation" race. The last edition, in 1995, featured nine nations, and the race was held in Livorno (Italy). From the ashes of this international meeting, in January 1996, the EAA Council decided to create a biennial event for all European nations, modeled after the World Cup. Thus, the European Race Walking Cup was born, and the first edition was held in April of that year in A Coruña, Spain.

At that time, the rules included, in addition to the rankings for the three races, a combined men's ranking of 20 km and 50 km.
From the Eisenhüttenstadt (GDR) edition, the men's combined ranking was no longer available, and points, as with the World Cup Race Walking, were calculated based on the top three athletes from each nation in each race. That edition also saw the debut of the 10 km junior races, with points calculated based on the top two athletes from each nation.

The biennial calendar was interrupted in 2001 due to the change in the date of the World Cup, which was held in Turin in 2002 instead of the planned 2001 date. To avoid overlapping events in the same year, the European Cup was moved up a year. From 2001 onwards, it will therefore be held in odd-numbered years, while the World Cup will be held in even-numbered years.

In 2015, the event was scheduled for Ukraine, but due to that nation's political problems, it was moved to Murcia, Spain. Four of the last five Cups have been held in Poděbrady, Czech Republic. In the last two editions, the 20 km races, they were also included as Gold races in the World Athletics Race Walking Tour. Participants not competing for the European Cup in these races were not included in the official rankings.

From 2021, the competition was renamed the European Race Walking Team Championships.

Of the 16 editions held so far, the one with the highest number of participants was held in Dudince in 2013, with 282 athletes (178 men and 104 women) representing 29 nations. Again in Dudince, but in 2001, the highest number of nations registered, 30. Always in Dudince, this time in 1998, the race with the highest number of starters in a single event occurred, seventy-nine men competed in the 20 km. The lowest number of athletes competed in the 50 km, with 28 starters in both A Coruña 1986 and Poděbrady in 2017. In the women's field, the race with the highest number of participants was once again held in Dudince in 2001, with 68 athletes at the start. In the last edition, however, in Poděbrady, only 34 athletes showed up. The two largest Junior (under 20) races were also held in Dudince in 2013, with 54 men and 46 women at the start.

The race with the highest number of withdrawals was held in Olaho in 2011. In the 50 km distance, 16 out of 48 starters withdrew. 33% of the athletes, one in three, failed to finish.

The race where the judges were most severe was the 20 km race held in Miskolc 2005. Eight athletes out of 65 starters, or 12%, withdrew.

The best men's performances in the 20 km were by Spaniard Paul McGrath, with a time of 1:18:05. In the 35 km, Italian Massimo Stano (2:20:43) and Giuseppe Disabato (39:28) in the under-20 category, both recorded in the last edition in Poděbrady 2025. In the 50 km, the best time was set by Yohann Diniz in Alytus in 2019 with a time of 3:37:43. In the women's category, the best time over the 20 km was Elmira Alembekova in 2015 in Murcia with a time of 1:26:15. In the 35 km, the best performance was by María Pérez in 2023 in Poděbrady with a time of 2:37:18. Eleonora Giorgi led the 50 km race with a time of 4:04:50 in Alytus 2019. In the under-20 category, Yelena Lashmanova set the best time in Olhão with a time of 43:10.

The athlete with the most World Cup appearances is Portugal's Joao Vieira, who has competed in 13 editions of the Cup. He is followed by Spain's Jesus Angel Garcia with

11 appearances. Another Spaniard, Miguel Angel Lopez, has 11 appearances, including two junior appearances.
In the women's race, Portugal's Ines Henriques is the athlete with the most appearances, with 11 appearances, followed by another Portuguese, Ana Cabecinha, with nine.

Two Spaniards have won the most medals in the men's race. With five medals, Jesus Angel Garcia (3 gold and 2 silver) and Miguel Angel Lopez (1 gold and 2 silver in the 20 km race and 2 bronze in the 35 km race). The two Spaniards are followed with four medals by Yohann Diniz of France (1 gold and 1 bronze in the 20 km and 2 golds in the 50 km) and Perseus Kalström of Sweden (2 golds, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, all in the 20 km).

Spain's Miguel Ángel Lopez and Daniel García won medals in both the junior and senior categories.

In the women's category, the top medal tally goes to Italy's Antonella Palmisano with four medals, including two golds and one silver in the 20 km and one silver in the 35 km. This is followed by a large group of three medalists, including Olimpiada Ivanova (3 golds); Anisya Kirdpkyna (1 gold and 2 silvers); María Peréz (2 golds- 1 silver); Eleonora Giorgi (1 gold and 2 silvers); Elisabetta Perrone (2 silvers and 1 bronze) and Spain's Laura Garcia-Caro (1 silver and 2 bronzes).

Russia's Sokolova is the only athlete to have won both the junior and senior categories. Antonella Palmisano and María Peréz also won medals in the junior and senior categories. In the 16 editions held, Russia, Italy, and Spain have dominated the medal table at both the individual and team levels.

In the men's individual category, Spain leads with 9 golds, 8 silvers, and 7 bronzes, followed by Russia with 8 golds, 5 silvers, and 10 bronzes, and Italy (4, 5, and 6). A total of 15 nations has won medals.
In the women's category, Russia leads with 8 golds, 5 silvers, and 2 bronzes. Italy is in second place (4, 7, and 5), and Spain in third (3, 4, and 5). Twelve nations with at least one medal.

In the men's overall team competitions, the medal table is led by Spain (11-12-2), followed by Russia (10-3-1), and then Italy (5-9-5). Thirteen countries reached the podium.
In the women's competition, Italy leads (6-7-2), followed by Spain (5-5-3), followed by Russia (5-3-1). Eleven nations have won medals.
In the junior men's competitions, Russia leads, Spain is second, and Belarus is third. Nine nations have won medals.

In the junior women's competitions, Russia leads, followed by Belarus, and Italy is third. Twelve nations have won medals.

Not many races have had to rewrite the finish order due to posthumous doping disqualifications. The athletes are all Russian, and the rankings changed in 2011 in Olhão following the disqualifications of Stanislav Yemelyanov, who finished first; Vladimir Kanaykin, who finished sixth; and Sergey Morozov, who finished thirteenth and Ukrainian Dmytrenko, who came thirty-second. In the 50 km, Igor Yerokhin, who finished second, was penalized. In the women's race, Anna Lukyanova, who finished eleventh, was disqualified. In 2013, in Dudince, the disqualification, for the first and only time, affected a junior athlete the winner Yekaterina Medvedyeva was the one to suffer the consequences. Finally, in 2015, the first and second place finishers in the 50 km race, Mikhail Ryzhov and Ivan Noskov, were disqualified.

