
Announcement Open Swiss Nationals 2026

Announcement of the 21st Swiss Hot Air Balloon Championship SMHL 2026 (open Swiss Nationals with Swiss Cup)

from May 13 to May 17, 2026 in Langenthal/BE

Dear pilots

The VSMHL association is organizing the 2026 Open Swiss Championship in Langenthal/BE on behalf of the **Swiss Ballooning Association (SBAV)**, in conjunction with a Swiss Cup. We will apply to have the Swiss Cup sanctioned as a FAI Cat 2 event.

We invite you to participate in the SMHL 2026 and Swiss Cup, provided you meet the conditions defined in the regulations.

- Registration:** May 13, 2026, in the afternoon (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the competition center in Langenthal/BE
- General briefing:** May 13, 2026, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; mandatory for all participants (PIC)
- Registration/deadline:** Registration is only possible via the registration form on the website www.smhl.ch. The registration deadline is January 31, 2026
- Participation Eligibility:** All pilots who have a valid pilot license and sporting license and meet the conditions set out in the regulations.
Two rankings will be published:
“**Swiss Championship**” includes all participants who are eligible for the title of “Swiss Champion” in accordance with the regulations.
“**Swiss Cup**” includes all participants in the “Swiss Championship” ranking as well as all foreign guests. (However, no separate scores will be kept.)
- Qualification:** Responsible pilots must hold a valid pilot license (BFCL.160 BPL) and have held the license for at least one year. Each responsible must have flown at least 50 hours as a PIC in the relevant class by the registration deadline.
- Number of participants:** The number of participants is limited to 35 competitors.
A quota of 15 places is reserved for competitors for the title of “Swiss Champion” until the registration deadline. If this quota is not exhausted, the free places will be allocated to competitors who have registered for the Swiss Cup.
- Logger:** The competition will be conducted using Balloon Live. No observers will be used. Participants are responsible for bringing the Balloon Live sensor (BLS).
- Entry fee:** The entry fee is CHF 500.- per team. This amount includes the LPG for all flights in the SMHL 2026. It also includes the aperitif on the opening evening and 4 tickets for the brunch at the award ceremony on Sunday.
- Rules:** The final version of the SMHL 2026 rules will be published by the end of March 2026. (Part III will fully comply with the official FAI rules). A French/English translation will only be provided if required.
- Competition map:** The competition map will only be made available to participants in digital form. It is based on the 1:50,000 map from Swisstopo.
- First / last flight :** First flight on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in the morning; last flight on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026. The event director has the right to include Sunday afternoon as a reserve if less than two flights / five tasks have been completed.
- Accommodation :** Each team is responsible for finding their own accommodation.
- Meals:** Meals will be offered at the competition center. Details will follow at a later date.
- Documents:** Any customs documents must be carried with you, as checks by the customs authorities cannot be ruled out.