



## WORLD FRENCH FRY CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 CLUSIUS PRIZE RULES

Participation in the Clusius Prize is open to all categories of the World French Fry Championship (except the French Fry Sauce category). It is not compulsory and is independent of the scoring criteria for each category. A candidate's overall ranking will not be affected by whether or not he/she decides to take part in the Clusius Prize.

If the candidate wishes to take part in the Clusius prize, he/she must tick the corresponding box during the online registration process, sign the rules below and complete the potato description sheet (below) that will be used on the day of the competition if the candidate is selected to take part in the World French Fry Championship. Candidates may apply independently or in association with their potato producer.

The producer, if any, does not have to be present on the day of the World French Fry Championship on 26 September 2026. He/she can attend if he/she so wishes.

### Article 1 - Basis and spirit of the prize

French fries, as we know them today, would probably never have existed had it not been for the persistence of one of the most remarkable botanists of the Renaissance, **Charles de l'Écluse (known as Clusius), born in Arras in 1526**, who devoted a great deal of effort to cultivating this little-known tuber from Peru in his own experimental garden in order to promote it to the European nobility, long before the famous Parmentier. **Not to brag, but the Pays d'Artois seems to have been the place where French fries, as we know them today, first took root!** It's as simple as that...

The prize is named in his honour.

It aims to promote:

- varietal diversity of the potato,
- agricultural expertise,
- and a responsible and informed approach to the product.

### Article 2 - Purpose of the prize

The **Clusius Prize** is intended to reward a candidate in the World French Fry Championship who has been especially successful in highlighting the value of the **potato**, independently or in association with a potato producer, through:

- its taste,
- choosing a remarkable variety,
- and/or the relevance of associated cultivation practices

This prize is awarded for a comprehensive approach that highlights both the agricultural product and its culinary appeal. It honours the candidate/producer duo if they have entered together.



## Article 3 - Eligibility conditions

To be eligible, candidates must:

- use a **clearly identified** (variety of) potato;
- be able to specify its **geographical and agricultural origin**;
- agree to present the following information to the jury:
  - choice of variety,
  - growing methods,
  - and use of this potato for making French fries.

Participation in the **Clusius Prize** is **optional**.

Any candidate may choose not to compete for this prize, without this choice having any effect on his/her participation in the World French Fry Championship or how he/she is scored in the overall ranking. Candidates may choose to compete independently or in association with a potato producer.

## Article 4 - Award criteria

The Clusius Prize is awarded by a dedicated jury or by specific deliberation of the general jury, based on the following criteria:

1. **Taste and sensory quality of the French fries**  
Appreciation of how the potato's flavour, the balance of the textures and the aromatic clarity are expressed.
2. **Choice of variety**  
Agronomic, culinary or heritage value of the variety used, originality and suitability for making French fries.
3. **Growing methods and farming practices**  
Attention paid to the soil, environment, limitation of inputs and sustainability of practices.
4. **Consistency and comprehensive approach**  
Understanding the product, consistency between the message, the farming choices and the end result.

The jury assesses these criteria in a comprehensive and independent manner, with no obligation to give them a quantified weighting.

## Article 5 - Presentation requirements

The candidate undertakes to provide, at the jury's request, on the day of the event:

- A description of the potato used (variety, origin, producer, growing methods) when registering for the World French Fry Championship (see below)
- A tasting and an oral presentation of a maximum duration set by the organisers.

The French fries will be assessed under normal Championship conditions, without any special staging.



## Article 6 - Jury

The Clusius Prize jury is made up of qualified personalities, who may include:

- professionals from the catering or French fries industries  
and/or
- agricultural and scientific experts  
and/or
- journalists, authors and people involved in promoting food products.

The composition of the jury is decided by the championships organiser.

## Article 7 - Decision of the jury

The president of the jury for the 4<sup>th</sup> World French Fry Championship, presenter and journalist Loic Ballet, and the members of the jury will make their decision together in a:

- collaborative,
- and independent manner,
- with no possibility of appeal.

The jury reserves the right to:

- not award the prize if the criteria are not deemed to have been sufficiently met;
- award the prize to a candidate who is not among the overall winners.

## Article 8 - Nature of the prize

The Clusius Prize takes the form of:

- a trophy or special distinction,
- an official mention in the list of winners,
- and a dedicated communication campaign highlighting the winner, variety and any associated producer.

## Article 9 - Acceptance of the rules

Participation in the World French Fry Championship implies full acceptance of the general rules of the championships.

Participation in the **Clusius Prize**, when expressly chosen by the candidate, implies full acceptance of these specific rules. If the candidate chooses to compete in association with a potato producer, the latter must also accept the rules. Signature of the Clusius Prize rules will be deemed acceptance of the general rules of the World French Fry Championship.

Not taking part in the Clusius Prize has no effect on participation in the championships or on the candidate's overall ranking.

**DOCUMENT FOR CANDIDATES WISHING TO APPLY FOR THE CLUSIUS PRIZE**



Signature of main candidate, followed by “read and approved”:

Signature of co-candidate (if required), followed by the words “read and approved”:

If the candidate enters in association with his/her potato producer:

Signature of the associated potato producer, followed by the words “read and approved” (this also constitutes acceptance of the general rules of the World French Fry Championship):



DESCRIPTION OF THE POTATO

Name of the chosen variety:

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Justify your choice:

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Links with the local area and possibly the producer:

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Growing methods:

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Tell us your story (optional):

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