

## Media Release

12 August 2024



## Gear up for the magnificent rivalry of the Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift LIVE and FREE on SBS VICELAND and SBS On Demand

**\*\*Interviews available\*\***

Images available [here](#)

Watch the *Tour de France Femmes* promo [here](#)

Preparing to tackle the rigorous *Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift* route are the world's fiercest cyclists as it's the women's turn to brave the mountains. SBS will capture all the action live and free on SBS VICELAND and SBS On Demand from today, **August 12 to August 18**.

Maintaining the incredible sporting energy after the Paris Olympic Games, the *Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift* begins today for the first time in beautiful Rotterdam, Netherlands. Travelling through Belgium and France, the race will cross three countries and three French regions, covering 10 departments. The cyclists will battle it out to the finish line on August 18 on the most famous mountain in Tour history – Alpe d'Huez, making its debut in the women's race route. The eight stages of the *Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift* include three flat stages, two hilly stages, two mountain stages, and one individual time trial.

Australians can watch every moment of the *Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift* live on SBS VICELAND and will be available to stream live, in full, on SBS On Demand from the **Tour de France Hub** which also includes a variety of Tour content including extended highlights, full stage catch-up replays, winning moments and mini stage recaps.

The SBS' expert commentary team will be on the ground in Europe, capturing the fierce competition and incredible teamwork of the women's race. Reporting on location will be the 'Australian voice of cycling' **Matthew Keenan** and national time trial champion **Dr Bridie O'Donnell** and providing exclusive interviews with the athletes and reporting on the ground will be Australian National Road Race Champion **David McKenzie**, alongside **Christophe Mallet** who will deliver insights on race tactics and historical significance of the captivating locations travelled.

154 fearless riders will be attempting to conquer the rigorous women's route this year. The star-studded line-up includes reigning champion Demi Vollering, back to defend her title but she faces stiff competition from a host of rival riders including Kasia Niewiadoma with Elisa Longo Borghini perhaps posing the biggest threat after winning the women's Giro d'Italia. Juliette Labous is another rider with high hopes on home soil, as are Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio and Cecilie Uttrup Ludwig. Remaining podium hopefuls include Marta Cavalli, Gaia Realini, Ane Santesteban and Ricarda Bauernfeind.

Nine Australians will take to the start line in the Netherlands, including Grace Brown, back on the road fresh from her gold medal-winning performance in the Olympic time trial, as well as Neve Bradbury, who finished third overall at the Giro d'Italia Women. Joining them will be Amber Pate, Ruby Roseman-Gannon, Sarah Gigante, Anya Louw, Amanda Spratt, Sarah Roy and Josie Talbot.

***For more information and interviews, please contact:***

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## **SBS TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES AVEC ZWIFT FULL BROADCAST SCHEDULE**

<b>STAGE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SBS VICELAND TV LIVE</b>	<b>SBS On Demand LIVE</b>
<b>1</b>	Monday 12 August	20:00 – 24:00 AEST	20:00 – 24:00 AEST
<b>2</b>	Tuesday 13 August	17:30 – 20:00 AEST	17:30 – 20:00 AEST
<b>3</b>	Tuesday 13 August	23:40 – 02:10 AEST	23:40 – 02:10 AEST
<b>4</b>	Wednesday 14 August	21:50 – 24:20 AEST	21:50 – 24:20 AEST
<b>5</b>	Thursday 15 August	21:50 – 24:20 AEST	21:50 – 24:20 AEST
<b>6</b>	Friday 16 August	21:50 – 24:20 AEST	21:50 – 24:20 AEST
<b>7</b>	Saturday 17 August	21:30 – 24:00 AEST	21:30 – 24:00 AEST
<b>8</b>	Sunday 18 August	24:00 – 03:20 AEST	24:00 – 03:20 AEST

## **SBS COMMENTARY TEAM BIOS**

### **DR BRIDIE O'DONNELL**

Dr Bridie O'Donnell graduated from the University of Queensland Medical School. Between 1995 and 2006 she competed in Olympic distance and Ironman triathlon, finishing the Ironman Hawaii World Championships in 2006. In 2007, she began road cycling and in 2008 after winning the National Time Trial title, she raced in the Australian National Team, and then Professional Italian teams in Europe and the United States, representing Australia at three World Championships between 2008-2012. From 2013-2017, Bridie managed and raced for Rush Women's Team in the Cycling Australia National Road Series and in 2016, she broke the UCI Women's Hour World Record at the Adelaide Superdrome. In 2017, she was appointed the inaugural Head of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation by the Victorian Government and in 2018, her cycling memoir: "Life and Death" was published, detailing her experiences as a professional cyclist in Europe. When she's not commentating cycling, she works in the Community and Public Health Division of the Victorian Department of Health.

### **MATTHEW KEENAN**

2024 will be Matt's 18th year commentating on cycling's biggest event, the Tour de France. After two seasons of amateur racing in Europe, Matt turned to commentary, having since commentated on the Commonwealth Games, Tour of Spain, Paris-Nice, Giro d'Italia and Tour of Qatar. Known for his supreme cycling knowledge and ability to recall detailed information about individual cyclists, Matt is recognised internationally as one of the leading commentators in the business.

### **DAVID MCKENZIE**

David McKenzie brings nine years' experience as a professional cyclist to SBS, providing in-depth analysis of the race, the riders and everything viewers need to know about road racing. Starting his career on the track, David made his first appearance for Australia at just 16. He joined his first professional cycling team in 1997 after a stint at the Australian Institute of Sport and in 1998 won the Australian National Road Championship. On the pro-cycling circuit David has competed in Australia and throughout Europe for various teams, winning stages at a number of events including the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Japan and Tour Down Under.

**CHRISTOPHE MALLET**

Christophe is a television presenter, podcast host and long-time Executive Producer of SBS Radio's French program. In 2017 he was awarded a National Order of Merit – he was incredibly honoured to be introduced as a Knight of the Order of Merit in France. Over the course of his 10+ years at SBS, Christophe has been involved in many projects including hosting the Tour de France highlights show, Bonjour le Tour, alongside David McKenzie and has been heavily involved in SBS's coverage of the Dakar Rally. He's also been responsible for producing more than 6,000+ radio shows across the SBS network.