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## Focus on...Arab Emirates Padel in Dubai grows again

This weekend, the **CUPRA FIP Tour** makes a stop in Dubai, with a **FIP Rise** scheduled from Thursday to Sunday. The **United Arab Emirates**, along with Saudi Arabia, is the Asian country with the largest number of padel clubs (more than 320) and courts (more than 950): 30 per cent of all courts in Asia are located in the Middle Eastern country, and an estimated 250,000 fans and around 500,000 followers on social media. According to the **FIP Research & Data Analysis Department**, after **Bahrain** the **UAE** is the country with the best court-to-population ratio on the continent (one court per 10,000 inhabitants). Padel in the UAE is governed by the United Arab Emirates Padel Association (**UAPEA**), one of the first padel federations in Asia to be established (June 2014) and to be affiliated with the **International Padel Federation (FIP)** since 2016. In June 2019, the **UAE Ministry of Sports** decreed the official recognition of padel as a sport with the full support of the government.

In 2023, the UAPEA had 155 clubs and 620 courts affiliated (+13% compared to 2022) and more than 1,900 registered players. To explain this country's passion for the sport is the fact that the first **CUPRA FIP Tour** tournament played in Asia was held in **Dubai** in December 2019, won by French pair Scatena-Bergeron. After this tournament, four more stages of the international circuit were played, also in Dubai (two in 2020, with a FIP Rise and a FIP Star, another FIP Star in 2021 and a FIP Gold in 2023, with the French-Spanish pair Tison-Gil winning), city which also hosted **FIP World Padel Championships** in 2022.

This year there will be five CUPRA FIP Tour tournaments (two FIP Rise and three FIP Promotion) and, for the first time, a **Premier Padel** leg with the Dubai P1 from November 4th to 10th. In the FIP ranking there are four players and two women players from the UAE: Ali Alarif is the one with the best ranking (No. 345) followed by Fares Al Janahi (No. 360), the first woman is Fatma Abbas A. I. Jamahi (No. 392).

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