



## Press Release

### Leading figures in women's golf and seven Moroccan players in the spotlight at the 29<sup>th</sup> Lalla Meryem Cup

**Rabat, 14 May 2026:** Held under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** and under the effective presidency of **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid**, the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation and the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association are organizing the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lalla Meryem Cup, scheduled to take place from 21 to 23 May 2026 on the Blue Course at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam in Rabat.

Much like the Hassan II Trophy, the Lalla Meryem Cup has welcomed, since its creation by the late **His Majesty King Hassan II** in 1993, some of the most prominent names in world golf. Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Dame Laura Davies, Gwladys Nocera, Annika Sörenstam, Sophie Gustafson and Suzann Pettersen have all helped strengthen the international reputation of this women's competition.

Part of the Ladies European Tour since 2010, the Lalla Meryem Cup continues, year after year, to confirm its standing as one of the key fixtures on the international women's golf calendar. For this 29<sup>th</sup> edition, 132 players will gather at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam for a tournament contested over three rounds of stroke play, with a cut after the first two rounds.



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England's Cara Gainer, the defending champion, will return to Rabat to defend the Minaudière, the emblematic trophy awarded to the winner. Having claimed victory in 2025 with a score of -9, she will be among the players closely followed on the Blue Course.

Morocco will also be strongly represented, with seven Moroccan players taking part in the competition. Their presence reflects the growing depth of the national women's talent pool, bringing together established figures, players competing on international circuits and young talents emerging from federal development programs.

Maha Haddioui will approach the Lalla Meryem Cup with strong momentum. A two-time Moroccan Olympian and now in her 13<sup>th</sup> year on the Ladies European Tour, she remains one of the leading figures in Moroccan women's golf. Her recent performances on the international stage further confirm her current form and her consistency at the highest level of European competition.

Alongside her, Lina Belmati and Malak Bouraeda, both currently competing on the LET Access Series, will complete Morocco's professional representation. Their participation illustrates the progress of a generation of players gaining exposure to international circuits while benefiting from structured support throughout their development.

In line with the work carried out to support the next generation, four amateur players from the FRMG's Road to the Tour program will also take part: Sofia Cherif Essakali, Maria Eidhagen Harrouch, Noha Ghadi and Rim Imni. Already noticed at the Lalla Meryem Cup, where she has made the cut on three



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occasions, Sofia Cherif Essakali embodies the emergence of a new generation of Moroccan women golfers.

Year after year, the Lalla Meryem Cup continues to establish itself as a major event for women's golf in Morocco. Held within the exceptional setting of the 50th edition of the Hassan II Trophy, it will offer Moroccan players the opportunity to compete in front of their home crowd, alongside leading names from the Ladies European Tour, in a setting shaped by history, transmission and competition.

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## **About the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation**

Presided over by **His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid** since January 2018, the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation, founded on 12 March 1960, is a sports association whose purpose is to make golf, in all its forms, accessible to all. It ensures respect for the ethical rules established by the international sports movement, particularly the International Golf Federation and the African Golf Confederation.

Its missions are:

- Promoting and developing the practice of golf
- Organizing and managing competitions
- Regulating the practice of golf
- Training and professionalizing golf-related profession



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- Supporting professional players
- Managing high-level golfers

## About the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association

The Hassan II Golf Trophy Association is a sports association recognized as being of public utility. It was created on 4 September 2002 and is chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, who is also President of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation.

The Association's mission is to organize national and international golf competitions on behalf of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation and to promote golf in Morocco by positioning the Kingdom as an essential golf destination on the international stage.

Preserving achievements while innovating without distorting them are values that guide the Association's approach as it continues to progress towards excellence.

## About PGA Tour Champions

PGA Tour Champions, also known as the Senior PGA Tour, is a series of professional golf tournaments reserved for players aged 50 and over.

The Tour brings together players who have marked the history of golf and who continue to captivate fans through the elegance of their game and their unmatched experience. Fairways and greens become the stage for unforgettable moments as these golf legends compete for coveted titles.



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The Hassan II Trophy carries forward its prestigious tradition through PGA Tour Champions. The tournament offers golf fans of all generations a unique opportunity to see their favorite heroes in action, create lasting memories and draw inspiration from their perseverance.

Each PGA Tour Champions tournament is defined by a warm and respectful atmosphere, where intense competition is accompanied by deep camaraderie among the players.

It is a reminder to all that talent and determination know no age limit, and that the legends of the past continue to write their story on the course, to the great delight of golf enthusiasts around the world.

### **About the Ladies European Tour**

Founded in 1978, the Ladies European Tour has played a crucial role in the development and promotion of women's golf across Europe and beyond. The Tour inspires players to pursue their passion and fulfil their potential through golf.

The LET is a diverse and multicultural tour, bringing together 316 professional women golfers representing 36 countries, where players are driven to compete at the highest level.

Since its creation in 1993, the Lalla Meryem Cup has served as a springboard for talented women golfers, offering them the opportunity to compete in a prestigious setting and gain greater recognition.

Since joining forces in 2010 and bringing together women golfers of different nationalities from around the world, the LET and the



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Lalla Meryem Cup have built strong ties between players, fans and sponsors through shared values of excellence.

This emblematic event remains a key stop on the LET calendar, offering an outstanding sporting spectacle while honoring the shared history between European women's golf and Morocco.



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