

Follow the Pros 2026 – Tournament Announcement

1. Format of Play

Follow the Pros will be played as Four-Ball Best Ball. Each 2-player team plays Stableford over 18 holes. Teams may consist of two men, one man and one woman, or two women. The official R&A golf rules (including amateur status of the USGA and R&A) and the local rules of the hosting golf club apply.

2. Handicap Rules

The handicap index is at a maximum of 28.0. Amateurs with a higher playing ability are not excluded from the tournament; however, for the purposes of the competition, their handicap index (playing handicap) will be reduced to 28.0.

The maximum handicap difference between partners is 12 strokes (course handicap/playing handicap). The competition will be conducted in accordance with the applicable handicap rules. The course handicap for the Fourball Best Ball format is calculated at 90% of the playing handicap (or course handicap).

Examples:

- **Player A:** HCP 20.7 → Course HCP = 22
Player B: HCP 31.7 (adjusted to 28.0) → Course HCP = 31
Difference = 9 strokes → Team eligible.
- **Player A:** HCP 5.1 → Course HCP = 6
Player B: HCP 18.9 → Course HCP = 20
Difference = 14 strokes → Team not eligible.

If the difference exceeds 12 strokes, the higher handicap will be adjusted to a playing handicap that results in a maximum difference of 12 strokes (course handicap).

3. Conditions of Participation

Only players who can provide proof of an active handicap in accordance with the guidelines of the World Handicap System are eligible to participate. Participants are required to present their current handicap on the day of the tournament.

All participants must be at least 18 years old at the time of the qualification tournament. The minimum number of participants per tournament is 60 players (30 teams). The maximum number of participants is determined by the hosting golf club.

Buggies are permitted, and the respective regulations of the golf clubs and national associations regarding their use apply.

4. Scoring & Prizes

The tournament will be in one net category. Prizes will be awarded for 1st through 4th place.

New 2026, there will also be a gross category. If the scores are tied, the result will be decided by a tiebreak. Attendance at the prize ceremony is mandatory for winners; at least one team member must be present. If no team member is present, the prize will be awarded to the next-placed team. Legal recourse is excluded. The golf club will receive all prizes prior to the start of the competition.

5. Ladies First

At the start of the 2025 playing season, a separate Ladies ranking will be introduced. This ranking will include all all-female teams. Ladies First will run until June 30, 2026. The top 50 ladies teams will qualify for a Ladies First Final. The winning teams will travel to the Solheim Cup 2026 in the Netherlands. The Ladies First ranking will be updated monthly on our website. Further information about Ladies First will follow (travel and accommodation costs are not included). The Ladies First Final will take place on July 20, 2026, at Bernardus Golf in the Netherlands.

6. Registration & Withdrawal

Registration for Follow the Pros is carried out through the hosting club. The hosting golf club will receive all relevant information for the proper organization of the tournament upon confirmation of the event.

Registration for the golf tournament must open at least 14 days before the start of the competition. In the event of cancellation after the registration deadline, the entry fee remains payable. A waiver of the entry fee after the registration deadline is not possible without an official certificate.

By registering, the organizer is granted the right to publish images, promotional material, and winner lists. By registering, participants agree that Follow The Pros L.L.C, Marina Pearl Business Center, Office B2007-4, East Wing, Latifa Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, PO Box 124173, Dubai, UAE, may access their email address. Participants also agree that Follow the Pros may collect and store data in connection with the tournament series. This data will be deleted after the end of a playing season.

Legal recourse is excluded.

7. Closing Date for Entries

Closing date is 2 days before the tournament.

8. Entry Fee

The entry fee must be paid directly to the hosting golf club before the start of the competition. The entry fee is €59. The golf club receives an administrative fee of €20 per participant. We kindly ask the golf club to adhere to the entry fee of €59.

The green fee for guests remains 100% with the golf club.

9. Qualification Mode

Up to 80 qualifying tournaments will be held across Europe until September 21, 2026.

In Germany, the winning teams of each qualifying tournament—namely the 1st place net team and the 1st place gross team—will qualify directly for the Germany Final 2026. In all other participating countries where a maximum of five qualifying tournaments take place, the winning teams (1st net and 1st gross) will qualify directly for the Grand Final 2026.

In countries with six or more qualifying tournaments, a national final or national playoff will be played to determine qualification for the Grand Final.

10. German Final 2026

The Germany Final 2026 will take place on **26 September 2026** at **Golfclub Hardenberg**. As part of this final, the **five best net teams** and the **five best gross teams** will qualify for the **Grand Final 2026**.

11. Grand Final 2026

All teams that have won either a **qualification tournament** or the **national final** in their respective country qualify for the **Grand Final**. The **Grand Final 2026** will take place from **18 November 2026 to 22 November 2026** in **Mallorca, Spain**. Flights are not included.

12. Substitutes for the Grand Final 2026

It is possible to nominate a substitute player in case of illness or other circumstances. A maximum of one player may be replaced. If the entire team is unable to participate, the whole team cannot be replaced.

13. Tournament Committee

The tournament committee will be determined by the hosting club and published before the event. In case of tied results, the committee decides the playoff method. In case of cancellation (weather, etc.), the committee should be present on site to decide.

14. Dates & Schedules

All *Follow the Pros* tournament dates are published on www.follow-the-pros.com. The Host clubs receive all required documents immediately after confirmation. The full calendar is always available online and updated regularly. All qualifiers must be played by 21 September 2026.

15. Disqualification

Organizers may disqualify teams at any time for:

1. Breach of the general code of conduct.
2. Breach of golf or local rules.
3. Falsification of scores.
 - The committee and *Follow the Pros* will decide on appropriate measures.
 - Protests (e.g., disqualifications) may be submitted up to 48h after the award ceremony. Later protests will not be accepted.
 - Legal recourse is excluded.

The organizer reserves the right to make changes to the competition at any time, as well as to suspend or cancel the competition at any time without giving reasons.