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## LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

### QUALIFYING SCHOOL FOR 2010 SEASON INFORMATION

#### INTRODUCTION

The Qualifying School will form a key part of Tour policy for determining the starting field for tournaments. Please refer to the draft list of Exemption categories (attached) which will be used to determine starting fields for Ladies European Tour standard Ranking Tournaments for 2010.

The purpose of the Qualifying School will be to offer membership of the Ladies European Tour in Category 8a, Category 9b, Category 11a or Category 11b. Players finishing in the top 30 of Stage II, Final Qualifying, will be offered membership of the Tour in Category 8a. Players tied for the final qualifying place will be subject to a play-off over holes to be decided to determine Category 8a players for the 2010 season. These players may not play every week but the aim of the School is to maximise the opportunity to play for the top 30 card holders.

Stage I, Pre-Qualifying will be played over 54 holes (3 rounds) Stroke Play with a cut after 36 holes to top 70 plus ties. The number of qualifying places from Stage I will be determined following the closing date for entries and players who are successful at Stage I will join those already exempt to make a field of 72 players (excluding ties) at Stage II, Final Qualifying. In the event of players tying for final spots after round 3 of Stage I there will be a card play-off, counting last 18, 9, 6, 3 and last hole of the North course; if so required a Match play from the first shall be used. In the event of Stage I being reduced to 36 holes, the officials will organise a play off for all tying positions as soon as practical, on the North Course, with the deadline being Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 15:00 local time. Should this deadline pass a card play-off will be used, using the South Course as the referring course and counting back last 18, 9, 6, 3 and last hole; if required Match play from the first hole will be used. It ties cannot be solved with a card play-off using the South Course, the same format of card play-off using the North Course shall be used. Any remaining tying position will be solved on a ballot basis.

Players making the 72 hole cut at the Stage II but finishing outside the top 30 will be offered membership in Category 9b. Opportunities to play will be restricted although past experience suggests such players will still have the chance to participate in some events.

Players who obtain Category 9b will be re-ranked twice in the season (dates to be announced) with Category 9a. These categories will be merged and viewed as one category, Category 9, which will be re-ranked according to performance and Category 9 will be used from that point on for the rest of the season.

Players that make the final Qualifying (stage II) but fail to make the 54 hole cut will be offered membership in Category 11a . Opportunities to play will be limited. Any player who plays as an invite or qualifies for an event, earnings will count towards final money list and exemption ranking.

Any Player who plays in Pre-Qualifying School (stage 1) but failed to make final Qualifying (stage II) may still join the Tour as Category 11b Members. Opportunities to play will be very limited.

## QUALIFYING SCHOOL FOR 2010 SEASON

The Tour Qualifying School for the 2010 Season will be held as follows:

### VENUE: LA MANGA CLUB

La Manga Club SL, Los Belones – 30389, Cartagena, Murcia, Espana.

### STAGE I – PRE-QUALIFYING

14-16 December (Practice 12 & 13 December)

Stage I is held to allow as many players as possible the opportunity of attempting to qualify for the Tour for the 2010 season. The following will be exempt from Stage I providing they meet one of the criteria shown below:

- a) Current members who finish in the Top 120 of the 2009 Exemption Ranking
- b) Players who finish in positions 3 - 10 on the Masters Tour Final Order of Merit 2009
- c) Former Tournament Winners on LET
- d) Tournament Winners on any other recognised tour i.e LPGA, JLPGA & KLPGA
- e) Any LET Member who is in the final field of Dubai Ladies Masters 2009 excluding invites.

(In each case, information to be provided by player and checked by LET administration)

### Dates and Format of Stage I, Pre-Qualifying

All competitors at Stage I, Pre-Qualifying, will play three rounds.

- **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
Official Practice Day
- **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
Official Practice Day
- **Sunday 13 December**  
NEW MEMBERS SEMINAR – **MANDATORY** initiation day for new Tour members from the Qualifying School for the 2010 season. Three hours maximum
  - § LET Introduction
  - § Anti Doping
  - § Media Training
- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
36 Holes Stroke Play; 18 holes on each course (North & South) – Cut to 70 and ties
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Final round on North Course

Stage I, Pre-Qualifying will be played over 54 holes (3 rounds) Stroke Play with a cut to top 70 after 36 holes. The number of qualifying places from Stage I will be determined following the closing date for entries and players who are successful at Stage I will join those already exempt to make a field of 72 players at Stage II, Final Qualifying. In the event of players tying for final spots after round 3 of Stage I there will be a card play- off, counting last 18, 9,

6, 3 and last hole of the North course; if so required a Match play from the first shall be used. In the event of Stage I being reduced to 36 holes, the officials will organise a play off for all tying positions as soon as practical, on the North Course, with the deadline being Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 15:00 local time. Should this deadline pass a card play-off will be used, using the South Course as the referring course and counting back last 18, 9, 6, 3 and last hole; if required Match play from the first hole will be used.

## STAGE II – FINAL QUALIFYING

17 – 21 December

All competitors at the Final Stage will play three rounds, following which a cut will be made to the leading 50 players (and those tied for 50<sup>th</sup> place).

### Dates and Format of Stage II, Final Qualifying

- **Thursday 17 December**  
Official Practice Day
- **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 December**  
54 Holes Stroke Play (South Course) – Cut to 50 and ties
- **Monday 21 December**  
Final Round – *play may continue on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December if so required*
- **Tuesday 22 December**  
Pro-Am at La Manga Club for the top 30 players from Stage II, Final Qualifying  
*Please note that no exemptions will be allowed and players are advised not to book their return travel until after this date*

Stage II, Final Qualifying School will be played over 72 holes (4 rounds) Stroke Play. There will be a cut after 54 holes to the leading 50 players and those tied for 50<sup>th</sup> place. At the conclusion of 72 holes, all players will be ranked according to score. Other than those playing off for the final positions (30), all tied scores will be ranked by card play-off as follows: the best last 54, 36, 18, 9, 6, 3 and last hole, then Match Play from the first hole, if required.

### PRIZE MONEY

€7000

### ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY

Applicants must:

- Must be female and
  - (a) have been female at birth or
  - (b) have undergone sex reassignment (male to female) – specific conditions apply; please contact Tour Headquarters for further details.
- Be at least 18 years of age as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 –*players between 15 and 18 years of age may apply for special permission to participate to the Executive Director, Ladies European Tour*
- Submit the fully completed entry form for the Qualifying School, together with the appropriate payment (*NOTE: current LET Members may enter using standard LET entry procedures*)
- If already a Professional, be a member of a recognised Professional Golf Association or Tour  
*The entry form must be supported by a reference from the Professional Golf Association or Tour*
- If an amateur, hold a handicap of 3 or better. *The entry form must be supported by a copy of the handicap certificate*

## ENTRY FEE AND CLOSING DATE

- Entry Fee: €900
- Close of Entries: 17:00hrs (UK time) Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009
- Late Entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Director of Tournament Operations and subject to payment of the Entry Fee (€900) plus a Late Entry Fee of €100 (total €1000)

All entry forms **MUST** be accompanied by the entry fee.

*Note: payment must be made in Euros and will be accepted by bank transfers, credit or debit card*

## WITHDRAWALS

All withdrawals must be notified to Ladies European Tour Headquarters in writing (fax or e-mail is acceptable)

- If a player withdraws prior to the close of entries, her entry fee will be refunded in full
- If a player withdraws after the close of entries an administration fee of €100 will be retained all other monies to be fully refunded.
- **Exception:** *Any LET Member who has entered Qualifying School and becomes exempt following the closing date as a result of her finish in any subsequent LET Ranking Tournament in the 2009 season may withdraw and receive a full refund of her Qualifying School Entry Fee*

## AMATEUR COMPETITORS

The standards required to compete successfully on the Ladies European Tour are improving each year and hopefully this information will assist you in assessing whether professional golf will be your career.

The Rules of Amateur Status permit an Amateur golfer to compete in qualifying for a Professional Tour and reads as follows:

*“Rule 2-3 Professional Tournament Players*

*An Amateur golfer must not hold or retain membership of a Professional Tour.*

*Note: If an Amateur golfer must compete in one or more qualifying competitions in order to be eligible for membership of a Professional Tour, she may enter and play in such qualifying competitions without forfeiting her Amateur Status, provided in advance of play and in writing, she waives her right to any prize money in the competition.”*

The application of this rule means that an Amateur golfer may apply and compete in the Tour's Qualifying School without losing her Amateur Status. She may then choose to join the Tour or continue as an Amateur depending upon her results at the Qualifying School.

***An Amateur competitor at the Qualifying School will be required to complete a form at Registration either confirming that she wishes to participate at the School as an Amateur or as a Professional.*** Note that if she subsequently chooses to join the Tour, her application form must be received at Tour Headquarters by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (14 days after completion of Qualifying School)

In addition, it is important that you should know that an Amateur golfer must not take any action for the purpose of becoming a Professional golfer, including entering into an agreement (whether oral or written) with a sponsor or professional agent. If such action is taken she would forfeit her Amateur Status and would no longer be eligible for Amateur

events. Please refer to the Rules of Amateur Status, Rule 2 (Professionalism) in the Rules of Golf.

Making enquiries as to the implications and prospects of becoming a Professional golfer does not constitute a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status.

The Committee (Appropriate Committee of your Governing Body) has sole power to reinstate a player to Amateur Status or to deny reinstatement. You will be required to serve an interim period before regaining your Amateur Status. During the period awaiting reinstatement a player will not be permitted to play in Open Amateur events but may become a member of a Club and enter competitions and win prizes solely amongst members of the Club at which she is a member, subject to the approval of the Club.

Sympathetic consideration will be given to an Amateur golfer whose sole infringement is to participate at a Qualifying School for a Professional Tour, without waiving her right to any prize money, but fails to be accepted. In such a case if the Amateur concerned has not infringed the Rules in any other way, she may be reinstated after a period awaiting reinstatement of 3 months from the date of the infringement

In conclusion, one should realise that there is a wealth of experience to be gained by playing top class Amateur golf and the decision to "turn pro" should not be taken lightly. Indeed a positive decision should only be taken following carefully considered advice

#### **JOINING THE TOUR**

To be eligible to apply for Membership of the Ladies European Tour, the applicant must have attended the Tour's Qualifying School for the forthcoming season. The only exceptions are if the applicant is a former Member of the Ladies European Tour, is a Ladies European Tour, LPGA or JLPGA ranking tournament winner (must join within season of the tournament win) or is granted special permission by the Players Council by demonstrating outstanding golfing ability.

The applicant must pay the appropriate entrance fee and current annual subscription fee (for the 2010 season the entrance fee is €600, the annual subscription fee is €450) and applications must be received at Tour Headquarters by

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (14 days after completion of Qualifying School)**

Application forms for joining the Tour will be available at the Qualifying School or may be obtained from Tour Headquarters.