



# *Breaking Barriers. Building Legacy.*

*The untold history of women of color in professional golf — and why this moment demands action.*

MAY 2026 — SEPTEMBER 2026

— WHO SAPPHIRE IS

# A professional tour, built for a moment 75 years overdue.

Sapphire Golf Tour is a professional women's golf league built specifically to center and advance women of color, particularly Black and Latina women, as professional athletes and leaders in the sport — communities that have faced documented, systemic barriers to entry and advancement in professional golf. *Not a recreational league. Not a charitable initiative. A professional tour* with real players, real purses, and a real national schedule.

Founded by Tarek "Ty" DeLavallade, Sapphire was built to close a specific and significant gap in professional women's golf — one created by decades of structural exclusion from the sport's coaching pipelines, club access, and professional infrastructure. Black and Latina women are now among the fastest growing demographics in golf. There are 28 HBCU programs producing competitive female golfers — a number that has nearly tripled in 24 months — alongside a growing pipeline through Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Latina-focused junior programs. Those athletes are trained, competitive, and ready. The professional path forward has historically been narrow, expensive, and inaccessible to them. Sapphire is the bridge.

6

CITIES ON THE 2026 TOUR

A six-city national schedule running May through September.

24

PROS ON THE 2026 ROSTER

A founding cohort competing for purses and tour status.

28

HBCU WOMEN'S GOLF PROGRAMS

Active pipeline of college players ready for professional competition.

5×

GROWTH TARGET BY 2028

From 10 in 2025 to 50 active players across the developmental pathway.

# A history of firsts. A future bright.

*A century on the record. The institutions and the pioneers — Black and Latina — that built the path Sapphire now extends.*

— I · THE INSTITUTIONS — *before they were welcomed in, they built their own.*

1925

FIRST BLACK TOUR

### United Golf Association

Founded as the United States Colored Golfers Association after the PGA's "Caucasian-only" clause shut Black players out. The **UGA** built the circuit where Ann Gregory and Althea Gibson sharpened their games.

UGA ARCHIVES · PGA OF AMERICA

1937

FIRST BLACK WOMEN'S CLUB

### Wake-Robin Golf Club

Thirteen Black women gather in Washington, D.C. to form the first African American women's golf club — barred from public courses, they built their own.

BLACKPAST.ORG

1947

FIRST HISPANIC TOUR

### National Pan American Golf Assn.

Founded in Texas after Mexican-American players were turned away from public courses across the Southwest. **NPAGA** remains one of the oldest Hispanic golf organizations in the country, with chapters nationwide.

NPAGA · TEXAS STATE HIST. ASSN.

2008

FIRST LATINA NETWORK

### Latina Golf Association

Founded in Los Angeles by Azucena Maldonado to introduce Latinas to the game — networking, education, and competitive access for the next generation of players.

LATINA GOLF ASSOCIATION

— II · THE PIONEERS — *the women whose firsts the tour now carries forward.*

1955 –56

USGA BARRIERS

### Crocker & Gregory

Fay Crocker (Uruguay) wins the 1955 U.S. Women's Open — the first Latin American USGA champion. Ann Gregory follows as the first Black woman in a USGA national.

USGA

1963 –67

LPGA ENTRY

### Gibson & Powell

Althea Gibson integrates the LPGA in 1963. Renee Powell follows in 1967. Both face hotels and clubhouses that refuse them entry.

LPGA / ESPN

1977 –78

FIRST LATINA STAR

### Nancy Lopez Arrives

Mexican-American. 9 wins as a rookie, 5 in a row. Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year, Vare Trophy — same season. 48 LPGA wins. Hall of Fame.

LPGA / ANDSCAPE

2007 –10

WORLD NO. 1

### Lorena Ochoa Dominates

Mexico's Lorena Ochoa holds World No. 1 for a record **158 consecutive weeks**, wins two majors, and retires at 28 still ranked No. 1.

ROLEX / LPGA

Today

THE PRESENT TENSE

### The Pipeline Is Thin

Mariah Stackhouse is the only full-time Black player on tour. Lizette Salas and Maria Fassi are among a handful of active Latinas. The history is rich. The present is thin.

LPGA.COM

# The gap is real. The moment is now.

## — THE GAP IS REAL

8

### Only 8 Black women

have *ever* held LPGA Tour membership in 75+ years. For comparison, there are ~150 active LPGA members in 2026 alone.

0

### Zero LPGA wins — ever

No Black woman has won an LPGA tournament since the tour's founding in 1950.

15+

### Years since a Latina was World No. 1

Lorena Ochoa retired in 2010 still ranked No. 1. No Latina has held the top ranking since — or won an LPGA major since her 2008 title.

<5%

### Combined Black + Latina representation

Among current LPGA members — in a country where these communities are over 35% of the population.

## — SAPPHIRE'S ANSWER

### Junior Pipeline

I We identify and develop Black and Latina girls in golf from the youth level — building skill, confidence, and competitive access before systemic barriers close doors.

### Collegiate Pathway

II We connect players with HBCU, HIS, and PWI collegiate programs, using golf as the bridge to higher education and professional networks.

### Visibility & Narrative

III We tell the stories of those who set the foundation — Wake-Robin, Renee Powell, Althea Gibson, Nancy Lopez, and Lorena Ochoa — and today's players, because you cannot aspire to what you cannot see.

### Sponsor-Powered Access

IV Through our sponsors, we can support our professionals by reducing the burden of tournament entry fees, equipment, coaching, and travel for players who would otherwise be shut out by cost alone.

— THE COST OF COMPETING

# The road to the LPGA requires more than skill.

ESTIMATED PATHWAY TOTAL

College → Year 1 with LPGA card

## \$626,000

— CAREER STAGE

Sample of Annual investment by category

	 College TYPICALLY 4 YRS	 Development Tours TYPICALLY 2-3 YRS	 Q-Series 1 YR (PER ATTEMPT)	 Epson Tour TYPICALLY 1-3 YRS	 LPGA Tour PER YEAR
01 Equipment & gear	\$3K	\$3K	\$4K	\$4K	\$5K
02 Tour / entry fees	\$2K	\$6K	\$7K	\$7K	\$5K
03 Practice facility access	\$500	\$6K	\$6K	\$6K	\$6K
04 Coaching	\$1K	\$8K	\$10K	\$10K	\$30K
05 Travel & lodging	\$3K	\$17K	\$10K	\$40K	\$50K
06 Caddie & fitness	\$1K	\$8K	\$6K	\$20K	\$40K
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,500 /yr</b>	<b>\$48,000 /yr</b>	<b>\$40,000 /yr</b>	<b>\$87,000 /yr</b>	<b>\$139,000 /yr</b>

— KEY FACTS

Up to **6 full scholarships** per college can further reduce college-year costs. Players finishing in the **top 25 of Q-Series** go straight to LPGA Tour status. Annual costs are estimates from verified published sources & professional golfer interviews; figures exclude prize income; Development tours assume ~10 tour stops per year; Q-Series based on three tournaments; Epson Tour based on 20-22 events per year; LPGA players typically play 20-25 tournaments per year.

Notable Sources: LPGA Q-Series Regulations 2026 · ANNIKA WAPT 2026 · NXXT Golf Membership & Tour Fees · Q-School Cost Breakdown

— PART II —

# Sapphire Golf Tour 2026

*The calendar. The four-day arc of each stop. The framework that turns sponsorship dollars into player careers.*

# Six stops. Six cities. One national platform.

*A national tour for women of color in professional golf.*

**STOP 01**

COMPLETE · SEASON OPENER

## Bluff City Women's Open

Links at Pine Hill · Memphis, TN

APRIL 9-12, 2026

**STOP 02**

CO WOMEN'S OPEN EXEMPTIONS

## Mile High Women's Open

CommonGround GC · Denver, CO

MAY 28-31, 2026

**STOP 03**

ESSENCE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

## Big Easy Women's Open

Stonebridge Golf Club · New Orleans, LA

JULY 1-4, 2026

**STOP 04**

WNBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

## Windy City Women's Open

Jackson Park GC · Chicago, IL

JULY 23-26, 2026

**STOP 05 · MARQUEE**

## Peach City Women's Open

Eagle's Landing CC · Atlanta, GA

AUGUST 20-23, 2026

**STOP 06 · TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

## Prince George's Women's Championship

TBD · Bowie, MD

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2026

— THE FOUR-DAY EXPERIENCE

# A tour stop is a four-day event. Not a tournament.

*Each Sapphire city follows the same arc — pros, partners, community, and culture — so sponsors know exactly what they are buying into.*

**DAY 01** PRACTICE + WELCOME

## Practice Rounds & Welcome Reception

- Tour players + invited guests welcome reception
- Press & content day for brand and sponsor activations
- Player-on-course content filming with partners

**DAY 02** PRO-AM + COMMUNITY

## Charity Classic, Pro-Am & Golf Clinic

- Charity Golf Classic with sponsor teams
- Pro-Am with Sapphire professionals
- Women's golf clinic with pros
- 19th Hole experience — music, food, drinks

**DAY 03** COMPETITION · R1

## Sapphire Golf Tour — Day One

- Round 1 competition for tour pros + registered amateurs
- Spectator hospitality & VIP tent
- Optional junior golf clinic
- 19th Hole experience continues

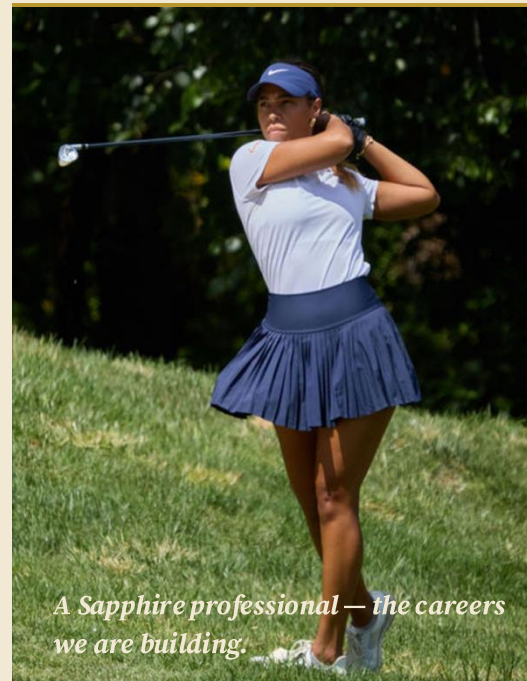
**DAY 04** CHAMPIONSHIP · R2

## Final Round & Sapphire Cup Presentation

- Final round competition
- Sapphire Cup presentation with sponsor visibility
- Closing 19th Hole experience
- Sponsor recognition + recap content

# How we support our professionals.

*Every sponsorship dollar supports our five pillars of support— each designed to turn the true cost of competing into a supported, sustainable career path.*



*A Sapphire professional — the careers we are building.*

## FROM THE FOUNDER

*"On a well-structured developmental tour, a player doesn't simply 'show up and hope.' She arrives in a city that has already been prepared for her presence and success."*

TAREK "TY" DELAVALLADE — FOUNDER & TOUR COMMISSIONER

01

## Prize & Purse Enhancement

Stronger purses across the full leaderboard change the risk-reward equation for every player, not just winners.

02

## Player Support Grants

Need-based grants offset coaching, travel, lodging, and entry fees. We recognize that talent is evenly distributed, but resources are not.

03

## Tour Operations & Infrastructure

Operations staff, event production, marketing, and technology keep the platform professional and consistent at every stop, allowing the professionals to focus on their craft instead of their own manager, agent, travel coordinator, and marketing team.

04

## Player Development Programming

Clinics, mentorship, branding and financial literacy workshops, plus intentional HBCU pipeline engagement. prepare aspiring and current professionals for the next level.

05

## Community & Civic Activation

Youth outreach, local partnerships, and sponsor activations anchor each stop in the community showing how women's sports can be a driver of community growth.

— A LONG WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

# The MastHERclass. A long weekend built for the whole woman.

*Our players already have coaches for the swing. Almost no one is investing in who they are when the glove comes off — and the MastHERclass exists to fill that gap. Three tracks, one throughline: these women are more than golfers, and we want them to leave knowing it.*

A three-day long-weekend retreat with focus on the three pillars of their development: personal, professional, and performance, each run as experiential, small-group, conversational sessions. Leaving the retreat, each woman will leave with a written personal design plan and one commitment per pillar.

## ONE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

### The Woman Behind the Game

- Identity, values, and vision beyond the score
- Mental and emotional wellness and support systems
- Financial literacy and managing inconsistent income
- Navigating a pro career through the seasons of a woman's life

## TWO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### The Business of HER

- Personal brand, storytelling, and authentic presence
- Media training and how to carry a room
- Contract literacy — read before you sign
- Naming the skills that travel beyond sport and into careers and life after golf

## THREE PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

### Mastering Pressure

- Mindset and resilience as a life capability
- Confidence and presence in any high-stakes room
- Energy, sleep, and self-management
- Self-leadership before leading others

# Sponsorship Opportunities



— MORE THAN A TOURNAMENT

# A premium golf event, *infused with culture.*

Sapphire stops feel less like a traditional tournament and more like a cultural moment — one designed for fans, founders, and the partners who want to be part of how culture moves through golf.

*That difference is the sponsor advantage. Brands that activate at Sapphire reach an audience already primed to amplify what they love.*

## 01 Culture-First Energy

A premium golf experience infused with music, style, and community — anchored by a curated marketplace of Black- and Latina-owned brands, local food trucks, and culinary partners that turns every stop into a cultural moment, not a quiet country club afternoon.

## 02 Talent Pipeline & Development

Junior clinics, HBCU and HSI engagement, and on-site mentorship moments make the path from youth player to professional visible and let sponsors invest in the next generation of golfers and corporate leaders.

## 03 VIP Tents with Influence

Intimate hospitality spaces where sponsors connect directly with founders, creators, executives, and community leaders — not just spectators.

## 04 Built for Social & Storytelling

High-visibility activations, content-ready moments, and organic brand mentions from an audience proven to amplify the brands they love.

## 05 Meaningful Networking

Fans, partners, and players engage in real conversations that extend beyond the event into lasting relationships.

— CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

# Three tiers. Per regional event.

*Each tier scales brand visibility, hospitality, and activation rights — so partners can match Sapphire to their goals, not the other way around.*

TIER I · PREMIER

## Diamond

*Category-exclusive brand integration + verified impact reporting.*

— VISIBILITY

- Top **logo placement** on course signage, tee markers, and player-facing assets
- **Category exclusivity** for the tour stop
- Featured placement on the **event landing page** + Sapphire website + media coverage
- Custom **co-branded photo + video** assets delivered within 72 hrs of event — ready for LinkedIn, Instagram, and internal comms

— ENGAGEMENT

- **Priority on-site activation space** + “Presented by” HBCU player spotlight naming rights in Sapphire content series
- **12 VIP Welcome Reception** invitations with city + tour leadership
- **6 Pro-Am positions** alongside Sapphire professionals

— HOSPITALITY & RIGHTS

- **15 VIP Tent** passes · **30 GA** · **20 Junior** tickets
- Full event-photography rights + post-event Sponsor ROI Report (impressions, social reach, Pro-Am attendee profiles, audience data)

TIER II · PARTNER

## Emerald

*Content deliverables + prominent partner presence in the curated zone.*

— VISIBILITY

- Prominent **logo placement** on shared signage and partner marquees
- **Emerald Partner** designation across digital + event materials
- Logo and recognition on the event webpage + one Sponsor Spotlight in the Sapphire Letter (editorial, not ad copy)

— ENGAGEMENT

- **Shared activation space** within the curated partner zone
- **8 VIP Welcome Reception** invitations
- **6 Pro-Am positions** alongside Sapphire pros

— HOSPITALITY & RIGHTS

- **10 VIP Tent** passes · **20 GA** · **20 Junior** tickets
- Event-photography rights + co-branded 60-second event recap reel delivered post-event for sponsor’s own channels

TIER III · SUPPORTING

## Onyx

*Official partner designation*

— VISIBILITY

- Logo placement on shared on-course signage and select event materials
- **Onyx Partner** recognition across digital and on-site assets
- Official partner listing on the event webpage

— ENGAGEMENT

- Branded materials for players, VIPs, or spectators
- **8 VIP Welcome Reception** invitations
- **6 Pro-Am positions**

— HOSPITALITY & RIGHTS

- **8 VIP Tent** passes · **12 GA** · **20 Junior** tickets
- Event-photography rights + social acknowledgment

— BUILT FOR LOCAL ROOTS

# Where non-profits and small businesses belong.

*Not every meaningful partner can write a five-figure check — and they shouldn't have to. Sapphire reserves space at every stop for mission-aligned non-profits and the local businesses that make a city feel like itself.*

TRACK A · MISSION-ALIGNED

## Non-Profit & Community Partners

*For organizations serving women, girls, and underrepresented communities in sport.*

— WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Community Partner** recognition on event signage, the event webpage, and the official partner roll
- Reserved **resource table** in the curated marketplace zone — for outreach, sign-ups, and program promotion
- **Junior clinic** integration — co-host or invite your participants to attend on-site
- **2 VIP tent** passes for executive leadership · **5 GA** · **5 Junior** tickets
- One **community spotlight** in Sapphire's social channels & the Sapphire Letter

— IN EXCHANGE

- Volunteer hours, programming hours, or member outreach — matched to event needs
- Co-branded story rights so we can both tell the work

*501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship required. Two non-profit slots per stop.*

TRACK B · LOCAL + SMALL BUSINESS

## Marketplace Partners

*For local makers, restaurants, and Black- or Latina-owned brands ready to meet a new audience.*

— WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Curated marketplace** placement — activation booth, food truck, or pop-up within the fan zone
- Vendor listing on the **event webpage** + dedicated marketplace recognition on signage
- One **Vendor Spotlight** reel (15–30s) for the partner's own channels — produced on-site
- **2 GA** · **5 Junior** tickets · staff event credentials
- Inclusion in the **Sapphire Marketplace** alumni network — first call for future stops

— ADD-ONS

- VIP-tent product placement · player gift-bag inclusion · sampling at the Welcome Reception

*Priority given to women- and minority-owned businesses headquartered in the host city.*

— NAMED ACTIVATIONS

# A way in at every level.

*Activations are available individually or layered onto a regional tier — each one delivers a concrete brand assets, not just day-of visibility.*

<p><b>HEADLINE</b></p> <p><b>Media Tent Partner</b> Logo on the media tent, backdrop &amp; press materials; presence in interviews + post-round coverage; 2 co-branded player interview clips (formatted for LinkedIn + Instagram) delivered within 72 hrs; (3) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p>	<p><b>HEADLINE</b></p> <p><b>Awards Reception Partner</b> Presenting partner of the [Sponsor] Champion Award — named in all post-event press; branded signage at the awards ceremony; recap mentions; branded napkins/tents; (4) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p>	<p><b>HEADLINE</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Reception Partner</b> Presenting partner of the Day 1 Welcome Reception — branded signage throughout the venue and VIP lounge; logo on event program and recap content; (4) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><b>UGA Youth Clinic</b> Logo on youth clinic signage, shirts &amp; giveaways; speaking opportunity during the clinic; swag inclusion; social + local press. Includes post-clinic CSR Impact Summary (participant count, HBCU pipeline note, photos) — formatted for annual ESG report.</p>
<p><b>ON-COURSE</b></p> <p><b>Practice Range Partner</b> Branded range dividers + custom player name signs for each hitting station; exclusive signage on the driving range and warm-up area; pre-tournament content visibility; (4) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p>	<p><b>HOSPITALITY</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast &amp; Lunch Partner</b> Branded signage at breakfast and private lunch for tour player and Charity Classic players; recognition in program and social media; (4) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p> <p><i>Available for the Golf Classic and Tour Events.</i></p>	<p><b>HOSPITALITY</b></p> <p><b>VIP Suite Partner</b> Branded suite signage and décor; (8) passes for your team to connect with Sapphire founders &amp; VIP guests; player appearances; recognition in program and social media; swag bag placement; (4) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p> <p><i>Available for the Tour Competition Only.</i></p>	<p><b>HOSPITALITY</b></p> <p><b>19<sup>th</sup> Hole Partner</b> Branded signage throughout the post-round music and food experience; product sampling or bar presence for beverage brands; branded photo moment within the space; (3) Charity Golf Classic player spots included.</p>
<p><b>ON-COURSE</b></p> <p><b>Volunteer Gear Partner</b> Logo on team and volunteer apparel; visibility across the course footprint; inclusion in photography + recap content.</p>	<p><b>ON-COURSE</b></p> <p><b>Custom Caddy Bibs</b> Name on caddy bibs for all pros + amateurs · gifting suite inclusion.</p> <p><i>Available for the Tour Competiton Only.</i></p>	<p><b>PLAYERS</b></p> <p><b>Sapphire Player Partner</b> Cover travel, entry fees, or training &amp; gear for one named player with co-branded content on her player media coverage on Sapphire’s channels.</p>	<p><b>Custom Sponsorship Tier</b> Bespoke packages for national, regional, or category-exclusive partners.</p>

— NEXT STEPS

# *Let's build it together.*

*Whether you are interested in becoming a national title sponsor, partnering at one of our six 2026 stops, or designing a custom activation — we'd be glad to schedule a call.*

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