

THE COURSE

Abu Dhabi Golf Club

The National Course at Abu Dhabi Golf Club is set to welcome another world class field as the first big-money Rolex Series event of the 2019 Race to Dubai

The 7,583 yard championship course at Abu Dhabi Golf Club is no-stranger to hosting the best of the best and next month's Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship presented by EGA is set to welcome another plethora of the leading stars after the event was boosted to become an elite Rolex Series event.

The tournament is now one of the eight premium events on the 2019 European Tour's International Schedule, with an increased prize fund of \$7m to attract as strong a field as possible.

Former Challenge Tour graduate turned three-time Major champion Brooks Koepka headlines the field and he's keen to make his mark as he returns to play in the event for the first time in five years.

"I'm very excited to be taking part in this tournament again after such a long time away," said the current World No.1. "I've been determined to include it in my schedule as I keep hearing from Dustin, Rickie, Jordan and all the American guys what a great time they've had in Abu Dhabi.

"I actually remember my last visit in 2014 really well as it is undoubtedly one of the biggest and best events on the European Tour's schedule. It always gathers an unbelievable field and the whole set up of the event is amazing along with the perfect weather conditions. I wasn't surprised at all to hear it had been awarded Rolex Series status and I can't wait to return."

In addition to Koepka, his compatriot Dustin Johnson will be returning to play for the third successive year while Tommy Fleetwood will be looking to defend the title again having won in 2017 and 2018.

In total there are 27 holes' worth of championship golf on site, with the National Course, designed by Peter Harradine, laid out in a way that it weaves through undulating terrain that features pockets of palms, ornamental trees and shrubs, as well as seven spectacular saltwater lakes. This year marks the 14th staging of the event.



A view looking back down the ninth hole at Abu Dhabi Golf Club