



## **POKERSTARS LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR PROTÉGÉS IN 2014 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF ONLINE POKER CONTEST**

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – July 17, 2014 – PokerStars today announced an exciting new competition for the [2014 World Championship of Online Poker](#) that will see four lucky players become protégés of Team PokerStars Pros.

The winners will receive training from four of the world's best poker players – Andre Akkari, Bertrand 'ElkY' Gropellier, Eugene Katchalov and Vanessa Selbst, who have four World Championship of Online Poker titles between them – and receive free entry into three World Championship events, including the \$5,200 Main Event. The four finalists will also vie to win the Grand Prize of a 2015 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure package.

Team PokerStars Pro, Vanessa Selbst, who will be a mentor to one of the protégés, said: "This is going to be a fun and incredible experience for four players. They'll get some great training with in-depth strategy discussion from four Team PokerStars Pros that should really help their games going into the World Championship events."

### **QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

The Protégé competition will take place from July 20 to August 3, with four daily \$5.50 tournaments as follows:

- 13.00 ET – Eugene Protégé Qualifier
- 14.00 ET – ElkY Protégé Qualifier
- 17.00 ET – Vanessa Protégé Qualifier
- 18.00 ET – Andre Protégé Qualifier

In addition to the normal prize pool, the top two finishers in each tournament will be invited to make a one-minute video, directed to the Team Pro mentor, giving reasons why they should be given the chance to become a protégé. Each Team Pro will then shortlist their two favourites and the eight videos will be uploaded to Facebook and YouTube for the four protégés to be decided by a public vote. PokerStars will chart the

progress of the protégés throughout the 2014 World Championship of Online Poker.

The protégé that wins the most amount of money in the three events they are bought in to, will go on to win the Grand Prize of the 2015 PCA package.

For more information about the competition, check out the PokerStars Blog post: <http://psta.rs/1zMowqj>.

### **About PokerStars**

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving a global poker community of more than **64 million** registered members. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best security online. More than **115 billion hands** have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

PokerStars.com and PokerStars.eu operate globally under licenses from the Isle of Man and Malta governments, respectively. PokerStars also holds separate government licenses in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

PokerStars is a member of The Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker and the European Poker Tour. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rational Group companies in the UK and Isle of Man won recognition as one of the best workplaces in the UK being awarded a top 25 position by the Great Place to Work Institute's Best Workplaces – Large category rankings. Rational Group entities in Costa Rica and Dublin also achieved the same accolade in their respective local rankings in 2014.