# Ryder Cup 2025 overshadowed by homophobic abuse directed towards Rory McIlroy



Rory McIlroy faced a troubling wave of homophobic heckling and hostile crowd behaviour during the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black this weekend. Throughout the tournament, McIlroy endured repeated anti-gay slurs and personal taunts shouted by fans, that disrupted both player focus and the spirit of the sport itself. Journalists present on the course, including Golf Digest’s Joel Beall who walked inside the ropes with McIlroy, recorded some of the abuse first-hand—one fan was heard yelling, 'Don’t let your boyfriend down,' followed by other expletive-laden slurs deemed unprintable. Even an event announcer, Heather McMahan, crossed a line by leading a vulgar chant of 'Fuck you Rory’, through the speakers early on, which resulted in an apology, and her subsequent resignation as master of ceremonies.

This level of incivility was not isolated to homophobic remarks; other taunts reportedly targeted McIlroy’s Irish heritage, intensifying the personal nature of the abuse. The origins of the homophobic chants appear to stem from unsubstantiated gossip and rumours dating back to late 2024, including claims alleging McIlroy was involved in a relationship with a male caddie while using broadcaster Amanda Balionis as a ‘beard'. These groundless rumours, amplified by outlets such as Sportskeeda, clearly influenced the crowd's hostile behaviour, notably in chants involving ‘Amanda' heard at various points during the event.

Despite the toxic atmosphere, McIlroy displayed remarkable composure. In a memorable moment at the 16th hole, he told hecklers to 'shut the f\*\*\* up' before delivering a sterling approach shot that helped secure a 3&2 victory alongside teammate Tommy Fleetwood against U.S. duo Harris English and Collin Morikawa. This resilience on course exemplified McIlroy’s professionalism amidst the hostility, as he later condemned the behaviour after the matches, highlighting the seriousness of the situation when his wife, Erica Stoll, was struck by a thrown beer can.

The Ryder Cup, traditionally a celebration of skill, respect, and sportsmanship, saw its reputation dented by these incidents. Organisers did take steps during the event, increasing security presence including State Police deployment and issuing etiquette reminders in the grandstands, particularly after the tensions escalated during Saturday’s high-profile four-ball matches. However, critics and commentators have argued that these measures were only a starting point, calling for more stringent protocols to manage and curb hate speech and abusive behaviour in future tournaments. The aggressive heckling not only disrupts play but also tarnishes the viewing experience for fans at home, damaging the image of golf as a sport that prides itself on gentlemanly conduct.

Europe ultimately claimed the Ryder Cup with a 15–13 victory, but the legacy of the 2025 event will inevitably include scrutiny over crowd control and player welfare. As the governing bodies review the incidents that unfolded at Bethpage Black, there is a growing consensus that the standards for fan behaviour must be elevated to ensure the Ryder Cup remains a respectful and inclusive contest. McIlroy's outspoken stance and the wider community's response signal a crucial moment for golf to confront and address intolerance and maintain its integrity. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dnamagazine.com.au/rory-mcilroy-keeps-his-cool-as-homophobic-heckling-overshadows-the-ryder-cup/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/ryder-cup-mc-steps-down-after-vulgar-mcilroy-chant-2025-09-28/> - During the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black, Heather McMahan, the event's master of ceremonies, led a vulgar chant targeting Rory McIlroy. The chant, 'F\*\*\* you, Rory,' was broadcast over speakers, leading to backlash. McMahan apologised to McIlroy and Ryder Cup Europe before resigning from her role. The incident highlighted the aggressive crowd behaviour during the event. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/ryder-cup-mc-steps-down-after-vulgar-mcilroy-chant-2025-09-28/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/shut-up-mcilroy-bites-back-hostile-bethpage-fans-2025-09-27/> - At the 2025 Ryder Cup, Rory McIlroy responded to persistent heckling from the American crowd at Bethpage Black. During the 16th hole, McIlroy told the disruptive fans to 'shut up.' Despite the tension, he delivered a stellar approach shot, securing a 3&2 victory alongside Tommy Fleetwood against Harris English and Collin Morikawa. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/shut-up-mcilroy-bites-back-hostile-bethpage-fans-2025-09-27/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/rory-mcilroy-crowd-ryder-cup-foursomes> - During the 2025 Ryder Cup, Rory McIlroy faced aggressive heckling from U.S. fans. In a foursomes match with Tommy Fleetwood, McIlroy responded to the crowd's disruptions by telling them to 'shut the f\*\*\* up.' Despite the hostile environment, he helped secure a 3&2 win for Team Europe. ([golfmonthly.com](https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/rory-mcilroy-crowd-ryder-cup-foursomes?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/ryder-cup-security-shane-lowry-crowd> - Amid rising tensions at the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black, security was heightened for all four Saturday afternoon four-ball matches. The PGA of America added State Police and increased messaging to control fan behaviour after multiple incidents disrupted play. One notable incident involved Shane Lowry attempting to confront a spectator, leading to concerns about player safety and sportsmanship. ([golfmonthly.com](https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/ryder-cup-security-shane-lowry-crowd?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/has-the-heckling-at-bethpage-crossed-the-line-things-are-getting-quite-ugly-on-day-two-of-the-ryder-cup> - During the second day of the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black, crowd behaviour escalated into aggressive and unsportsmanlike heckling, particularly targeting European players like Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry. Commentators and former players expressed concern that the abuse had become personal and vulgar, prompting calls for tighter crowd control to preserve sportsmanship. ([golfmonthly.com](https://www.golfmonthly.com/news/has-the-heckling-at-bethpage-crossed-the-line-things-are-getting-quite-ugly-on-day-two-of-the-ryder-cup?utm_source=openai))