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Pegaso Meeting 2026: the first star announced for May 9 Nadia Battocletti to race the 1500m at the Ridolfi Stadium in Florence

Nadia Battocletti is the first star of the 2026 edition of the **Pegaso Meeting** athletics event. The Italian record holder in the 5000m and 10,000m will compete on May 9 at the **Ridolfi Stadium** in Florence over the **1500m** distance, where she holds a personal best of 3:58.15, set last year in Rovereto — a performance that places her second on the all-time Italian rankings, just 4 hundredths behind Sintayehu Vissa's national record.

The event, after years of stagnation, is currently experiencing a particularly brilliant period in Italy. The Italian record — which until 2024 had stood for forty years at 3:58.65 by Olympic champion Gabriella Dorio — was approached several times last year: the 4-minute barrier was broken not only by Battocletti, but also by Marta Zenoni (3:59.16 in London) and Gaia Sabbatini (3:59.49 in Budapest).

Battocletti - **Olympic silver medallist** in the 10,000m at Paris 2024 and twice on the podium at the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo (bronze in the 5000m, silver in the 10,000m) - ran the indoor 1500m in Madrid in 2026, equalling the Italian indoor record that Zenoni had set just a few weeks earlier at 4:03.59.

With Ludovica Cavalli also returning to good form, all eyes are now on the Florence race, where it is not too early to talk about a potential new assault on the Italian record. Meanwhile, Battocletti continues to shine this winter season: on March 21, at the World Indoor Championships in Turun, Poland, Nadia will compete with high ambitions in the 3000m, an event in which she set the national record of 8:26.44 on February 19 — the third-best performance in the world this year.

In addition to the women's 1500m, the meeting programme — confirmed in the European Athletics **Continental Challenger Tour** calendar — also includes the following events:

Men: 100m, 400m, 110m hurdles, long jump, shot put. **Women:** 100m, 400m, pole vault, long jump, hammer throw

With the Pegaso Meeting, organised by **Atletica Firenze Marathon**, the Ridolfi Stadium confirms its central role in the growth of Italian athletics. The venue — the only one in Italy dedicated exclusively to track and field — previously hosted two editions of the Golden Gala, Italy's only Diamond League stop, the most prestigious international athletics circuit. This year, the Italian athletes competing at the meeting will also return to the Ridolfi on July 25 and 26 for the 116th edition of the Italian Absolute Championships.

The Pegaso Meeting is in its second year in Florence, but its tradition dates back to **2003**. The event originated in Castiglione della Pescaia (Grosseto), where Atletica Castiglione and Elisabetta Artuso — still the director today and at the time also an Italian middle-distance runner — launched the first edition, then called the Grifone Meeting. In 2014 it became an international competition, growing in importance and visibility each year until it joined the European Athletics Challenger circuit. Its rise — now ranked in the World Athletics top 100 for performances — led to successive moves to Grosseto (2022–2023), Asti (2024), and finally Florence, where it took on its current name in 2025.

