

# The Eyes of the World Will Be Set on Central America during the Second Edition of the Latin America Amateur Championship

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One of the main goals of the Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC) is to aid in the development and growth of the game in Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and South America. Its mission is focused on the every country in this region, including those that do not have a big golfing tradition and who are still in the process of organizing themselves in a more effective way. With this in mind, the Founding Partners: the Masters Tournament, The R&A and the USGA, have joined forces in order to inspire more golfers to take up the sport.

The maiden edition paved the way, and there are many opportunities for thousands of young players in the region, who perceive the LAAC as a unique chance to be part of something special. This is no exaggeration, considering this championship grants the winner the main prize of

playing in the 2016 Masters at Augusta National Golf Club. In addition, the winner and the runner(s)-up will be exempt into The Open Qualifying Series for the 145<sup>TH</sup> Open at Royal Troon and into sectional qualifying for the U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont Country Club next year. And finally, the champion will receive full exemptions into the 2016 The Amateur Championship, 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship and any other USGA amateur championship for which he is eligible.

Everything that the Latin America Amateur Championship set in motion had a great impact on the region, but most specifically on those places where golf was neither highly developed nor massively played. Golf Federations in countries such as Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago, experienced an unforgettable week as well as their players.

That is why there is a big expectation ahead of the second edition of LAAC that will take place January 14-17, 2016 at Teeth of the Dog - Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic.

*“Hosting this second edition of the Latin America Amateur Championship will foster the game even more in our country, in Central America and the Caribbean. But at the same time, it will be very important for the Dominican Republic in terms of the development of the game. This event has generated unprecedented enthusiasm among the young players who see the possibility of playing in the Masters, The Open or the U.S. Open, something priceless and for which we must be very grateful,”* said Rafael Canario, Executive Vice-President of the Federación Dominicana de Golf.

Likewise, Pablo Suinaga, President of the Federación Mexicana de Golf, highlighted the fact that the championship has become a big boost for the youngsters. *“The Latin America Amateur Championship is a great event that gives you the possibility of playing in the most important championships in the world; it’s something unique. This year, our players have been competing in many tournaments in order to have a good position in the world ranking, which would grant them the chance to play in the LAAC,”* said Suinaga.

Meanwhile, Mauricio Musmanni Cordero, President of the Federación de Golf de Costa Rica, is very enthused over the Latin America Amateur Championship being played in Central America. *“We really have great expectations regarding the second edition of the LAAC, which will be played near our country. It’s a great and unique opportunity for the game to keep growing in this part of the world. This tournament has set a benchmark for others to follow. The fact that three of the most important golf organizations in the world such as the Masters Tournament, The*

*R&A and the USGA are behind this event is hugely important as they provide a great deal of support,” said Musmanni Cordero.*

The Latin America Amateur Championship has served as an inspiration for many amateur players. Proof of that was watching the Chilean Matías Domínguez (champion of the first edition of the LAAC) playing at the Masters and the Argentine Alejandro Tosti (runner-up at the LAAC) with the chance to play in The Open and the U.S. Open.

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## **About the Masters Tournament**

Inspired by its founders, Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, the Masters Tournament has embraced its obligation and seized opportunities to promote the game since the Tournament’s inception in 1934. The efforts of the Masters on behalf of the game of golf are aimed to preserve its integrity, celebrate sportsmanship, applaud champions, positively affect people in need through philanthropy, and give all that is possible back to the game. The Masters is focused on providing stewardship for the game, especially for amateur players and youth around the world.

For more information, visit [www.masters.com](http://www.masters.com).

## **About The R&A**

Based in St Andrews, The R&A organizes The Open, major amateur events and international matches. Together with the United States Golf Association, The R&A governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The R&A’s working jurisdiction is global, excluding the United States and Mexico.

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the game internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities. The R&A operates with the consent of 152 organizations from the amateur and professional game and on behalf of over thirty million golfers in 138 countries.

For more information, visit [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org).

## **About the USGA**

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).