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# LATIN AMERICA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

**DATE:** January 12th - 15th, 2017

**VENUE:** Club de Golf de Panama, Panama City, Panama

**For more information about the tournament, visit:** [www.laacgolf.com](http://www.laacgolf.com)

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## Panama Steps into the Golfing Spotlight in Latin America

The growing economic power of this small Central American country is largely based on the famous Panama Canal. This engineering jewel – the perfect connection between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans – is a key driver of trade and business throughout the hemisphere.

Panama enjoys sustained growth thanks to an increasing flow of maritime traffic. Walking around the city center and appreciating the constant construction of huge and modern office towers gives visitors the impression that the country is becoming increasingly prosperous.

In this impressive context, golf is also enjoying remarkable growth. It is not by chance that the organizers of the Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC) selected Panama as the site of its third edition, which will be conducted from January 12-15, 2017, at Club de Golf de Panama. As the event moves throughout the Latin American region, the founding partners – the Masters Tournament, The R&A and the United States Golf Association (USGA) – recognized that the attributes available in Panama make it an outstanding host for the third staging of the championship.

The opportunities offered by the LAAC are unprecedented within Latin American golf. Each year, the LAAC champion receives an invitation to compete in the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club, as well as full exemptions into The Amateur Championship, U.S. Amateur Championship and any other USGA amateur championship for which he is eligible. In addition, the winner and the runner(s)-up are exempt into the final stages of qualifying for The Open and the U.S. Open Championship.

When it was revealed which country would host the 2017 LAAC, it was no surprise that the chosen site, rich with history and tradition, was Club de Golf de Panamá. This golf course is conducive to hosting a championship of this caliber and one that has also hosted a Web.com Tour event since 2007.

But Club de Golf de Panamá is just one of the many recognized golf courses in the country that has around 2,000 registered golfers with the Panama Golf Association (APAGOLF), though many more play the game.

Tourism and the growing number of golf courses go hand in hand. There are 12 golf facilities in Panama, and the site of the LAAC is one of the most prominent. The Summit Golf Club, Coronado Golf & Beach Club, Buenaventura Golf Club and Mantarraya Golf Club at Decameron are all top-class golf courses that enhance Panama's reputation as one of the leading golf destinations in Central America.

Among Panama's leading amateur players looking to feature in the 2017 LAAC is Luis Cargiulo, who won the Campeonato Nacional de Istmo, the most important amateur golf event in Panama. "This was one of my goals. Winning the Isthmian qualified me for the LAAC, the tournament that all amateur golfers want to play. In Panama, we are very grateful to the three organizations for considering us as the hosts of such a prestigious event," said Cargiulo, 30, who also represents Club de Golf de Panamá.

Another player to look out for is Miguel Ordoñez, who played in both editions of the LAAC and who has also won the Campeonato Nacional de Istmo (an event that was first played in 1918).

"For Panama it is a privilege and an honour to be the host of the LAAC, which will surely provide many benefits for golf in our country," said Jorge Loaiza, President of the APAGOLF. And he is right: The arrival of the Latin America Amateur Championship will definitely change the history of amateur golf in the entire region. In just a few months, confirmation will

come in Panama.

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To Download the Latin America Amateur Championship 2017 logos, click these links:

[LAAC Logo Vertical](#)

[LAAC Logo Horizontal](#)

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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 organises 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 organisations from the amateur and professional game and on behalf of over thirty million golfers in 140 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).



### Fotos del dia

#### Pie de Foto

The Latin America Amateur Championship will be conducted from January 12-15, 2017, at Panama City's Club de Golf de Panama.

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