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# LATIN AMERICA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

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

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

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

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## Players to consider for the 2017 LAAC

The Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC) became no discussion in the "Major" of fans with only two editions. Founded by the Masters Tournament, The R & A and the United States Golf Association (USGA), the LAAC was created to further develop amateur golf throughout the region, and specifically in South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This initiative resulted in a spark which ignited quickly throughout the region and at the same time gave a competitive character that added a thrill unparalleled for any amateur tournament in Latin America.

Who were in Pilar Golf in 2015 and House in 2016 they learned of epic duels between emerging figures. How can we forget the passionate struggle between the Chilean Matias Alejandro Dominguez and Tosti in Argentina, or the epic teenager Costa Rica Paul Chaplet to the Venezuelan Jorge Garcia in Dominican Republic? That court challenging in northern Buenos Aires and this one bathed in the waters of the Caribbean Sea were as postcards to remember.

But this happy experience will continue writing in every beginning of the year and LAAC is determined to continue making history. The bet will step from 12 to 15 January 2017 at the Golf Club of Panama. Now: Who are the main candidates to catch the third crown? Among the applicants are of course the best located in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™: Joaquin Niemann (No. 7, of Chile), Juan Alvarez (No. 27, of Uruguay), Tosti (No. 43), Dominguez (No. 44), Garcia (No. 48), Claudio Correa (No. 57, of Chile) and Cristobal del Solar (No. 99 of Chile). These players have enormous potential, as well as Luis Fernando Barco (Peru), Gaston Bertinotti (Argentina), Nicolas Echavarria (Colombia), Santiago Gómez (Colombia), Herik Machado (Brazil), José Luis Montano (Bolivia), Alvaro Ortiz (Mexico), Ivan Camilo Ramirez (Colombia) and Lucas Rosso (Chile).

The main candidates mentioned above could be divided into two distinct camps: Alejandro Tosti and Juan Alvarez are two explosive guys. The two have a very aggressive profile that is based on long distances achieved with the drive, leading to risk more than the rest. In addition, both enjoyed a year with good results; Tosti (runner-up LAAC 2015) is having a great season in his second year of college at the University of Florida, which included a win at the Tavistock Collegiate Invitational, and Alvarez having participated in all tournaments on the international calendar with two wins the South American Amateur and Amateur Golf Championship in Brazil.

In the other path include Niemann, Garcia and Ortiz are better trained in the art of swing and that put much emphasis on the strategic aspect. Especially the Chilean, very good results at international level after achieving six victories this year, including the IMG Academy Junior World Championship, and also have reached the Round of 16 in the US Amateur Championship. Meanwhile, Venezuela (runner-up LAAC 2016) is another who has achieved very good performances at the University of Florida where he achieved several top-10 finishes and a great final result at the World Amateur Team Championships (WATC) where he was the 7th. For his part Ortiz (who was 3rd in the last LAAC), he excelled at the University of Arkansas and placed as the best player on the team. While Echavarria had a great performance in the WATC where he finished 16th and was a leader in a professional PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in Colombia Classic. It is also qualified to play the second stage of Q-School Web.com Tour, also has its quota for the grand finale of Series Development PGA TOUR Latin America.

The benefits granted by the LAAC are unprecedented in the Latin American golf: the winner of Latin America Amateur Championship will have the chance to play in three Majors, as it ensures a place in the Masters

Tournament 2017 and obtained by the runner (s), exemption to participate in one of the qualifying stages for the 146th Open to be played at Royal Birkdale and the US Open to be held at Erin Hills next year. In addition, the champion earns a place in The Amateur Championship and 2016 US Amateur, like any USGA amateur championship for which you are eligible.

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

[Logo LAAC Vertical](#)

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### **About the Masters Tournament**

Inspired by its founders, Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, the Masters Tournament has accepted its obligation and seized opportunities to promote the game of golf since the start of the tournament in 1934. The efforts on behalf Masters golf game They seek to preserve the integrity, sportsmanship celebrate, applaud the winners, positively influence communities through philanthropy, and reinvest everything in game development. The Masters is focused on providing administration 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, Scotland, The R & A organizes The Open Championship (British Open), major amateur events and international tournaments. Along with the United States Golf Association (USGA), The R & A governs the game of golf around the world, managing jointly the Rules of Golf, Rules Status Amateur, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The jurisdiction of The R & A is global, excluding the United States and Mexico.

The R & A is committed to working for golf, supporting the growth of the game internationally, and the development and sustainable management. The R & A works with the consent of 152 organizations from amateur to professional levels, 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 organizes the US Open (US Open), the US Women 's Open (Women's Open Golf US), and the US Senior Open (Senior Open Golf US) as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, which collectively attract players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R & A, the USGA governs the game of golf around the world, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings the. The scope of the USGA is a global working with jurisdictions in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers, and actively participating in 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities in research, development and support of management practices sustainable golf course. It serves as the main guardian of the history of the game of golf and invest in game development through the provision of services and the continuous subsidy program "For the Good of the Game". In addition, systems handicaps and valuation fields and the USGA are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

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



### **Photos of the day**

#### **Caption**

Alejandro Tosti (ARG), Jorge Garcia (VEN)  
Alvaro Ortiz (MEX) and Juan Alvarez (URU) /  
Photo: Credit Enrique Berardi / LAAC

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