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Latin America  
Amateur  
Championship

CLUB DE GOLF DE PANAMÁ - PANAMÁ - 2017



**USGA**

# 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 Watch at the 2017 LAAC

The Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC) was originally created to become the “Major” event for leading amateurs in the region. After just two editions, this championship, created by the Masters Tournament, The R&A and the United States Golf Association (USGA), has continues to inspire amateur golfers throughout Latin America by providing a top-tier platform in which to compete.

Those present at the LAAC at Pilar Golf (Argentina) in 2015 and at Casa de Campo (Dominican Republic) in 2016 witnessed tremendous performances by emerging stars. Witnesses and followers at home watching on television or via the Internet, saw first-hand the thrilling battle between Chile’s Matias

Domínguez and Argentina's Alejandro Tosti, and the accomplishment of Costa Rican teenager Paul Chaplet against the Venezuelan Jorge Garcia.

A third LAAC is now on the horizon, scheduled from January 12-15, 2017, at Club de Golf de Panama. Among the contenders are several top players in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™, including Joaquin Niemann (No. 7, of Chile), Juan Alvarez (No. 27, of Uruguay), Tosti (No. 43), Dominguez (No. 44), Jorge Garcia (No. 48, of Venezuela), Claudio Correa (No. 57, of Chile) and Cristobal del Solar (No. 99, of Chile). These players have tremendous potential, as do Luis Fernando Barco (Peru), Gaston Bertinotti (Argentina), Nicolas Echavarría (Colombia), Santiago Gomez (Colombia), Herik Machado (Brazil), Jose Luis Montano (Bolivia), Alvaro Ortiz (Mexico), Iván Camilo Ramirez (Colombia) and Lucas Rosso (Chile).

This year's players making up the competitive field use many different playing styles and tactics. Tosti and Alvarez enjoy length off the tee, which often pushes them to be risk-takers. Tosti, the 2015 LAAC runner-up, is having a successful second year at the University of Florida, including a victory at the Tavistock Collegiate Invitational. Alvarez has played in many international tournaments in 2016, with victories at the South American Amateur and Brazilian Amateur championships.

Other players focus on swing technique and course management, excelling with their short games. Niemann has notched six victories in 2016, including the IMG Academy Junior World Championship, and reached the Round of 16 at the U.S. Amateur Championship. Garcia, who finished second at the 2016 LAAC, has finished in the top 10 of his last two tournaments at the University of Florida, and also tied for seventh at the 2016 World Amateur Team Championship. Ortiz, a graduate of the University of Arkansas who finished third at the 2016 LAAC, has qualified for Second Stage Q School on the Web.com Tour, as well as the final tournament of the Developmental Series of the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

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 146th Open at Royal Birkdale and sectional qualifying for the U.S. Open Championship at Erin Hills.

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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).



### 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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