

Qualifying Standards for the Latin America Amateur Championship

In January 2014, the Masters Tournament, The R&A and the United States Golf Association (USGA) announced the formation of the Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC), a new amateur golf competition aimed at stimulating growth and inspiring even greater interest in the game throughout South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The inaugural competition will take place 15-18 January 2015, at Pilar Golf Club, a course opened in 1992 near Buenos Aires that has hosted the Argentina Open twice (2006, 2011), as well as other national championships. The LAAC will consist of 72 holes of stroke play with a cut to the leading 60 players plus ties after 36 holes.

The 28 countries and territories represented in this first edition are: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Qualifying Standards:

- In order to participate in the LAAC, a player must be an amateur golfer and a citizen of a country that is a Latin America National Federation Member of the International Golf Federation.

The 2015 LAAC field will consist of 120 players and will be determined as follows:

- Each national federation will automatically be provided two places, to be filled by their two highest-ranked players from the World Amateur Golf Ranking™ (WAGR) as of 5 November 2014.
- If a national federation has fewer than two players in WAGR as of 5 November 2014, the national golf federation will nominate one or two players accordingly, for approval by the LAAC Executive Committee. National federations are encouraged to utilize a national Order of Merit for this purpose or conduct qualifying tournaments.
- The remainder of the field will be filled by taking the next highest ranked players from WAGR with a maximum of six total players allowed from any one national federation, except for the host country national federation, where the maximum number of players is a total of 10.
- Should this method result in fewer than 120 players in the field, the LAAC Executive Committee will determine how to fill the remaining spots, and may also determine not to have 120 players in the field.

- The LAAC reserves the right, at its discretion, to invite additional players or withdraw an invitation if it is made aware of disciplinary matters or anti-doping sanctions concerning any player.

2015 Exemptions:

- The LAAC champion will receive an invitation to compete in the Masters Tournament, beginning in 2015.
- In addition, the winner and the runner(s)-up will receive exemptions into the final stages of qualifying for The Open Championship and U.S. Open Championship. The champion will also receive full exemptions into The Amateur Championship, U.S. Amateur Championship and any other USGA amateur championship for which he is eligible. These exemptions will apply provided players maintain their amateur status.
- In addition, the 2015 champion will receive a five-year exemption into the LAAC (2016-2020). Further, the top five finishing players and ties from the 2015 LAAC will be exempt for the 2016 championship. However, if these players fall within the highest ranked WAGR players from their respective countries, additional invitations will not be extended to their national federations. These exemptions are conditioned on the players maintaining their amateur status.

Top players from specific countries can be viewed at any time on WAGR by selecting a country name as the search criteria on the following page: <http://www.wagr.com/en/Mens-Ranking.aspx>.